



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

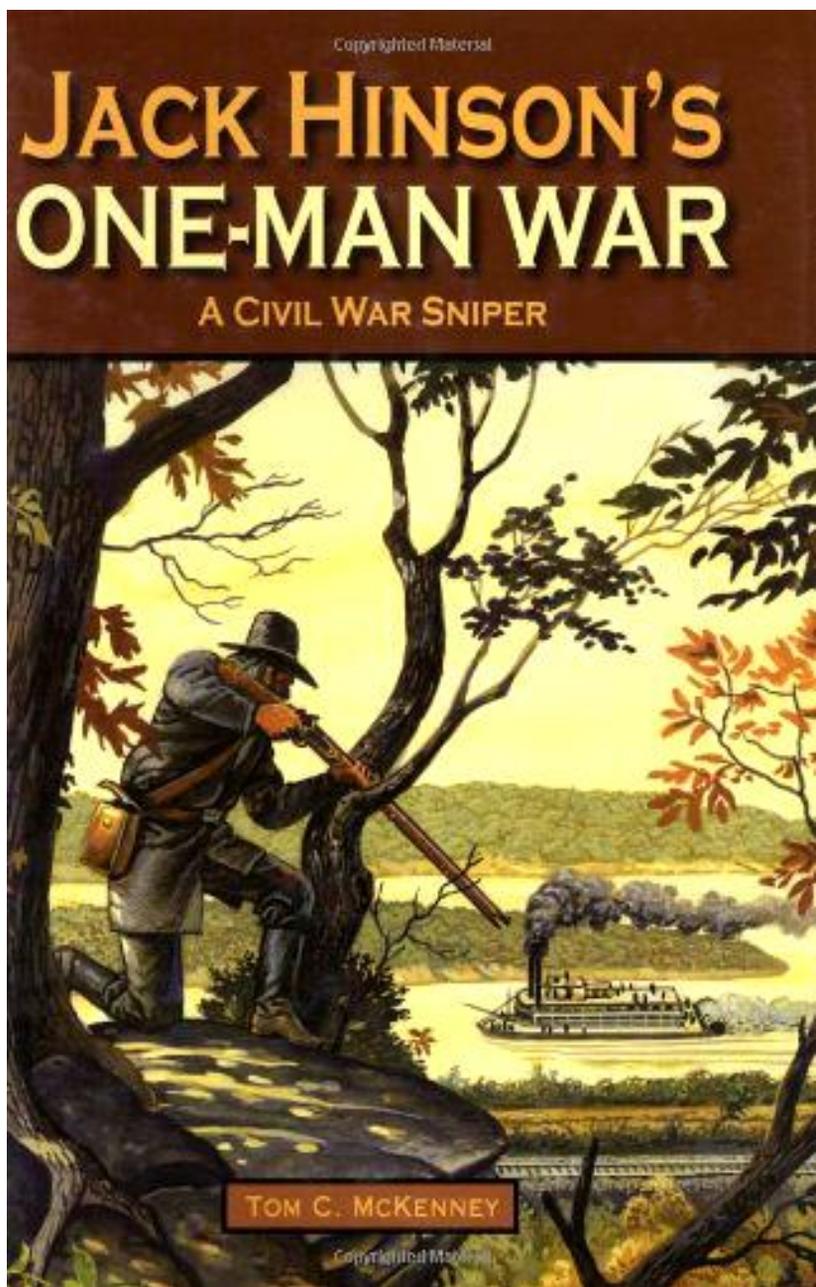
NEWSLETTER

Bedford, Texas.....July 2014



JULY PROGRAM

Join us in July as our own Adjutant, James Alderman, shares with us the amazing story of a man who is a legend in West Tennessee. Hinson even had a special rifle made for his own vendetta against the yankees and it is still in existence. This is an exciting tale which will have you buying Tom McKenney's book because you'll want to know the rest of the story. Be there!



**JULY MEETING July 31, 2014; Catfish and Company, 900 Airport Freeway #110
Hurst, Texas 817-581-3912. Eat at 6:00 Meeting at 7:00 Out by 8:30**

WELCOME COMPATRIOT LYNN WATSON!!!



Our newest member, Lynn Watson, at center, was sworn in at our June meeting by our Chaplain, Kent Mathews (left) and Mike Patterson, the Camp Commander.



