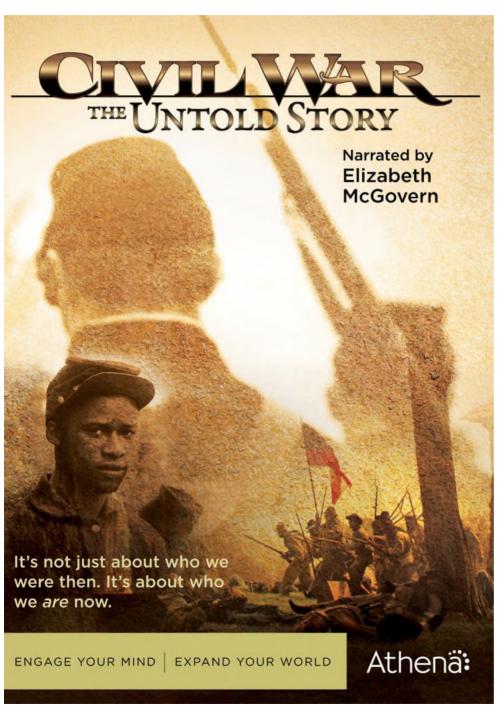


COL. E. W. TAYLOR SONS OF CONFEDERATE VETERANS #1777

NEWSLETTER

Bedford, Texas.....June 2014

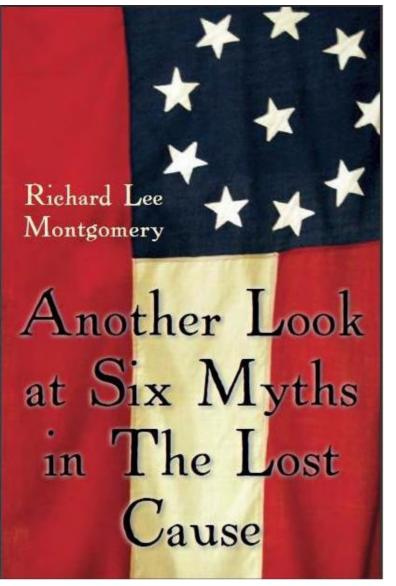


JUNE PROGRAM

This excellent new five-part series was recently released and has excellent reviews. It has several especially good reenactment sequences. The film currently being presented daily in the Chickamauga Visitors' Center is by the same maker.

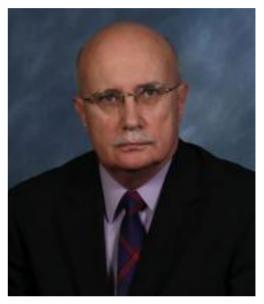
Join us in June as we watch two segments on the War in the west, the Siege of Vicksburg and Chickamauga.

Many of our E. W. Taylor compatriots had family members who fought in both battles, so these topics have a special significance for us.



LEE CAMP HEARS AN EXCELLENT PROGRAM IN MAY

Thanks to Dr. Richard Montgomery of Denton for his informative program dealing with two chapters from his book, pictured at left. In our humble opinion this book should be required reading for all SCV members. Written almost entirely from primary documents, it is an invaluable tool in defending our Southern heritage.



AN OPPORTUNITY FOR SERVICE ON JUNE 7

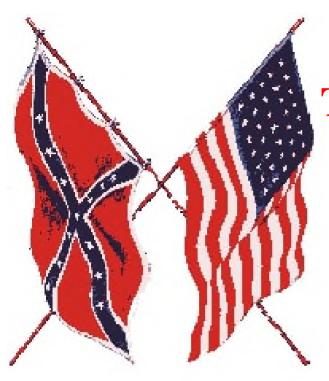
We have been asked to furnish a uniformed firing squad to honor the forty-eight WBTS veterans buried in White's Chapel Cemetery in Southlake.



White's Chapel Cemetery, at the corner of White's Chapel Road and Southlake Boulevard, contains the graves of at least four Union veterans, one galvanized yankee, and at least forty-three documented Confederate soldiers.

After a brief ceremony, your commander and newsletter editor has been asked to present a walking history of the cemetery, which will, of course, focus primarily on the Southern Patriots buried there.

Let's meet at 9:30 a.m. Thanks for your help!



WANT TO BE IN THE JULY 4 PARADE IN ARLINGTON?

This is your chance to <u>ride</u> in the parade, thanks to the M. T. Johnson SCV Camp. It'll be hot, but you can be in the parade without having to march! Contact Kyle Sims for more information at kylebs62@aol.com.



BELOVED CONFEDERATE OFFICER GETS A CENOTAPH ON MAY 30.

Had Thomas G. Berry not fallen in battle, his fellow citizens here might have sent him to Congress after the War. He was that loved and respected.

On Friday morning, May 30, your compiler and James Alderman (left) placed a cenotaph for him in Grapevine Cemetery. The inscription reads: "Lt. Col. Thomas G. Berry, of Grapevine Prairie. Beloved Capt. of Co. A, 9th Texas Cavalry, Confederate States Army. Killed in Battle of Jonesboro, Georgia. Buried in full uniform Oak Hill Cemetery, Griffin, Georgia, September 3, 1864. Honored by E. W. Taylor Camp 1777 SCV in 2014."

Taylor Camp Takes Part in Memorial Day Observance in Keller's Mt. Gilead Cemetery

On May 26, for the second year in a row, the Taylor Camp provided a uniformed firing squad to fire a musket salute to the veterans buried in this historic burial ground. To this point, the graves of twenty-four Confederate soldiers have been identified there.

We also unveiled three new monuments which we recently made and placed in the cemetery...two cenotaphs for community men who would have been buried there if their bodies could have been returned from the battlefield, and one stone for one of the founders of the community who fought in a local militia unit.





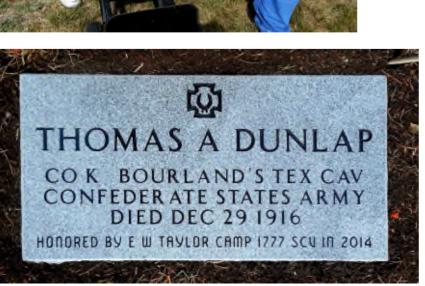


Taylor camp members who attended the ceremony included standing, l-r, Nathan Pike, Kent Mathews, Chuck Marks, James Madewell and seated, l-r, Toby Pike, James Alderman, Mike Patterson, and Oliver Patterson.

