



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

Bedford, Texas.....October 2014



**October's Program:**  
**WBTS Trivia III**

*For the third year in a row we'll have a program of photos and WBTS Trivia, all new stuff...and a trophy to boot!*

OCTOBER MEETING: OCT. 30, 2014, Catfish and Company, 900 Airport Freeway #110  
Hurst, Texas 817-581-3912 Eat at 6:00 Meet at 7:00 Out by 8:30



# Colonel E. W. Taylor Camp

CAMP #1777 BEDFORD, TEXAS  
Sons of Confederate Veterans

September 1, 2014

Mr. Gregory R. Fleitz, Sr.  
Chairman, Grants Committee  
The Society of the Order of the Southern Cross  
2411 Beech Drive  
LaGrange, Kentucky 40031

Dear Mr. Fleitz:

On behalf of the E. W. Taylor Camp #1777, Sons of Confederate Veterans, I would like to thank you and the Society of the Order of the Southern Cross for your confidence in us, as evidenced by the generous grant you awarded us.

Our plans are to produce the first three grave markers on or about September 18. We expect all three to be installed within ten days after that.

We are planning to produce and install an additional four during the month of October. All four Confederates were later killed by Indians, all four lost their wives in the same raids, and all four now lie buried in unmarked graves in neighboring Parker County, Texas. Tentative plans are to install them on October 18 with other area Sons of Confederate Veterans Camps in attendance.

We will keep a detailed set of photographs for each of the thirty grave markers we will be making with your donation, and will submit them to you. Again, we are honored that you have placed your trust in us as we work to honor these veterans.

Sincerely,

Handwritten signature of Michael E. Patterson in black ink.

Michael E. Patterson  
Commander, Col. E. W. Taylor Camp 1777  
Sons of Confederate Veterans



**JOIN US IN  
THE  
FT. WORTH  
VETERANS  
DAY  
PARADE  
ON  
TUESDAY  
NOVEMBER  
11.**

**Everyone gets to ride!  
No one has to march!**

*Come in uniform if you can. If you can't, bring a flag. If you can't, just show up. Thanks to the MT Johnson SCV Camp for asking us to be their guests.*

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

# FOUR NEW MEMBERS TO BE SWORN IN AT OUR OCTOBER CAMP MEETING

If things go as we predict, these four men should be come a part of our group at our next meeting.



**Tony Jennings**, based upon the service of his direct ancestor, Edward B. Greer, Co. F, 18<sup>th</sup> (Newsom's) Tennessee Cavalry, who died in 1864 in the prison camp at Fort Delaware.



**Austin Jennings**, Tony's son, based upon the service of his direct ancestor, John Pleasant Jennings, who enlisted at Grapevine in Co. A, 34<sup>th</sup> Texas Cavalry, and served with many of our local men.



**Ricky Riddle**, based upon the service of his direct ancestor, Luke Robertson Roberts, Co. D, 30<sup>th</sup> Alabama Infantry, who was killed at the Battle of Port Gibson in 1863.



**Frank Robinson**, based upon the service of his direct ancestor, John Jasper Yielding, who served in Co. C, 29<sup>th</sup> Alabama Infantry.

WE ARE IN THE FIELD AND THE  
BARS ARE UP.



## NOV. 15: ANOTHER EASY WAY TO GET SOME GOOD PUBLIC EXPOSURE!!!

The City of Grapevine is also putting on a Veterans Day Parade. Theirs is Saturday, Nov.15, and again we can RIDE with the M. T. Johnson Camp. This is close, easy, and a chance to get some name recognition in a VERY history-minded city. Details in the November newsletter.

# Sixty People Turn Out For Event at Mt. Olivet on Sept. 13

*We were honored to be asked to help pay tribute to Corp. Francis Marion Petty (1844-1916), Co. C, Crump's Texas Cavalry, and his great-grandson, Charles Petty, who arranged for the marker and came from Tennessee with his wife for the ceremony.*



The entire musket squad was made up of E. W. Taylor men.



Talk about precision!!!