**JULY 4
ARLINGTON
PARADE!!!**



We're all invited to RIDE with the M. T. Johnson SCV Camp in one of the biggest July 4 parades in Texas. Go to the website for details. We'll be easy to find in the staging area!

<http://arlington4th.org/parade-information/>

WHO'S THE BRAINS OF THIS OUTFIT ?

That question was answered a few days ago at Boyd Middle School in Wise County!

Only one boy in Boyd Middle School made all A's in every subject all year...Boone Eustace !!!

COMPATRIOT BOONE EUSTACE IS HONORED AT HIS SCHOOL !!!

At the end of the last school term our own Boone Eustace received two honors at Boyd Middle School in Boyd, Wise County.

Like all seventh-graders in the state, Boone's social studies class this year was Texas history. His academic average for the year in Texas history was higher than any other student's in the entire school! On the same day he also became a member of the National Junior Honor Society.

Outside of school, Boone is very active in bull riding, and is a member of the Elite Miniature Bull Riders. His other interest is history, and that makes us all very proud.

Boone has at least four direct Confederate ancestors buried in three northeast Tarrant County cemeteries. In Smithfield Cemetery he has Leonard W. Jones and his son, Benjamin F. Jones, and John Clinton Tarwater. In Grapevine Cemetery he has John Fletcher Walton. We met Boone and his grandparents, Jack and Rhoda Eustace, when we were getting a VA stone for Mr. Walton.

Boone and Jack Eustace were sworn into the E. W. Taylor Camp in the same ceremony.



Boone Eustace, cont.



At the same time he was getting his other recognition, Boone was sworn into the National Junior Honor Society.



THANKS!!! To the compatriots in our camp who take the time to read the articles in this newsletter every month. Your compiler feels great when someone at a meeting asks him a question about some obscure fact hidden in the last issue!!! David Stewart read the article about Confederate fathers in our community and discovered there's a pioneer cemetery only a short walk from his home. No tombstones... but a real live "Poltergeist" situation. One of two in Bedford (that we know of).



THANKS!!! To Compatriot Kent Mathews for coming out on Saturday morning, June 28, to help install three markers in Oakwood Cemetery in Fort Worth. We were in and out in about one hour.



THANKS!!! To the hardest-worker in the whole bunch, Marilyn Patterson, for helping to load and haul all the tools and three stones to Oakwood Cemetery in Fort Worth on June 28.

REQUEST FOR HELP IN HONORING CONFEDERATES IS ESPECIALLY TIMELY

Our newest Compatriot, Lynn Watson, joined the SCV under the service of a Confederate soldier who is buried at the memorial this group is working to restore.

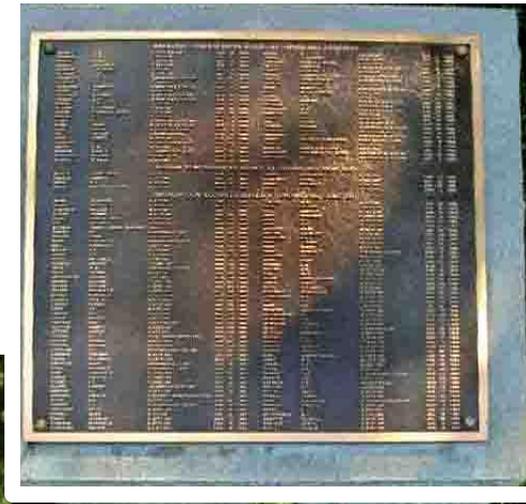
Compatriot Lynn Watson was sworn into our group this past Thursday evening. He is a proud descendant of Pvt. John M. Cannon, Co. B, 8th Battn. Ga. Inf., who died in 1865 while a POW in Camp Morton in Indianapolis. He was buried in the cemetery which is now the focus of a restoration effort.



| | | | |
|---------|-----------|------------|-------------|
| BURNES | ANTHONY M | B 83RD INF | OCT 25 1864 |
| BURNS | ALONZO W | G 16TH CAV | OCT 25 1863 |
| CANNON | JOHN M | B 8TH BATT | JAN 11 1865 |
| CARROLL | DENNIS | C 4TH CAV | JAN 25 1864 |
| CARRY | LA | G 16TH CAV | |

See the organization's two-page flyer:

<http://origin.library.constantcontact.com/download/get/file/1114282323135-90/Confederate+POW+Monument+Restoration+Project+info+flyer.pdf>



IT'S DUES TIME AGAIN!