SOUTHWEST TARRANT VET FINALLY GETS A STONE MAY 24









Compatriots from three local SCV camps got together on Friday, May 24 and installed a new marker for Thomas A. Dunlap, who served in Bourland's Texas Cavalry Regiment. He lies buried in Jackson Cemetery, along Chapin Road just inside Southwest Loop 820. Mr. Dunlap's mother died in 1867 and hers is the oldest marked grave in the cemetery.

The installers included, standing 1-r, Kyle Sims of the M. T. Johnson Camp, Mason Dixon Barnett and his dad, Kirt Barnett of the R. E. Lee Camp, and kneeling Mike Patterson of the Taylor Camp. Marilyn Patterson was the photographer.

ARLINGTON VET DEAD NINETY YEARS GETS A MARKER ON MAY 24

Score another one for our recent project to read and abstract all the Tarrant County pension files. We discovered the vet's pension file, and found an obit for him in the Dallas paper.



ATHEV I MAY AT 3

The installers included, kneeling 1-r, Wesley Massey and Buddy, Barry Turnage, Mike Patterson, and Kyle Sims. Standing is Kelley Hinson. All are members of the R. E. Lee Camp except Sims (MT Johnson Camp), and Patterson (E. W. Taylor Camp). Photos by Marilyn Patterson.

Rehoboth Cemetery-Arlington





HEADSTONE DEDICATED FOR HILL COUNTY VET ON MAY 31

More than a year ago we told Shirley Epps of Atlanta, Georgia (shown below right with your compiler) that we'd get her ancestor a V A stone. We installed it last month, and met with the family at their annual family reunion on May 31 to have a short ceremony and fire a musket salute in honor of Pvt. Joshua Epps.





We sent out emails to every SCV camp within fifty miles of the cemetery, asking for help with the musket salute. We sent out reminders and specific directions in plenty of time to make the most current newsletters.

The sole SCV presence that day were the same two old broken-down folks who got the stone and took it down and installed it. It was a oneman musket salute.



MORE NEW FACES TO GO WITH SOME OLD NAMES

Our Northeast Tarrant County Civil War Veterans Memorial will always continue to be a work in progress.

This month we discovered an unprecedented three new names for our memorial, all of whom were discovered upon a careful re-reading and study of the roster of a local unit formed in the Euless area. Two of the three, Daniel C. Trigg and Joseph Fleming Jones, are buried in Bear Creek Cemetery in Euless. The third, James Hayden Trigg, is also buried in Euless in Calloway Cemetery.

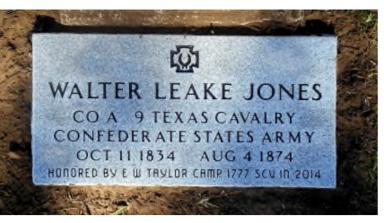
We also stumbled upon two great new photographs of veterans who have been on the memorial for many years, but whose faces we've never seen before.

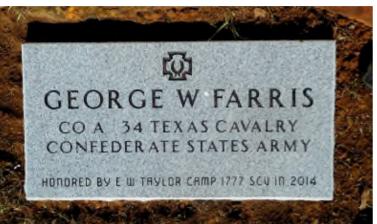
William J. Borah, above right, is shown with his sister, Matt Powell. Borah and his brother, Christopher, left here to serve the South, but only William came home. Earlier this month we placed a cenotaph for Christopher beside his brother, William's, headstone in Bear Creek Cemetery.

Another pleasant internet surprise came when we were searching for a photograph for our feature Confederate fathers who lived here. While searching for a photo of William McKindree Rogers we ran across this excellent photo at right, of William's son Reuben Brawley Rogers. William and his brother, Jesse, left the Euless area to fight, and both returned home safe. Jesse later moved to Tennessee and Reuben moved to the Texas Panhandle. He and his wife, at right, are buried in Clarendon.













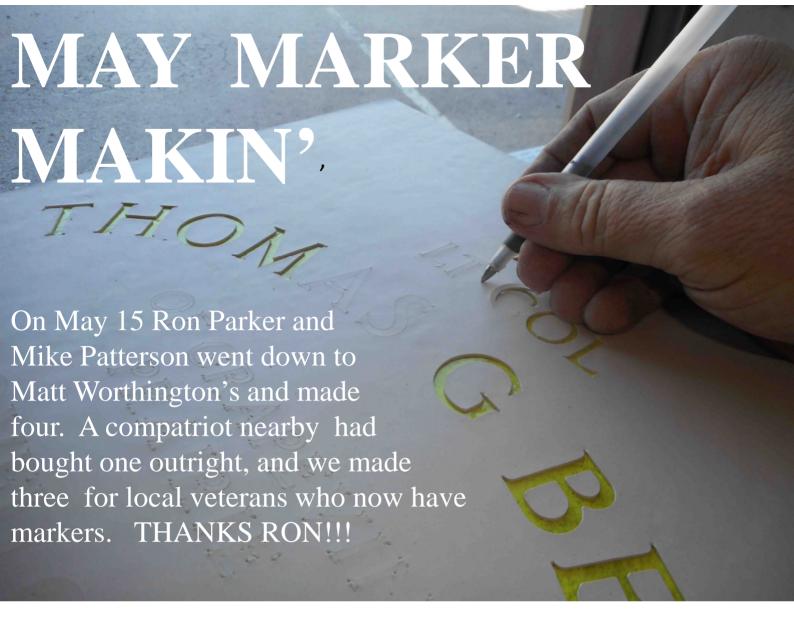
FOUR NEW STONES IN MAY FOR BEAR CREEK CEMETERY IN EULESS

On Saturday morning, May 2, we placed one marker on an unmarked grave (Farris), one supplemental marker on a grave whose stone was a wreck (W. L. Jones) and two cenotaphs for vets who died back east and couldn't be brought home for burial (Borah and Thomas C. Jones). We placed those two stones beside their parents.

Bear Creek Cemetery association members at left are Alan Egerton and Mike Borah, who's a descendant of C. C. Borah's Confederate brother, William J. Borah. The setting crew, below are Nathan Pike and his son Toby, standing; and lounging l-r, James Alderman, Mike Patterson, and Paul Stephens. Nathan and Toby took us to Matt's to make the stones a few days earlier.