# Mt. Olivet, Sept. 13, cont.

This event was planned and coordinated by Jack Dyess, commander of the W. H. Griffin SCV Camp which meets in Haltom City. It was sponsored by the Griffin SCV Camp and the Julia Jackson Chapter of the United Daughters of the Confederacy in Fort Worth. The following camps also took part: R. E. Lee Camp of Fort Worth; S.W.T. Lanham Camp of Weatherford, E. W. Taylor Camp of Bedford, James P. Douglas Camp of Tyler, Oran M. Roberts Camp of Waxahachie, Stonewall Jackson Camp of Denton, A. H. Belo Camp of Dallas, and the Albert S. Johnston Camp of Decatur.

The weather was deee-lightful, especially for those of us in wool coats and pants. The temperature at ShowTime was 58 degrees...the all-time low record for this date is 56. Our records now go back more than a century, and that record was set fifty-four years ago.



Nine members of the Taylor Camp came out in support of the event. They were, l-r, Bobby Gresham, James Madewell, Kent Mathews, cadet Oliver Patterson and his grandpa, Mike Patterson, David Stewart, Ron Parker, Chuck Marks, and James Alderman.

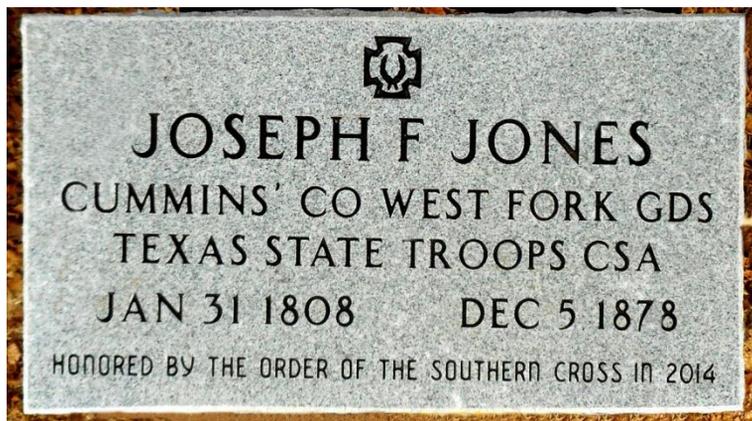
## Mt. Olivet, Sept. 13, cont.

Compatriot Charles Petty, formerly commander of the Tennessee Division of the SCV, came from his home in Tennessee to take part in his great-grandfather's ceremony.



# EULESS VET GETS A NEW STONE TO COMPLEMENT HIS ORIGINAL WRECK

*Time, vandals, and repairmen have done their best; it was time for Mr. Jones to get a readable stone.*



**This was the first stone set through our grant from the Order of the Southern Cross.**

Old marble stones like Jones' present a problem. They are soft and crumbly and can't be drilled for dowels when they're repaired. If they're glued back together, they usually just re-break along the glue line. Laid down and cast in concrete, acidic rainwater sits in the carvings and eats away the marble while it's evaporating.

Gluing the stone back together with clear silicone works fairly well if the whole stone gets an unbreakable backing made from granite or something similar to composite counter-top material. This only works if the repair is done soon, while all the pieces are still present, clean, and they haven't started to weather.

Mortar is good for sticking bricks together but not old marble headstones. Gorilla glue must be good for something, it's sold in so many places. It expands as it cures and makes a horrible indestructible mess. I've never heard of anyone who bought a second bottle of it...and your first container is impossible to open when you go back to use it a second time.

The old stone is showing its inscription side to the camera in the photo at right. It's about as bad as they can get and still be in place. We depended on a 1958 list the DAR made to be sure we had the correct dates.

Before the Big Airport came years ago old Bear Creek Cemetery sat on a lonely country road. It could be seen from the road, but barely. It was ripe for vandalism and one night it got it. Jones' stone was only one of many which were smashed that night. The bad guy was caught and ordered by the court to pay reparations, which he never did. Jones was set Sept. 13.