Please take a moment to fill out the back of your dues form.

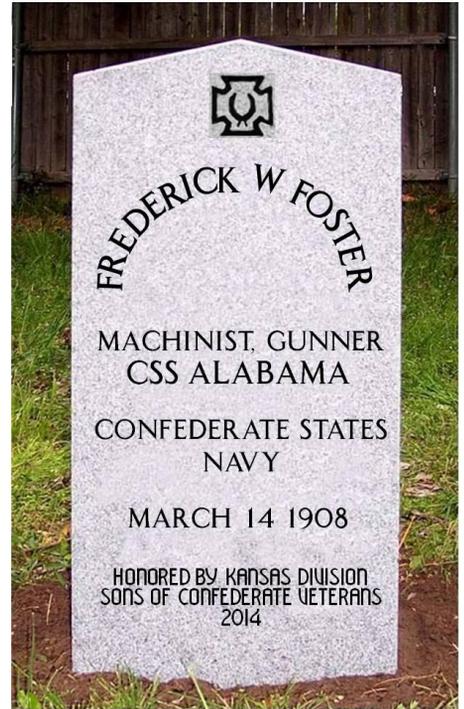


You should have received your renewal form in the US mail by now. Please take a few moments to complete it and mail it to our Adjutant. Last year our camp had one hundred per cent renewal!

Join us at our July meeting when we'll be swearing in yet another new member...Chris Dieterich of North Richland Hills. Chris's Confederate ancestor was Sgt. William Josiah Rives, who served in four different Georgia units. He died here in Texas in 1904 and is buried in Somervell County.

THIS IS A FIRST FOR US....

On Friday, June 29, a member of the SCV from Kansas contacted us for help in getting an upright VA clone made for a member of the crew of the CSS Alabama. Mr. Foster was one of about forty sailors who escaped when the Alabama was finally defeated off the French coast. Mr. Foster died in Atchison, Kansas, and kept his naval service a secret until about one year before he died. At left is a mock-up how the stone may look when finished.



COMING UP AT THE JULY MEETING....



Some members of our camp received awards at the Texas Division Reunion in Houston recently. Brigade Commander Calvin Allen will be at our meeting to present them.



Please remember that if you have any announcements you'd like made at the July meeting email them to [mfpchat @ yahoo.com](mailto:mfpchat@yahoo.com) no later than the day before the meeting.

WHITE'S CHAPEL MEMORIAL DAY JUNE 7

Five members of the Taylor Camp took part in a Memorial Day event in Southlake honoring all the WBTS vets buried in this historic cemetery.



Above: Chuck Marks, left, one of newest members, arrived early along with James Madewell to help get set up.



Above, l-r, Jack Eustace, Mike Patterson, and James Alderman got the camp flag attached to the fence before the ceremony began.



Left: Jack Eustace and James Alderman helped mark all the known WBTS graves in the cemetery: forty-four Confederates, four Union, and one galvanized yankee. Several direct descendants of the veterans were among the guests at the ceremony.

We also conducted a walking tour of the cemetery, below, with special attention to the Confederate graves.



WHITE'S CHAPEL DAY, cont.



Real Texans don't stand in the sun when there's shade to be had. Our firing line included, l-r, Mike Patterson, Jack Eustace, Chuck Marks, James Alderman, and James Madewell.

We also showed the guests how our ancestors made fires using flint and steel, and gave them an idea of what those just to the west were up against when confronted by the Indians.

The camera exposure above was not fast enough to catch the arrow leaving the bow. Mike's hand and the bow string are still moving slightly.

THREE MORE OAKWOOD VETERANS GET MARKERS ON JUNE 28

We're three steps closer to our goal of every Confederate veteran in Tarrant County having a grave marker.



Levering up the top one of the three stones to get a plank under it. Most of the casualties on these days are smushed fingers.

James Thomas Castleberry was born in Talbot County, Georgia. He was fifth in a family of thirteen children.

James enlisted in service to the South in August 1864 at Atlanta and served against Sherman as he made his way to the coast.

James is buried in the same lot with his brother, William Zachariah Castleberry, who was also a Confederate soldier.