THANKS!!! to Tammy Patterson and Marilyn Patterson for helping us make fifty Bonnie Blue flags on very short notice. We discovered less than twenty-four hours before the Mt. Gilead event that all our grave flags were lost. On Sunday afternoon they took us to buy five yards of blue material and two yards of white, cut out the flags, cut out and ironed-on the one hundred stars, bought a plank and cut fifty flag poles from it, cut points on the poles and stapled all the flags to them.





HOW SWEET IT IS!

Our good friend and compatriot Wesley Massey of the R. E. Lee Camp gets ready to engrave a VAclone monument for one of his own Confederate ancestors, Pvt. John C. Anderson of the 28th Texas Cavalry. More and more folks are choosing to purchase stones now that the VA process is much more difficult. And...it has a neat CSA battle flag engraved on the back! Done at Worthington's on May 29.

EULESS' BEAR CREEK CEMETERY ASSN. COMES ON BOARD!!!

A few weeks ago we contacted the Bear Creek Cemetery Association in Euless to ask if we could mark a few Confederate graves there. What a reception we got!!!

Alan Egerton, one of the Association's leaders and our friend of many years, was amazed to learn how many veterans were buried in his cemetery. He became so excited that within <u>days</u> he purchased and installed an engraved granite marker at every Confederate's grave in the cemetery which didn't already have a VA stone.

Alan and the other Association

members have made Bear Creek a showplace. He and your compiler are shown at right with Mike's very first VA stone, which he and his grandfather put at Bear Creek *fifty years* ago.



A TRIBUTE TO OUR DADS

Did you know that the father of the lady who gets credit for introducing Father's Day to America was a WBTS veteran?



Sonora Smart Dodd came up with the idea of Father's Day to honor her own dad.



Day was Civil War veteran William Jackson Smart, who reared six children after his

Inception of the Father's Day observance took place in Sonora Smart Dodd's mind when she happened to hear a Mother's Day sermon in 1909. Sonora, who was 27 then, had begun to recognize the hardships her father must have gone through while bringing up his six children alone. When Sonora was 16 her mother had died during childbirth. Sonora's father, a Civil War veteran by the name of William Jackson Smart, raised six children including a newborn on his own. Sonora questioned that if there is a day to recognize mothers then why is not there a day to honor fathers?

wife died.

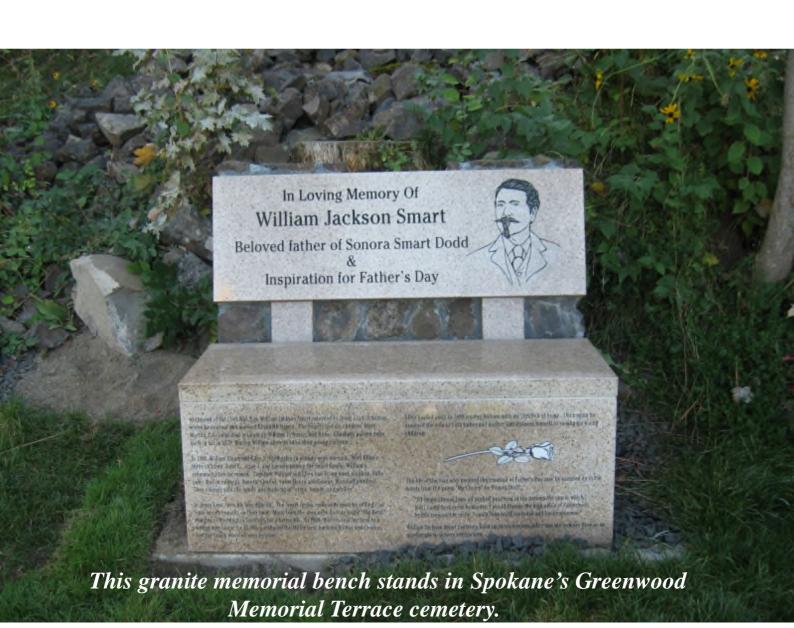
Many people laughed and joked at Sonora's idea, but her will did not give up. She began a sincere campaign lobbying for the cause of Father's Day. Her hard work began to show signs of success when Spokane celebrated its first Father's Day on June 19, 1910, with the support of Spokane Ministerial Association and the local Young Men's Christian Association (YMCA).

Father's Day, cont.

To pay tribute to her affectionate father, Sonora wished that Father's Day be celebrated on her father's birthday, June 5, but it so happened that there was not enough time for preparations and the day came to be celebrated on third Sunday in the month of June.

The noble idea of celebrating Father's Day became so popular in the U. S. that President Woodrow Wilson approved of the festival in 1916. President Calvin Coolidge, too, supported the idea, but it was President Lyndon Johnson who signed a Presidential Proclamation declaring the third Sunday of June as Father's Day in 1966. Then in 1972, President Richard Nixon established a permanent national observation of Father's Day to be held on the third Sunday of June.

Sonora's father, Sgt. William Jackson Smart (1842-1919), served the Union in the 1st Battery, Arkansas Light Artillery. He moved to Washington State with his family in 1887 and later died there.



A Tribute to our Dads, cont.