**Above: Cadet Taylor Compatriot Oliver Patterson and his grandpa, Mike Patterson, after Oliver's first-ever install. Mike and his Grandpa Patterson put Mike's first-ever VA stone in this cemetery in 1964.**



EDWARD B BROWNE

SGT CO A 4 MISSOURI CAV  
CONFEDERATE STATES ARMY

DIED APRIL 13 1917

HONORED BY THE ORDER OF THE SOUTHERN CROSS IN 2014

## Missouri Cavalryman in Oakwood Cemetery gets his first-ever marker on September 20.

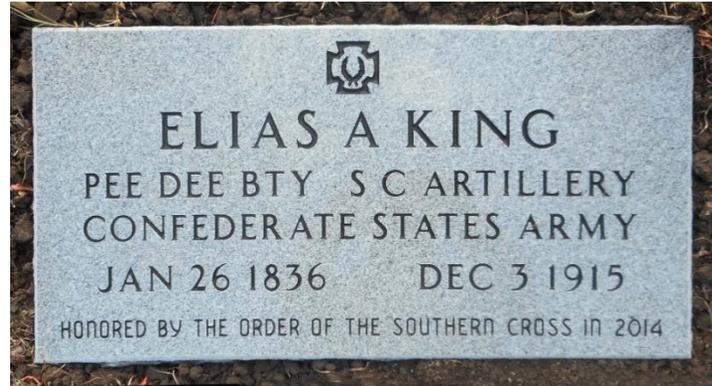
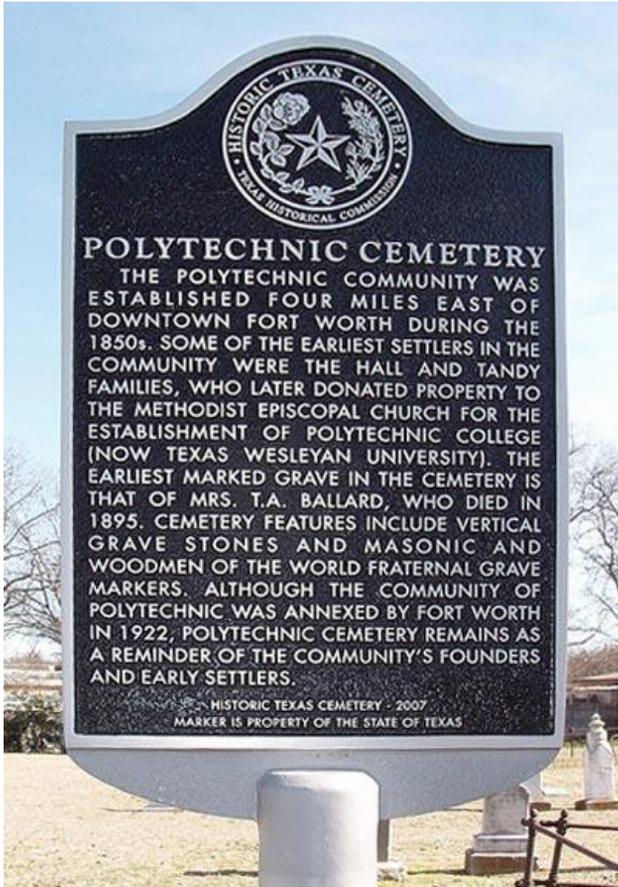
*This is the second in a series of markers funded by our grant from the Order of the Southern Cross.*



Taylor Compatriots Kent Mathews and Mike Patterson installed Mr. Browne's stone on the morning of September 20. For an account of Mr. Browne's life, see our September newsletter.

# EAST FORT WORTH VETERAN GETS HIS FIRST STONE AFTER NINETY-NINE YEARS

*King's was the third stone we've made using our grant from the Order of the Southern Cross.*



We first learned about Elias King during our searching through all the Tarrant County Confederate pension files. Kent Mathews and Mike Patterson set the stone on September 20 in East Fort Worth's little-known Poly Cemetery.

For an account of Mr. King's life, see our September 2014 newsletter.

# FOUR PARKER COUNTY VETS TO BE REMEMBERED

*Many men who managed to survive the War fell victims to raiding Plains Indians during Reconstruction. We're honoring four.*

Thousands of Texans felt the wrath of the Indians during the years following the War. Mostly Comanches and Kiowas, there were also a smattering of others...Cheyennes, Arapahoes, and other Indians who had drifted onto the southern reservations or gone out onto the Plains to live with the remnants of the bands who hadn't seen the writing on the wall to "give up and come in."