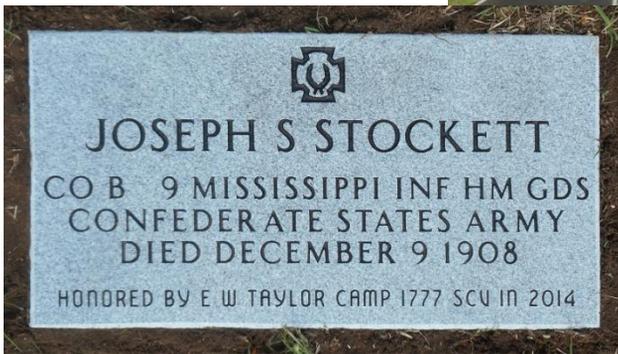
At some time between 1880 and 1900 James and his family settled here in Tarrant County. The Castleberry section of Fort Worth was named for this family. When they were listed in the 1910 census, they were shown living in "Castleberry, Texas."

James was a member of the Robert E. Lee Camp of United Confederate Veterans in Fort Worth until his death.

NEW STONES AT OAKWOOD, cont.

We lucked out on this rare summer morning when it was cloudy, there was a south wind, and it was spitting rain. It's usually just too hot in June, July, and August to get serious serious about this kind of work.

Joseph Smith Stockett was born in Wilkinson County, Mississippi. He grew up the son of a very wealthy planter; in 1860 his father owned twenty-one slaves. By 1870 the family had moved to West Feliciana Parish, Louisiana and Joseph's father had died.



Luckily in all three cases this time Oakwood's records showed an exact grave location for our veterans. We try to preserve whatever alignment there is when we install new stones.

At some time during the 1870's Joseph settled here and in 1879 he married Mary A. Johnson. They were married here in Tarrant County. When the 1900 census was taken, they had moved to Johnson County and were farming there. Mrs. Stockett applied for a Confederate widow's pension after his death, and in her application she said he died while living in Johnson County.

Joseph's brother, John D. Stockett, was also in a Mississippi regiment and surrendered at Appomattox. He died before 1900 and lies buried here in Pioneer's Rest Cemetery. His marker is now completely unreadable and he's in line for a new one.



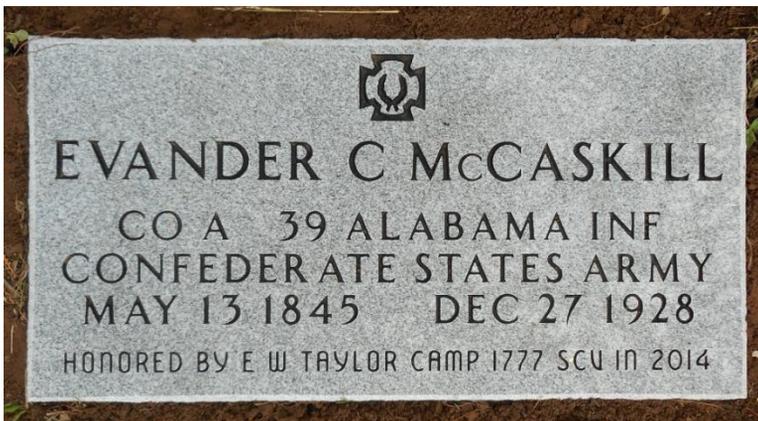
NEW STONES AT OAKWOOD, cont.

Evander C. McCaskill was born in Pike County, Alabama. His father was a native of Scotland. Evander enlisted in the Confederate service on September 1, 1863 at Orion in Pike County. One of his brothers later remembered that Evander was able to come home twice for brief visits during the War. Evander was captured at Egypt Station, Mississippi on December 29, 1864 and was sent to the military prison in Alton, Illinois. During the following February he was sent to the James River in Virginia for exchange and was sent to a hospital in Richmond. On March 9, 1865 he was furloughed and was still at home when the War ended.

After the War he resumed farming in Pike County, where he appears in the 1880 census. According to his pension application he moved his family to Texas in 1887 and came to Fort Worth in 1892.

By 1900 Mr. McCaskill and his family were living in Fort Worth at 1024 West Belknap. His wife told the census taker she had given birth to five children, but only one of them was still alive...her son, Guilford, who died in 1906 and now lies buried beside his parents in Oakwood Cemetery. Evander was working in 1900 in Fort Worth as a produce dealer.