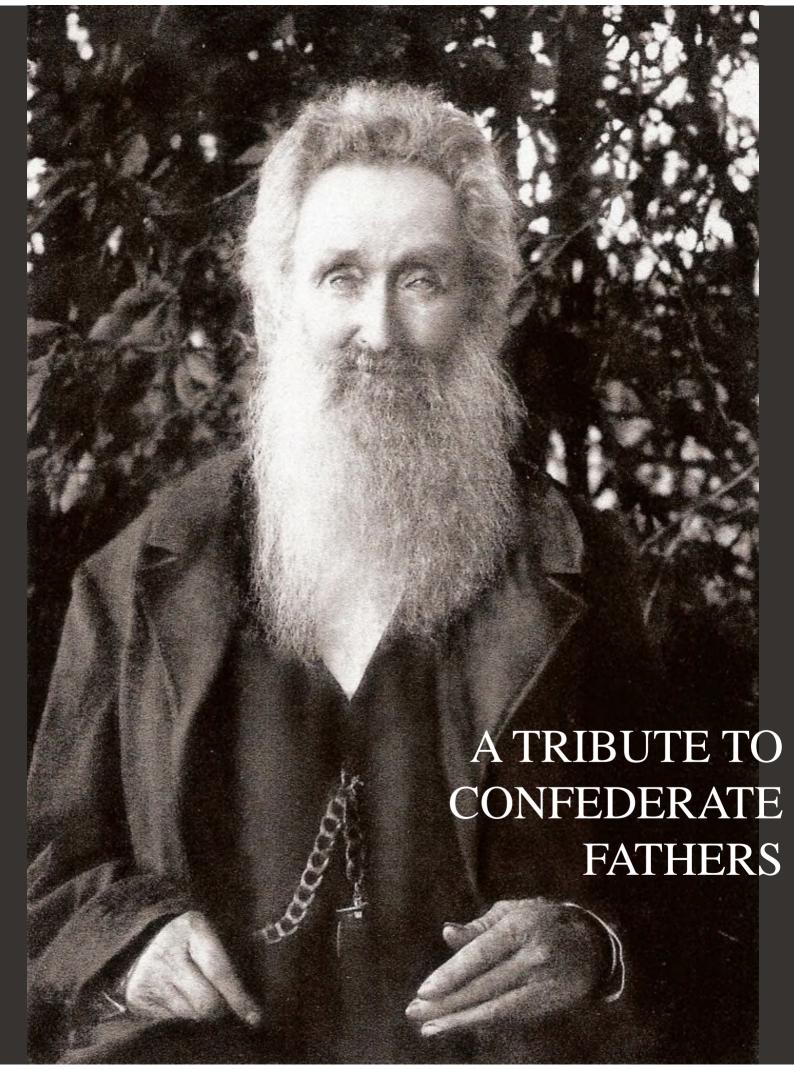
Left: Compatriot
James Madewell and
his father, James D.
Madewell. Our
thanks to James,
who replied within
ten minutes to our
email asking for
photos of dads.



Compatriot Mike Patterson, about 1955, with his dad, Jack E. Patterson (1929-2001) at their old home on Glade Road. Mike now lives in a newer house on the same spot.



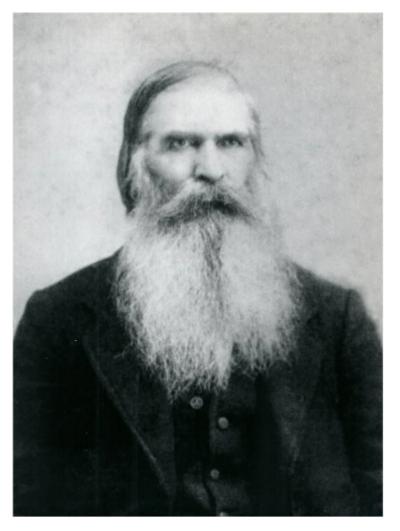
Mike's dad's dad, Carl E. Patterson (1901-1978) lived next-door. He helped Mike load his first VA stone into the old pickup about 1964 and drove them over to Bear Creek Cemetery to install it. Mike hadn't yet learned to drive.

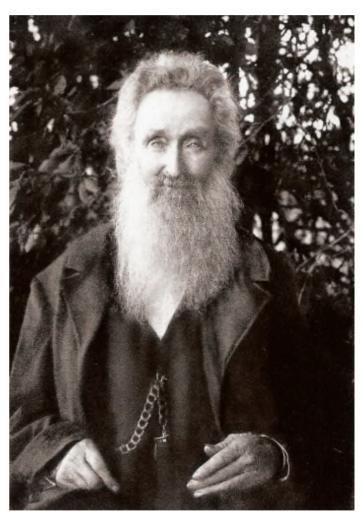


A TRIBUTE TO CONFEDERATE FATHERS

Our community was settled about the same time the youngest of the Confederate soldiers were being born. Even so, many of the men who watched their sons go off to War finally settled here, and quite a number of them lie buried in Northeast Tarrant County. Here are some of them, their stories, and their photographs.

Rev. William McKindree Rogers (1817-1904), (at right) whose photo introduces this article, brought his family to the Minter's Chapel area south of Grapevine about 1859 from Missouri. He was a prominent Methodist preacher here for many years. Two of his sons left this community to serve the South, and both came home after the War.



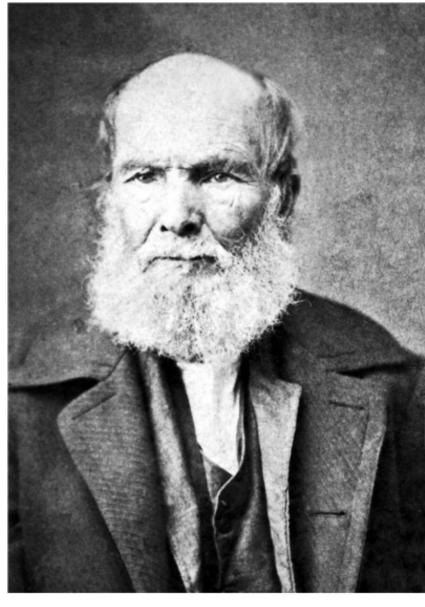


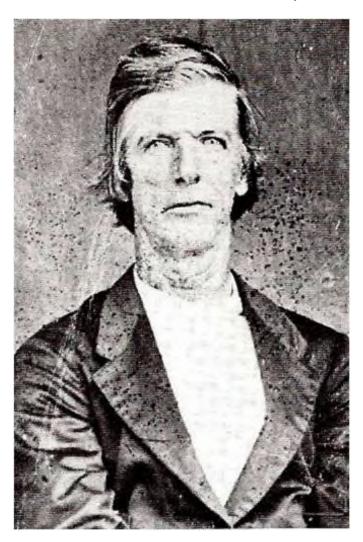
Lewis Westmoreland Jones (1817-1895), at left, settled near Smithfield in 1852. He and his eldest son both served the Confederacy. Both lie buried in Smithfield Cemetery. He is a direct ancestor of Taylor Camp Compatriot Boone Eustace.