Texas Indian troubles increased after 1859 when the State officially sent its remaining reservation Indians across the Red River and told them to stay there. As soon as the tribesmen figured out that many of the men on the frontier were being called back East to fight they stepped up the frequency and ferocity of their raids on the Texas frontier. Many settlers were killed outright or wounded and many others were kidnapped, never to be seen again.

Some of them, children mostly,

wound up being sold or traded and got to the army posts. When their families could be found they might be reunited. Probably every family on the frontier was touched in some way through deaths or the loss of property...cattle, horses, or mules.

Hundreds of Texans from the frontier counties served during the War years, some in the regular armies of the Confederacy and some in frontier companies which did their best to protect their families and to overtake the raiders who did make it into the settlements. Some, including a few of our own northeast Tarrant County vets, tried to get furloughs to come home and deal with catastrophes the Indians caused here.

For now we're honoring four men: Isaac J. Briscoe, his son-in-law James McKinney, Edward M. Rippy, and William D. Light. There'll be more.



# NED RIPPY AND WIFE KILLED AT HOME NORTHWEST OF WEATHERFORD IN 1870

*Joseph Carroll McConnell published two volumes of West Texas History, in 1933 and 1939, from interviews with the men and women who lived the adventures. This account is his.*

“Mr. and Mrs. Ed Rippey lived on the old Weatherford-Belknap road about fourteen miles northwest of Weatherford. Mr. Rippey had distributed some wolf poison. One morning when he heard his dogs continually barking and baying he thought perhaps they had found a wolf killed by the bait. He took his rifle and started across a little field toward the black-jack timber, to the north, where the dogs were barking.

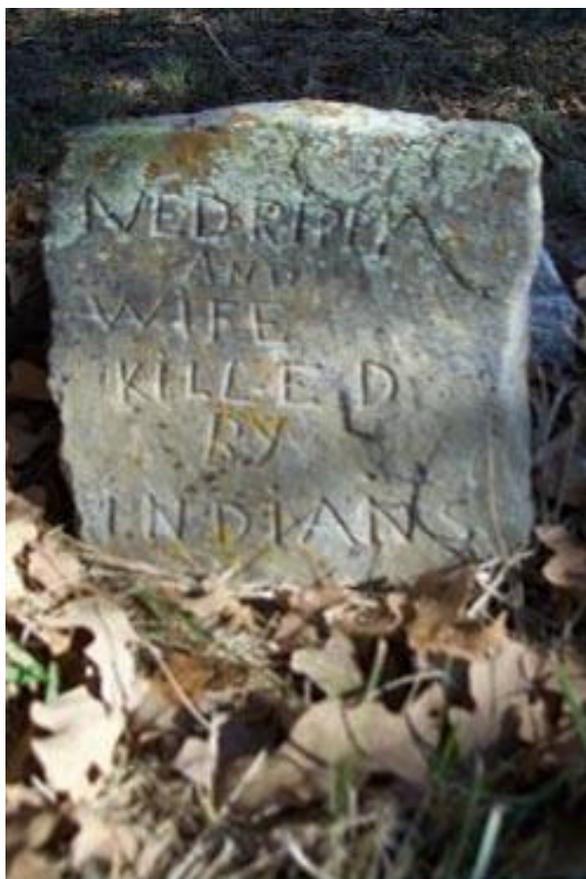
When Mr. Rippey was near the north field fence, about 120 yards from the house, some concealed Indians shot and broke his leg. He then started toward the house on his all-fours, and the Indians were in pursuit. In his serious condition he dropped his gun and, as there was no gate going into the field from the house, Mrs. Rippey, who was armed, let down the fence and started to meet her husband. Mr. Rippey, however, was killed on the inside of the field before he reached the fence.

They then killed Mrs. Rippey and scalped each of them. Mr. and Mrs. Rippey's nephew and niece, Eli Hancock and his sister, who were about twelve and fourteen years of age, were in the house at the time. The little boy and girl were orphan children who made their home with Mr. and Mrs. Rippey. The children barred the door and one of them said, "Now don't shoot until the door is broken open." The Indians, however, apparently discovered that the children were armed. After ripping open a feather bed which was on the front porch and taking the ticking, the savages went away.