Mr. McCaskill applied for a Confederate pension in 1915. In the year he died Mr. McCaskill appeared in the Fort Worth City Directory. He lived at 924 West Belknap Street.



The setting crew at Oakwood on June 28 had just enough folks for a checker game if they'd had any leftover energy. Marilyn Patterson took the pictures, then Kent and Mike helped each other up.



We keep finding prospects for our grave marker program. We believe there may still be as many as 70 Confederates in Oakwood Cemetery alone who have no readable markers.



JULY'S NEW MARKERS: TWO CORRECTIONS AND UNION MAN

Two recent Confederate additions to your Veterans Memorial in Bedford wound up getting markers with errors on them decades after their deaths. A Union man in Southlake didn't get even that.

John Michael Burkhalter was dead by the time they took the census in 1880. His widow and her three children were listed in her father's family in what-is-now Southlake. Not long after he died, someone got him a nice white marble headstone.

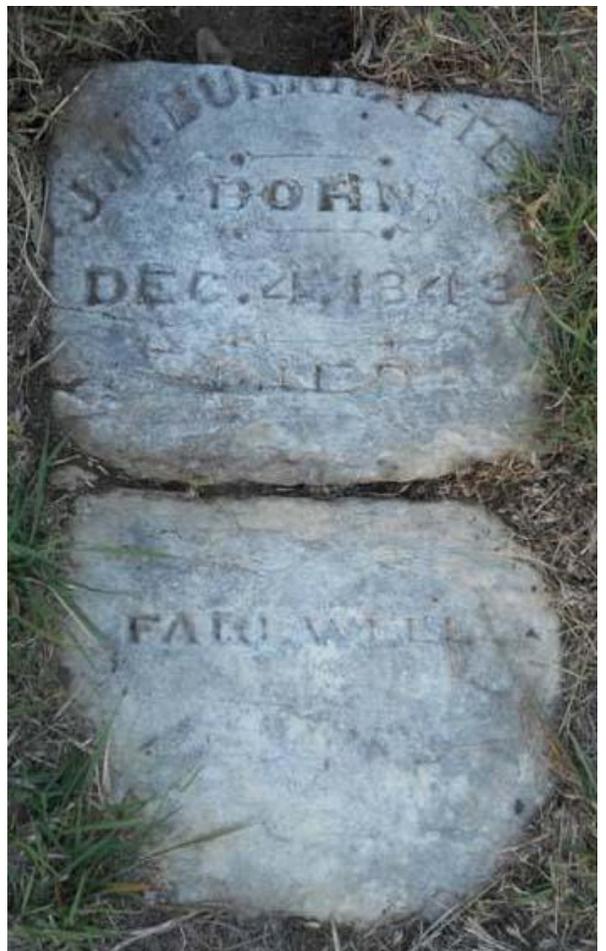
They buried Mr. Burkhalter in White's Chapel Cemetery, which for years was unfenced and suffered heavily from vandalism. Decades ago someone broke his headstone, at the base, along the date line, and across the name. Old marble stones are weakest across the birth and death date lines and that's often where they break. Acid rain goes to work in short order, and in just a few years a broken date is unreadable forever.

Mr. Burkhalter was still alive when the 1879 tax lists were made, so our best guess is that he must have died about 1879.

Many years ago some family member or other good Samaritan decided to get Mr. Burkhalter a new marker. His birth date is still readable, but the death date must have been pretty far gone...because someone's best guess was 1979. We can only speculate on whether the month and day of his death were still readable.

His old stone is obviously contemporary with the date of his death. We're going to make him a new one, with "About 1879" as his death date. If someone comes along with a better date, we'll make him another one. We're also going to include a note of his service in Co. B, 9th Alabama Cavalry. He was captured at Chickamauga, and spent the rest of the War in prison at Camp Douglas in Chicago.

He arrived here on Christmas Day in 1870 with a large group of related families from DeKalb County, Alabama and Dade County, Georgia. About 1873 he married a daughter of one of the White's Chapel Austins and they had three children, all of whom lived to adulthood. He joined the Grapevine Lodge in 1871 and farmed until his untimely death.



JULY'S NEW MARKERS, cont.

We “rediscovered” a Euless Confederate in June, and getting him documented turned into quite an ordeal. In case you’re interested....