Rev. El Nathan Hudgins (1814-1901), at right, brought his family here from Belfant, Alabama in 1854. He was one of the founders of Methodism in this part of Texas. His first four children were sons, and all four served in the Confederate Army. The two older sons died in service, and the two younger ones returned and founded families which are still here. Recently the E. W. Taylor Camp created cenotaphs to the memory to the two who died back East, and placed them beside their mother's stone in Minter's Chapel Cemetery. Rev. **Hudgins** lies buried Grapevine Cemetery.

Samuel Sparger (c1811-1893), at left, came to this community late in life from his home at Chickamauga, Georgia to live with married children here. When the federal government was handing out reparations through the Southern Claims Commission in the 1870's, he presented himself as a loyal Unionist during the War. The Commissioners didn't buy his story, citing his four sons and two sons-in-law who were in active Confederate service. Samuel died in present-day Colleyville and was buried in Smithfield Cemetery. He is a direct ancestor of Taylor Camp member Mike Patterson.

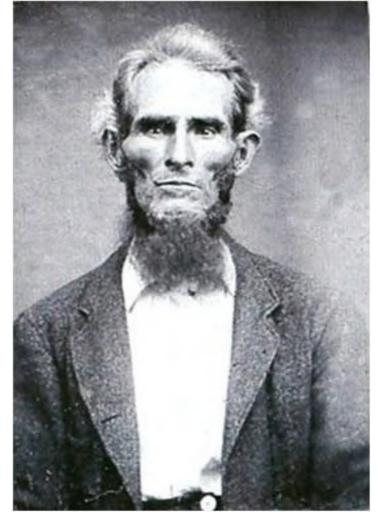




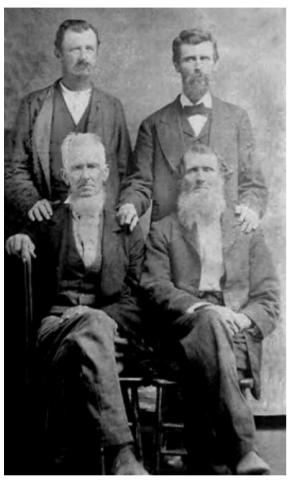
Joseph White (1812-1887), at left, brought his family here in 1858 from Missouri. Two of his brothers also settled here for a time, and both saw Confederate service. Joseph died while walking in the road near Pleasant Run Baptist Church in Colleyville, and was buried in White's Chapel Cemetery.

Many people mistakenly assume White's Chapel was named for his family, but it was not. It was, rather, named for Methodist minister who preached in the church there for a few years. Joseph had two sons who fought for the South, and both are buried near him at White's Chapel.

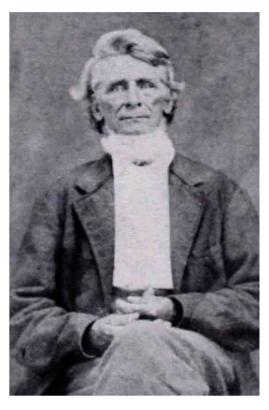
Abram L. Byas (c1815-1882), at right, immigrated here from Louisiana about 1857 and settled in what is now the extreme northern part of Hurst, along the east side of Precinct Line Road. He and his wife lie buried in Mount Gilead Cemetery east of Keller. He had four sons who served in the Confederate Army from this community, and all four returned home safely.



James Joyce (1810-1882), at right, came here in 1851 from Mississippi and settled in what is now Southlake. Mr. Joyce lies buried beside his wife and Confederate-veteran son in Mt. Gilead Cemetery in Keller.

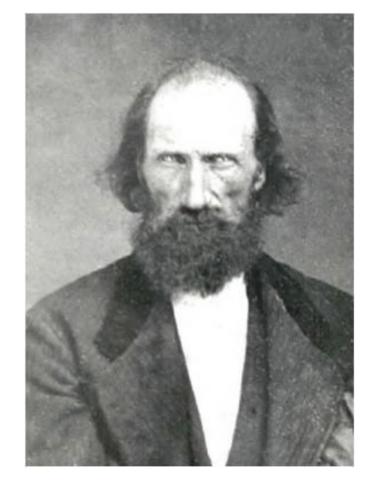


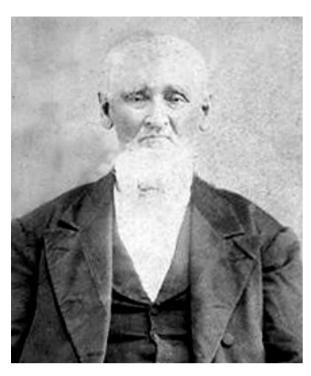
Thomas Jefferson Foster (1809-1891), seated at left with his hand on his cane, was a veteran of the Mexican War. He settled near the end of his life near Grapevine. His brother, Ambrose



Foster, may have been the first permanent white settler in Tarrant County. Thomas lies buried in Grapevine Cemetery. He had at least three sons who served in the Confederate Army, and is pictured with them here.

Alfred Madison Hightower (1816-1897), at right, was one of the pioneers of the Smithfield Community, arriving in 1858 from Missouri. He was a farmer and a muletrader. He died after being dragged by a team of runaway mules in Arlington. Alfred and two of his sons served in the Confederate Army. He lies buried in Smithfield Cemetery not far from one of his veteran sons. The other son moved to Fort Worth later in life and is buried there in Oakwood Cemetery. Alfred's grave is also marked with a Texas Historical Marker.





John Cartwright Dunn (1804-1894), above, brought his family to Texas in 1839, and finally settled at Grapevine in 1856. He lies buried in Grapevine Cemetery. Four of his sons were in the Confederate service.

Jonathan Blevins (1817-1911), at right, was another of the founders of the White's Chapel Community, coming here from Dade County, Georgia. He is buried in White's Chapel Cemetery. At least two of his sons served in Confederate regiments, and both later moved to northeast Tarrant County.



Stephen Blevins Austin (1817-1894), at left, was one of the founders of the White's Chapel Community, leading a large wagon train of families here in 1870 from Dade County, Georgia. He lies buried in White's Chapel Cemetery. Two of his sons served in Georgia regiments before the extended family settled here, and both lie buried near him at White's Chapel.