The two children then went over to the home of their uncle, Wm. Lowe, and reported that Mr. and Mrs. Rippey had been killed. The two were buried in the Fondron Graveyard, in

the western part of Parker County. The news was spread from home to home and in short time Joe Moore, John Fondron, Bud Fondron, George Copeland, M. B. Woods, Ed Fondron, a man named Corbitt, and two others took the Indian trail and followed it a few miles below Mineral Wells, but were unable to overtake the murderers.

That night Indians, and it was thought these same Indians, stole horses in Littlefield Bend on the Brazos. The next day they were seen going up Keechi [Creek] with a herd of stolen horses.”



# ISAAC BRISCOE AND WIFE KILLED IN 1867, FOUR CHILDREN TAKEN TO THE PLAINS NEVER TO RETURN HOME

*McConnell's interview sources included one of Briscoe's sons-in-law who was there the day they were killed.*

A private letter from Weatherford of the 27th ult., says:

"The Indians have been quite troublesome recently—made a raid through the N. W. portion of this county, on Friday last, robbed several houses, killed a Mr. Briscoe and his wife, and carried off four children. It is thought they will be very troublesome as they have been in large numbers out west recently."

On August 3, 1867, the Dallas Weekly Herald ran a very long and interesting article entitled "Indians in Wise and Parker Counties." It included an excerpt from a personal letter written by a settler at Weatherford only a few days before. This contemporary mention of the Briscoe massacre and kidnapping was made about one week after the event and seems to reliably date it.

Mr. McConnell was doubtless not aware of this record, and wrote his account from interviews in which the years had had their effect on the settlers' memories. Thus he was slightly off on the date.

As in the case of the Briscoes' daughter, son-in-law, and granddaughter, both Mr. and Mrs. Briscoe were buried in a single grave in Goshen Cemetery near Springtown n Parker County.

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## Mr. and Mrs. Briscoe, cont.

Mr. McConnell's account was printed in 1939 in his second volume:

“Massacre of Mr. and Mrs. Isaac Briscoe and Capture of Their Children .

Isaac Briscoe first settled about five miles north of Jacksboro, where he remained for some time. Joe Fowler, who was driving home the oxen when the Indians charged the residence of Calvin Gage, married a daughter of Mr. Briscoe. Jim McKinney also married a daughter of Mr. Briscoe. Mrs. Jim McKinney was a full sister to Mrs. Joe Fowler.

Near the close of the Civil War the savages became so troublesome Isaac Briscoe, then living with a second wife, considered it unsafe to remain in the territory north of Jacksboro. So he moved to the old Shirley place about three-fourths of a mile north of Agnes and about fifteen miles north and west of Weatherford. Here Mr. and Mrs. Briscoe and their two daughters and sons settled to be secure from the savage onslaughts.

But one morning in May or June of 1866 the wild demons of the plains dashed upon their frontier cabin and none were left to relate their sad experience. It has been supposed that Mr. Briscoe had found a temporary shelter from the summer sun under a grape arbor near the house when the Indians appeared. He and his wife were both massacred and

their three children carried into captivity. Only a few local citizens knew the horrors of this awful crime. Mr. and Mrs. Briscoe were not only murdered but their bodies were maimed in many ways and scalped in the most horrible manner.

Jim Mayo, who lived about one mile east of the Briscoe residence, discovered their dastardly deeds and sent his son, Tom, to the home of Mrs. Lucendia Caldwell to notify her of the presence of the savages. Mrs. Caldwell furnished Tom Mayo a pony and then sent him and her son to the home of Mrs. W. H. Allen to notify this frontier lady the Indians were raiding.

The extent of their depredations, however, at this time was unknown. And as usual other runners were also sent in other directions. R. E. and A. C. Tackett, brothers and members of L. L. Tackett's company of rangers, and perhaps others, were soon in their saddles, in quest of the savages. They hurried to the home of Sammy Stacks, whose horses the Indians were stealing. As usual, the Indians

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## Mr. and Mrs. Briscoe, cont.

divided, and when the Tackett brothers reached the Stacks home they charged the Indians, who were after horses in a nearby field.

One Indian had placed a rawhide rope around a horse's neck and was in the act of leading her away. A. C. Tackett charged this Indian and almost ran over the savage, who fell over the fence. R. E. Tackett jumped from his steed, laid his gun on the fence, and fired. But about this time, thirty or forty savages came charging toward the whites who were forced to retreat for their own protection.