From time to time when one of the oldtimers in this community passes, your compiler gets called upon to speak at the funeral a few minutes about the family and the things which happened during the dearly-departed’s lifetime. Many years ago we did part of a lady’s funeral at Greenwood Funeral Home in Fort Worth, and we discovered that she was a granddaughter of a CSA vet named James M. Blanks who died in Euless.

Mr. Blanks didn’t apply for a pension, and he didn’t live long enough to be listed as a vet in the 1910 census. He was a member of the RE Lee UCV Camp in Fort Worth, but he didn’t have an obituary or a death certificate and he never got a headstone...and we had just forgotten about him.

In June we saw his name in the RE Lee Camp records and it rang a bell...the bell gets rung fewer and fewer times these days. We looked in the 1900 census and there he was, living with a married daughter in Euless. He needs to be on our Memorial, and he needs a gravestone.



A little census research showed that his complete name was James Monroe Blanks, and he was born in Warren County, Tennessee about 1840. His military records are nearly identical to what he told his comrades in the RE Lee Camp when he joined them. By 1880 he and his growing family had moved a short distance to White County, Tennessee. Apparently about 1894 they settled here.

Mr. Blanks was not with any of his family here in 1910, so we suspected he may have died in the 1900-1910 era. No obituaries appeared for him in the papers in Grapevine, Arlington, Dallas or Fort Worth. Strike one.

The married couple with whom he was living in 1900 share a double headstone in Calloway Cemetery, so that seemed the best candidate for a burial place. There are no readable headstones anywhere in the county for J. M. Blanks or James M. Blanks. Strike two.

Some facts seemed to muddy the water: There is headstone for one **John** M. Blanks in Watson Cemetery, for a man who was born seven years too late to be our man and who died in 1909.

Then, too, there’s a death certificate for one **John** M. Blanks who was born in 1832 and died in Fort Worth on a date in 1909 different from the Watson Cemetery man.

No one who could be either of these John M. Blankses appears in the 1900 census in any county or state in the USA. The census records are very clear about his name being James, his 1868 marriage record clearly says “James,” and the death certificates of some of his children bear that out.

I looked at the death certificate for the John M. Banks who died in Fort Worth and discovered he’d died on March 2, 1909 at 110 West Hattie Street. There was one *Christopher Columbus Blanks* who had a newspaper obituary which said he died on March 2, 1909 at 110 Hattie Street. This man has a VA marker in Oakwood Cemetery which Compatriot David Luttrell got for him back in 2008. C. C. Blanks had a son named John M. Blanks (1862-1955).

So...this part of the mystery was solved at least. C. C. Blanks is the one who died on Hattie Street in 1909 and the registrar must have mistakenly recorded the informant as the deceased.

JULY NEW MARKERS, cont.

Now...we're down to dealing with only one John M. Blanks who has a headstone in Watson Cemetery but does not appear in any census record anywhere.

When all else fails, we start trying to track down the veterans' children and see if any records of the father's got filed somewhere with the kids.

We believe at least three of our James M. Blanks' children are buried in Watson Cemetery, two with no headstones. One of the daughters, May, married a man named Thomas J. McMillan. A few years after May died, McMillan married one of her sisters, the widow Martha Trigg. Mr. McMillan and both wives are in Watson Cemetery in unmarked graves.

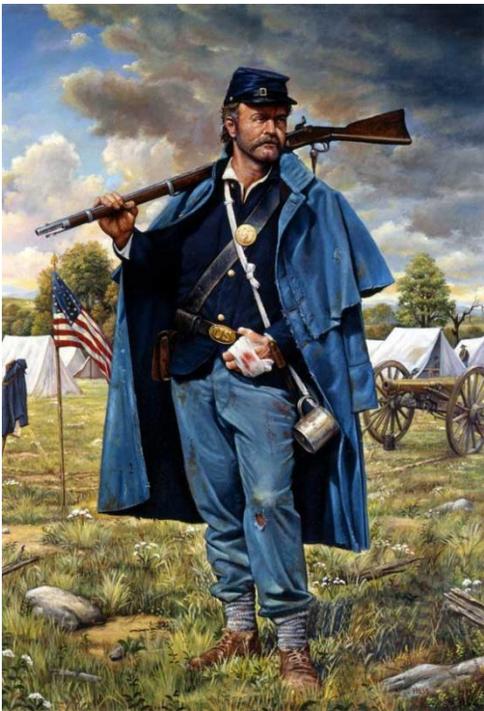
Interestingly, there is one McMillan headstone in Watson Cemetery. It's for the grave of a young boy named Earl McMillan who died in 1913. Census records prove that Earl was the son of Thomas and May (Blanks) Trigg.