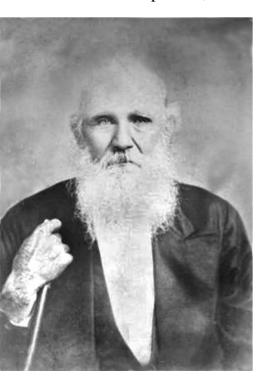


Alexander Allen (1816-1870), at left, settled in Bedford in 1853 and lived in a double-log cabin which sat in the grove of ancient post oaks still living in the northwest corner of the intersection of Harwood Road and Oak Grove Lane. He committed suicide in 1870, and is buried in his family cemetery about where Spring Grove Drive and Spring Lake Drive intersect. A subsequent landowner hauled all the headstones away many years later and now no trace of the cemetery may be seen. Three of Alexander Allen's sons left their Bedford home to join the Confederate Army, and all three made it back.

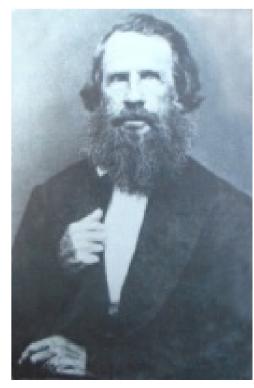


James Cate (1818-1908), above right, brought his family here in November 1845 from Missouri. His oldest son was the only one of his brood old enough to serve in the Confederate Army, and he enlisted in a local cavalry company. James and his second wife lie buried in Minter's Chapel Cemetery near her parents, Rev. and Mrs. Green W. Minter. Tarrant County's first Methodist church, the cemetery, and the community were named for Rev. Minter.

Weldon Wiles Bobo (1813-1884), below left, settled in Bedford about 1870. As much as anyone, he is probably responsible for the naming of Bedford. W. W. Bobo was a founder of the church of Christ here, and lies buried in Bedford Cemetery. His son served in a Missouri regiment, moved to Bedford with his parents, and died here in 1875. The son lies buried near his father.

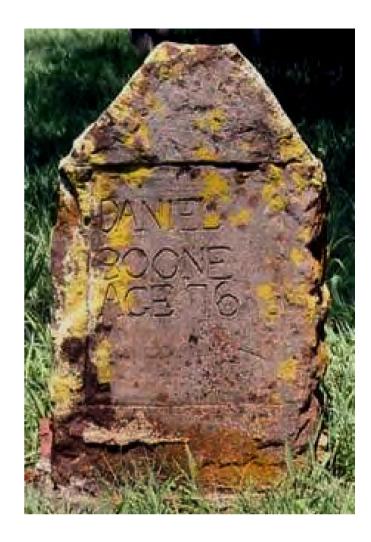


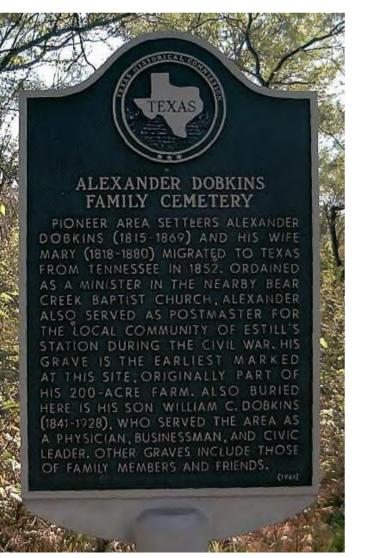
James Morehead Tracy (1809-1897),lower right, his family brought Grapevine in 1852. It was at his urging that the place was named Grapevine. He was Tarrant County's third Chief Justice, and presided over the election that created neighboring Parker County. He lies buried in Grapevine Cemetery near his son who served in a local cavalry company. James' grave is also marked with an Official Texas Historical Marker.



We know of about thirty-five more fathers of Confederate soldiers who are buried in our part of the county...and for whom we have been able to find no photographs. Birdville Cemetery has George Akers, Samuel Boaz, Shadrack Calloway, Robert Cross, John W. Ellison, James Hardisty, Jeremiah Prather, and Lewis G. Tinsley.

Grapevine has Charles Burgoon, Daniel Starr, Dr. Dabney M. Lipscomb, and Jefferson Estill. Mount Gilead has Daniel Barcroft, John Creed, Iraneous Neace, Thomas Grimes, John H. Lamkin, and Thomas Jefferson Thompson. Smithfield has William Turner, Daniel Boone, and David Trimble. Bear Creek has Isham Crowley,





Hosea Green, Joseph Fleming Jones, Lee Borah, and Moses Tilley. White's Chapel has W. W. McGinnis and Zachariah Piersall.

A few of our Confederate fathers are buried in their own small family cemeteries: Absalom H. Chivers, Alexander Dobkins, and Thomas Easter. Lonesome Dove has Ambrose Foster; it seems odd that one of the oldest cemeteries in the county would have only one. There must certainly be more we haven't identified who are there in unmarked graves.

Hood Cemetery has Urias Martin, Benjamin Eaves, probably Francis Throop, and almost certainly others beneath the unlettered sandstones there.

Then there are a handful of others we know must be buried in our area, but no clue as to their exact gravesites will probably ever be found.

A REAL AMERICAN HERO

Van T. Barfoot died on March 2, 2012 in Henrico County, Virginia. Though not a household name in America, he ought to be, for he was an example for all of us.

Remember the guy who wouldn't take the flag pole down on his Virginia property a while back? You might remember the news story several months ago about a crotchety old man in Virginia who defied his local homeowners association, and refused to take down the large flag pole on his property along with the large American flag he flew on it. Now we learn who that old man was.

On June 15, 1919, Van T. Barfoot was born in Edinburg, Texas. That probably didn't make news back then. But twenty-five years later, on May 23, 1944, near Carano, Italy, that same Van T. Barfoot, who had in 1940 enlisted in the U. S. Army, set out alone to flank German machine gun positions from which gunfire was raining down on his fellow soldiers. His advance took him through a minefield but having done so, he proceeded to single-handedly take out three enemy machine gun positions, returning with 17 prisoners of war. And if that weren't enough for a day's work, he later took on and destroyed three German tanks sent to retake the machine gun positions.











Hero, cont.

That probably didn't make much news either, given the scope of the war, but it did earn Van T. Barfoot, who retired as a colonel after also serving in Korea and Vietnam, a well-deserved Congressional Medal of Honor.