The Briscoe children were carried to

Oklahoma never to return to their former community. Two Briscoe girls and one boy were carried into captivity. About 1867 or 68, however, an army officer in Oklahoma wrote to the officer in command at Ft. Richardson to the effect that some children by the name of Briscoe who formerly lived in Parker County had been recovered from the savages. Billy Briscoe, a son of Isaac Briscoe and his first wife, went to Oklahoma to find his sister and brother, but when he reached his destination he was told that the Briscoe children had been sent to an orphans home.”

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## Ned Rippy and wife, cont.

Ned Rippy, like many of his neighbors, did his service in a local company raised in defense of the frontier and commanded by William Quayle and James W. Throckmorton. He enlisted on January 29, 1864 in Co. B, commanded by Josiah Culwell. This company was raised in Parker County as part of the First Frontier District. He presented himself for service with one Colt six-shooter pistol and one rifle.

Mrs. Rippy had earlier faced off the Indians in another raid. Local lore says she backed herself into a place where they could not surround her, cursed them, spat tobacco juice at them, and got ready to die. They left her unharmed that time.

Rippy and his wife were killed in a raid on their home on January 8, 1870. They were buried in the Fondren Cemetery in Parker County near the Bethesda Community. They lie not far from William Youngblood who was killed by the Indians in 1860. Two other Indian victims, black women, are also buried there. The Rippy and Youngblood graves are marked with crudely-lettered fieldstones which appear to have been made by the same person.

### **Fondren Cemetery has an interesting tie to our home, Tarrant County.**

General Edward H. Tarrant, for whom our county was named, died in the summer of 1858 while he was traveling to Fort Belknap. He had left his home near Italy in Ellis County to attend to some property matters at Fort Belknap. He became extremely ill and stopped at the home of William Fondren, ten miles west of Weatherford, where he soon died. The hot weather prevented his body being returned home at that time. He was buried in the Fondren Cemetery.

His body was later taken up and was reburied at his home on Chambers Creek in Ellis County on January 29, 1859.

He was later the guest of honor at a third burial, this time in Pioneer's Rest Cemetery in Fort Worth during a ceremony held March 3, 1928. He's still there, so far.....

# **JAMES MCKINNEY AND WIFE KILLED NEAR AGNES IN SPRING OF 1865**

*The following account is J. C. McConnell's, written from interviews with people who knew the details firsthand.*

“Savages Massacre Mr. and Mrs. James McKinney and Children.

As related in the preceding section, Jim McKinney married a daughter of Isaac Briscoe and a sister of Mrs. Joe Fowler. They lived in the southeastern part of Jack County, and were returning home from Springtown, in Parker county. They had been to mill, and to visit their relatives, J. W. Donathan and family. About noon, Jim McKinney, wife and children reached a spring known as Jenkins Water. Jno. M. Frazier was at the spring at the time, and Mr. McKinney watered his oxen, filled the water kegs, and then started on his way.

When Jim McKinney and his family had gone about two miles further west, and were very near the home of Isaac Briscoe, several savages suddenly surrounded their ox-wagon. Jim McKinney, who had traded his pistol for provisions, only had an old gun which refused to shoot. Mr. and Mrs. McKinney were slaughtered and handled in the most inhuman manner, and their baby was also killed. A daughter about six years old, probably named Mary Alice, was carried away by the savages, and murdered when they reached the vicinity of the present town of Bridgeport, in Wise County. A third child, Joe McKinney, was unharmed. He soon wandered away in the woods where he became lost. The next day after the massacre Euriah Perkins, while hunting horses, which no doubt had been stolen by the savages, saw the tracks of a barefooted baby in the sand. In a short time, by following the infant's trail he came upon a little two-year old boy wandering in the woods. The little fellow said, "I want my Ma." He was taken to Springtown and identified as Joe McKinney. Since the citizens felt sure that little Joe's parents had been killed a posse of men repaired to the

place where Joe McKinney was found, and in a short time discovered where the Indians had murdered Jim McKinney and his wife, just across the branch from the Briscoe home. Little Joe McKinney was found about four hundred yards from the place his parents were killed.