Little Earl McMillan's headstone tied everything together for us. We went to Watson Cemetery to see it, and discovered he's buried out on the fringes away from most of the other graves.

Significantly, Little Earl has one next-door neighbor lying in the adjacent grave...John M. Blanks.

When the DAR canvassed Watson Cemetery back in 1963, this John M. Blanks stone had not yet been made. It seems logical that it was made long after the fact...possibly at the same time his step-mother (Martha Blanks Trigg McMillan's) stone was made. Mr. Blanks' stone has his name and birthdate incorrect. They got his step-mother's name correct, but got both her birth and death dates incorrect, and then put her marker in the wrong cemetery on top of that.

Factoring these two mistakes into the equation, it all makes perfect sense in a twisted sort of way.



At the end of the Memorial Day observance at White's Chapel, we were handed a generous and anonymous donation to get a headstone for the single WBTS veteran in White's Chapel who doesn't have one: Sgt. Frank Beaver of Co. C, 71st Ohio Volunteer Infantry. Beaver was born in either Luxembourg or Germany and was naturalized in 1859 in Ohio.

Mrs. Beaver died in 1896 and has a readable headstone there.

SWEATIN' WITH THE OLDIES



Manassas, 2011

Especially in the South, lots of WBTS reenactments and SCV events grind to a halt in June, July, and August. We just can't take the heat like our tough ol' ancestors could. Still, we'll sneak down to Matt's to make a few markers in the early mornings, and we may call for some help in some late afternoons to install them.

Catfish and Company still has an air-conditioning system that works just fine. Twenty-five people braved the heat and traffic for our June meeting. Come see us in July and August!!!

OUR ANCESTORS' LIFE AND TIMES



Half Eagles...Five Dollar Gold Pieces

The U. S. mint produced the first five-dollar gold coins in 1795; they were our first gold coins. Only the last two designs produced, the liberty head shown above and an Indian-head design produced beginning in 1908, are usually seen in collections today.

This denomination of coin holds the distinction of being the only one produced at seven of the U. S. mints: Philadelphia; Charlotte, North Carolina; Dahlonega, Georgia; New Orleans, San Francisco; Carson City, Nevada; and Denver.

By 1834 the gold in the coin had been worth more than its face value for several years. In that year, the weight of the coins was reduced, and a provision was made for both copper and silver to be in the alloy.

Gold mined in the vicinity of the branch mints at Dahlonega, Georgia and Charlotte, North Carolina had a naturally-high silver content, and some of the coins minted there were nearly five per cent silver.

As has happened with many of our pre-1965 silver coins, many of the pre-1834 gold coins were melted and re-minted. Only a fraction of the ones produced survive in collections today.

The liberty head design shown above was first produced in 1839, and its composition was set at 90% gold and 10% copper in an effort to produce a coin which was hard enough to hold up under circulation. Its edges were reeded like many other coins so that it would be evident if anyone had filed off some of the precious metal.

This basic design was used until 1908 with one significant change in 1866 when "In God We Trust" was placed above the eagle on the reverse.