What did make news...was his neighborhood association's quibble with how the 90-year-old veteran chose to fly the American flag outside his suburban Virginia home. Seems the HOA rules said it was OK to fly a flag on a house-mounted bracket, but, for decorum, items such as Barfoot's 21-foot flagpole were "unsuitable." Van Barfoot had been denied a permit for the pole, but erected it anyway and was facing court action unless he agreed to take it down.

Then the HOA story made national TV, and the neighborhood association rethought its position and agreed to indulge this aging hero who dwelt among them.

In the time I have left," he said to the Associated Press, "I plan to continue to fly the American flag without interference." As well he should. And if any of his neighbors had taken a notion to contest him further, they might have done well to read his Medal of Honor citation first. Seems it indicates Mr. Van Barfoot wasn't particularly good at backing down.

GET GETTYSBURG HISTORY AT A BIG DISCOUNT!

For anyone interested in the Battle of Gettysburg or the Civil War, this is a great deal for you. Sets of back issues of *The Gettysburg Magazine* are on sale at a big discount. For 25 years, *The Gettysburg Magazine* has been publishing some of the best material on America's most famous battle.

Each issue of the magazine is 128 pages with no advertising, making every one more like a softcover book of essays on the Battle of Gettysburg than a traditional magazine. The articles have all been reviewed by a panel of Gettysburg experts and are footnoted. Each issue includes maps and both historic and modern photographs.

There is a 25-issue set and two 10-issue sets available. A 10-issue set contains 1,280 pages of material on Gettysburg. The 25-issue set has 3,200 pages. You can't get that much Civil War history in books for this price!

For anyone interested in the Civil War and the Battle of Gettysburg, this is a must have. They also make great gifts. You can share the history of Gettysburg with a Civil War enthusiast.

Each issue includes:

- 128 pages with no advertising
- footnoted articles
- battle maps
- historic and modern photographs
- introduction by Edwin C. Bearss, Chief Historian Emeritus of the National Park Service and World War II Marine combat veteran

Limited quantity

We only have 750 of each of the three sets, so order now before they're gone!

The 25-issue set includes issues 7, 9, 11, 12, 15-35.

Two 10-issue sets are available: either issues 16-25, or issues 26-35.

Order now!

		price	qty	total	Nama
25-issue set \$60				Name:	
10-issue set (#1	6-25)	\$30			Address:
10-issue set (#2	6-35)	\$30			City: State: Zip:
shipping (\$10.00 per set)					Phone:
Ohio residents add 7% sales tax					☐ Check/Money order enclosed ☐ VISA ☐ MasterCard ☐ Discover ☐ American Express
Total					Card #:
mail to: Gatehouse Press PO Box 1311					Expiration Date:

Please make checks payable to: Gatehouse Press



IT'S TIME FOR SOME SERIOUS CONSIDERATION

This is a story about four people named Everybody, Somebody, Anybody and Nobody. There was an important job to be done and Everybody was sure that Somebody would do it. Anybody could have done it, but Nobody did it. Somebody got angry about that, because it was Everybody's job. Everybody thought Anybody could do it, but Nobody realized that Everybody wouldn't do it. It ended up that Everybody blamed Somebody when Nobody did what Anybody could have.

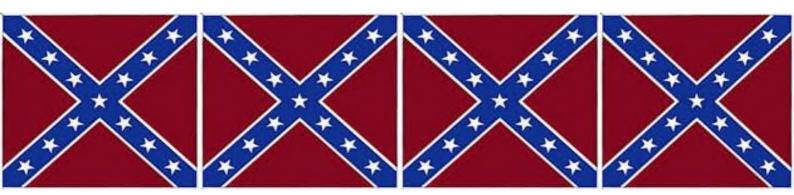
We have a vibrant, active, single local SCV camp which may, in a year, accomplish more real, concrete, observable, measurable things than some entire State Divisions in the Sons of Confederate Veterans in that same year.

Our local camp officers' terms will expire in only a few months. We need to nominate officers at the September meeting, and elect them at the October meeting.

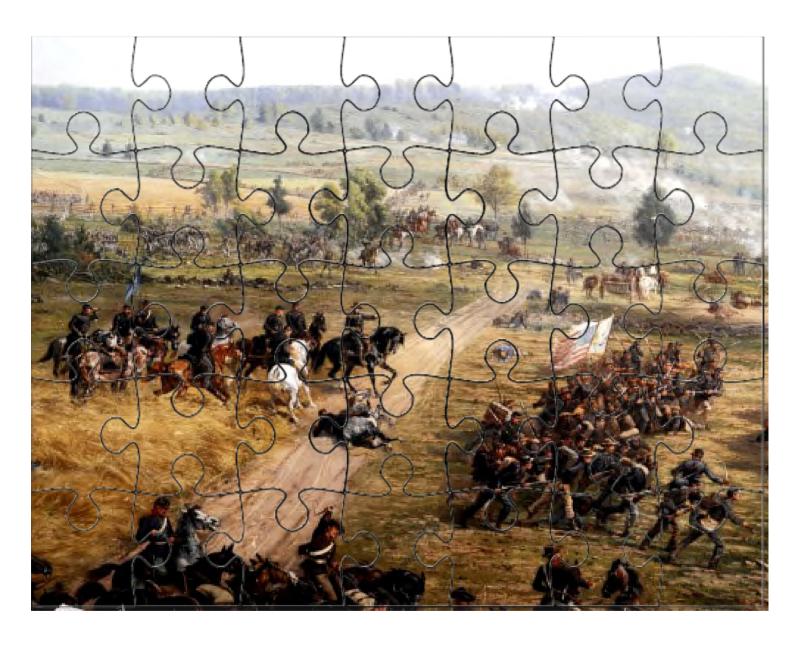
We need a commander who can see, drive, afford to travel a bit, and be there on meeting nights to chair the meetings. We need a 1st lieutenant commander who will arrange for quality programs, get the required media equipment to the meetings, and chair the meetings when the commander can't be there. We need a 2nd lieutenant commander who can fill in when the two other commanders can't be there. We need a chaplain who can open and close meetings with a prayer and keep in touch with our sick and bereaved members.

In the opinion of your humble commander/newsletter editor, camps will flourish or die based upon two main considerations: interesting, fast-moving monthly programs and meetings which are of a reasonable length. Mess up significantly on either in any given meeting, and some of the folks in that particular meeting you may never see again.