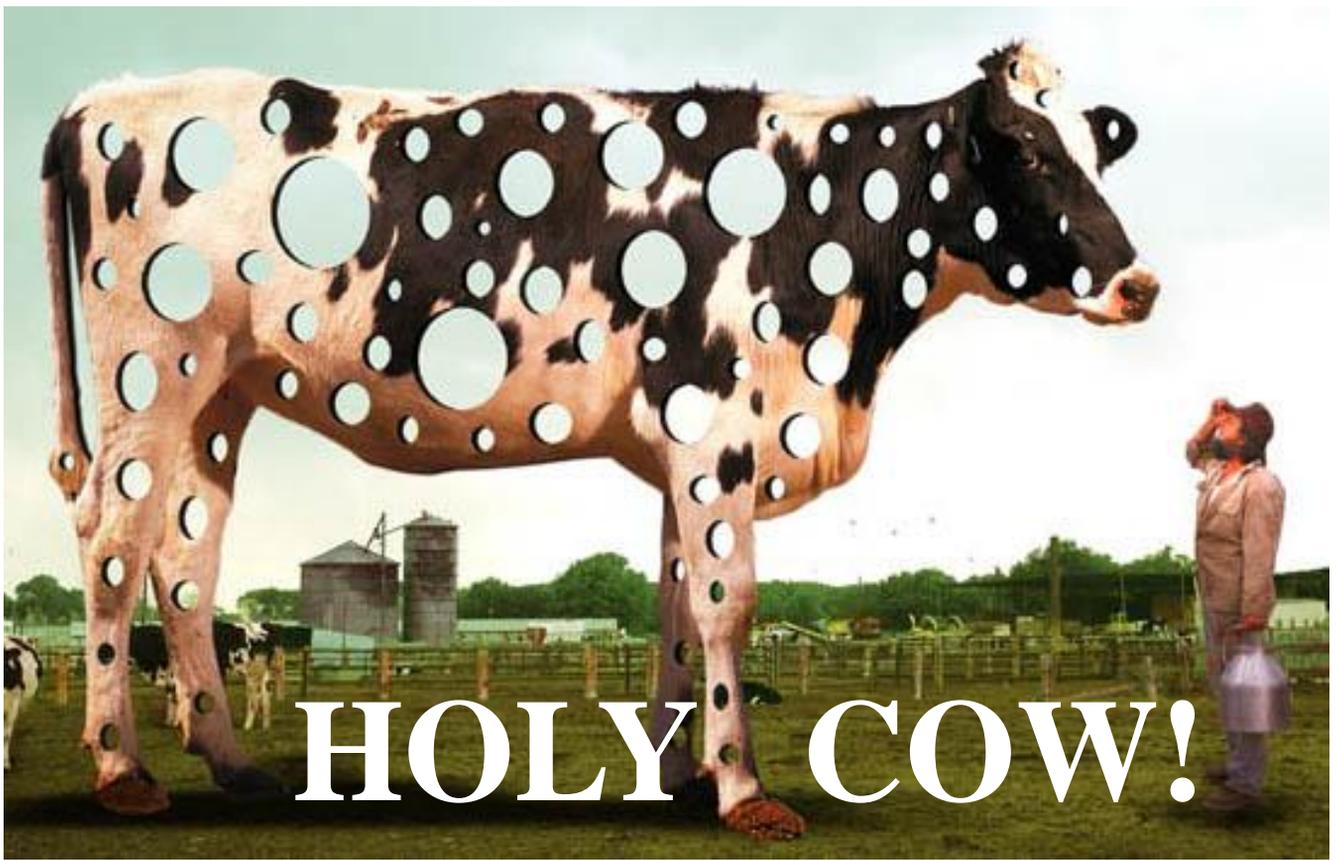
These coins, which are about the size of a nickel, continue to be popular with collectors today. The current gold value of a single piece is about \$325. A check of eBay auctions showed several circulated examples available for less than four hundred dollars.



THE PUZZLES GET TOUGHER

Again this month, we made this puzzle using a picture we found through Google Images and the Jigzone site. Click on the link below. Go to the options at the left and choose one, say 67-piece classic. Have fun!

<http://www.jigzone.com/puzzles/97166AB42B2?m=81250DB2BB.B091686&z=6>



We installed Joseph Stockett's marker at Oakwood on Saturday morning about 9:30 a.m. On Sunday afternoon, the very next day, I received this email from half a continent away!

“Mr. Patterson: I was pleasantly surprised to discover your chapter marked the grave site of Joseph Smith Stockett, who is buried in Oakwood Cemetery in Fort Worth, Tarrant County, Texas. Although I am not directly related, Mr. Stockett's daughter, Nannie, was married to Milus Hindman, who was the son of Charles Hindman. Charles was the twin brother of my great-grandfather, William Hindman. So, Milus and my grandfather were first cousins. I appreciate the work your chapter is accomplishing by remembering the veterans of Texas. Thank you. Best, Sheila Simpson,, Mercer Island, Washington”

We didn't contact anyone after we set the stone. A photo of the stone was also on Find-A-Grave by Sunday afternoon. The lady who posted that photo must know how all this happened so fast, but we've been unable to contact her.

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.