Please consider who you want to lead the local camp, and contact them about taking an office. If the person best suited for an office is the guy you see in the mirror every morning, have a long talk with him about whether or not the organization is important enough to warrant his time and commitment.



This Month's Puzzle



These are fun to do, and we'll try to provide at least one each month. When you get to the page which has the puzzle, you can click on some of the options on the left side to make it easier or more difficult. These aren't my pictures, I just made them into puzzles using the jigzone site. The web URL for this puzzle is:

http://www.jigzone.com/puzzles/04165673E32?m=81250DB 2BB.B091686&z=6

OUR ANCESTORS' LIFE AND TIMES

Our ancestors must have eaten millions of them, but they are almost never mentioned in the literature about the War. Were they so common they weren't worth mentioning?



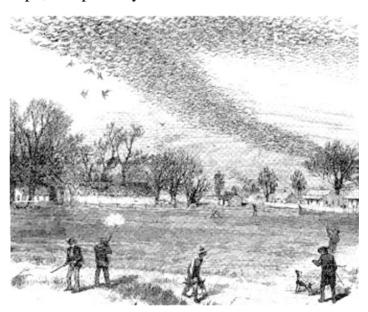
The Passenger Pigeon, once probably the most numerous bird on the planet, made its home in the billion or so acres of primary forest that once covered North America east of the Rocky Mountains. Their flocks, a mile wide and up to 300 miles long, were so dense that they darkened the sky for hours and days as the flock passed overhead. Population estimates from the 19th century ranged from 1 billion to close to 4 billion individuals. Total populations may have reached 5 billion individuals and comprised up to 40% of the total number of birds in North America. This may be the only species for which the exact time of extinction is known.

The Passenger Pigeon was similar to but larger than the Mourning Dove. It had a slate blue head and rump, slate gray back, and a wine red breast. The colors of the male were brighter than those of the female.

[cont. on next page]

The immense roosting and nesting colonies invited over-hunting. Tens of thousands of individuals were harvested daily from nesting colonies, and shipped to markets in the east. Modern technology hastened the demise of the Passenger Pigeon. With the coming of the telegraph, the locations of flocks could be ascertained, and the birds relentlessly pursued.

This bird was made for flight. Estimates are that it could reach flight speeds of 60 to 70 mph, and possibly even faster.



J. J. Audubon wrote, perhaps prophetically, about the Passenger Pigeon: "When an individual is seen gliding through the woods and close to the observer, it passes like a thought, and on trying to see it again, the eye searches in vain; the bird is gone."

Passenger Pigeons, cont.

Passenger Pigeons bred in large colonies, with up to 100 nests in a single tree. Nesting colonies could cover from 30 up to 850 square miles of forest. The nest was loosely made of small twigs. Generally, one egg was laid and incubated by both parents. Both parents tended the chick, and after about 2 weeks the chick, still unable to fly, would be abandoned. The entire flock would depart, and the chicks would drop to the ground. After a few days, the chicks would begin to fly and to care for themselves

The Passenger Pigeon is now extinct. Over hunting, the clearing of forests to make way for agriculture, and perhaps other factors doomed the species. The decline was well under way by the 1850's.

The last nesting birds were reported in the Great Lakes region in the 1890's. The last reported individuals in the wild were shot at Babcock, Wisconsin in 1899, and in Pike County, Ohio on March 24, 1900. Some individuals, however, remained in captivity.

The last Passenger Pigeon, named Martha, (above right) died alone at the Cincinnati Zoo at about 1:00 pm on September 1, 1914. Who could have dreamed that within a few decades, the once most numerous bird on Earth would be forever gone? [From WildBirds internet site]







The doctor who delivered your editor, Dr. H. E. Wyss, grew up in Cincinnati and had a lifelong interest in nature. His father took him to the zoo there and he remembered seeing Martha while she still lived.



Thanks!!! To Marilyn Patterson for all the things she does every month to keep our camp's activities going... trips to Worthington's, trips to deliver stones, trips to meetings, trips to install markers, trips to Home Depot and Staples, trips to ceremonies, trips to take pictures, answering phone calls and emails, and for not grumbling when the SCV gets its double-tithe of funds and time.



Thanks!!! to everyone who came to Bear Creek Cemetery to help install markers: Toby and Nathan Pike, James Alderman, and Paul Stephens.



Thanks!!! to Ron Parker for taking us down to Worthington's to make four stones in mid-May.

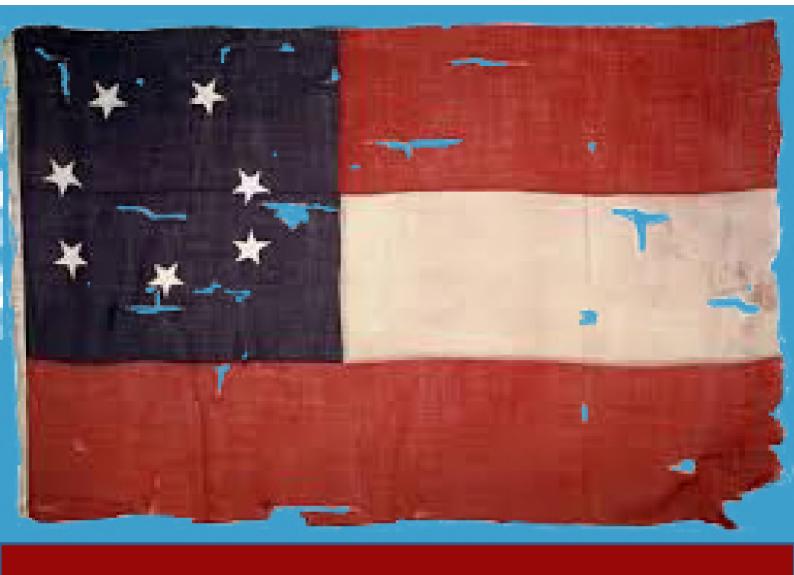


Thanks!!! To everyone from the Taylor Camp who came to Mt. Gilead on May 26 to support our Memorial Day efforts... Nathan, Sandy, and Toby Pike; James Alderman; James Madewell; Chuck Marks; Kent Mathews; and Marilyn, Mike, Oliver, Tammy, and Doris Patterson.



General Custer's First Day at the Point

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.