Jim McKinney, wife and baby were buried in the same grave at Old Goshan, about fourteen miles north and west of Weatherford. “



James McKinney served as a 1<sup>st</sup> Lieutenant in the Jack County Company of the First Frontier District of Texas State Troops. He enlisted in Jack County. His wife was a daughter of Isaac Briscoe, who was killed two years later not far from where the McKinnys died. McKinney, his wife, and child were buried in one grave at Goshen.

# WILLIAM LIGHT, WIFE, AND DAUGHTER KILLED ON INDEPENDENCE DAY WEST OF WEATHERFORD

*Joseph C. McConnell's account of this raid appeared in the second volume of his work, printed in 1939.*

“W. L. Light and Wife, Mary and Baby Dora  
July 4, 1869, Mr. and Mrs. W. L. Light, took their children, Dora, about one year of age, Lee about four, Emma about eight, Sallie about twelve, over to the home of James Newberry, his brother-in-law.

James Newberry, however, and his family were about two miles south, at the home of H. R. Moss, another brother-in-law. So Mr. and Mrs. Light and children returned to their own residence.

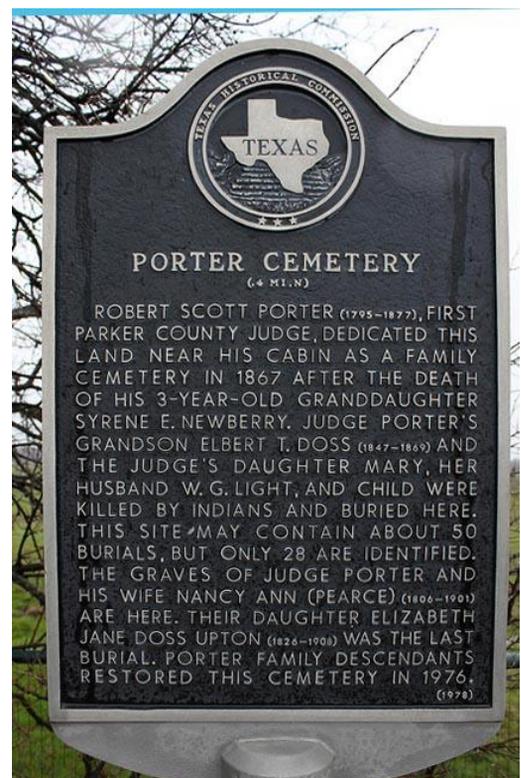
When they needed to go only about one hundred and fifty yards to complete their journey, several Indians dashed out of a black-jack thicket and in a short time thirty-five bullets and arrows had punctured Mrs. Light's clothing. W. L. Light was shot in the chest with a bullet, and was also wounded in the hand and perhaps elsewhere.

Dora, the one year old baby, was also slain and little Emma seriously wounded. Emma, Lee and Sallie, however, hurried on to the house, and closed the door. James Newberry lived about two miles away. Since it was late in the evening, James Newberry and family reached their homes about the same time the Indians charged Mr. and Mrs. Light and children.

Shots were heard, so James Newberry, H. R. Moss, Will Crabtree, and Reece Crabtree, went over to the Light home to investigate the shooting. Mr. Light was still alive, but lived only a short time. He requested that they carry the dead bodies of his wife and baby in the house first. The Crabtree boys were sent to the house for quilts. When they reached the dwelling they heard a noise within, and without entering came back and reported.

James Newberry said that he would proceed to the house and call the children by name, and if it were they, they would answer. He did, and the three children concealed in the dwelling recognized their uncle's voice and gladly responded to his call. Mrs. Light and the baby were moved to the house first.

By this time, Mr. Light's eyes were forever sealed and his beloved children left in the hands of loved ones. Mrs. Light was scalped but the Indians, for some unknown reason, did not remove her earrings nor ring from her hand. In due time little Emma recovered. Mr. and Mrs. Light and little Dora were buried in the Porter Graveyard, on Grindstone [Creek], only a short distance from their residence and about twelve miles west of Weatherford in Parker County. “



William Light enlisted at Veal's Station in Parker County and served in the regular Confederate Army in Co. C, 19th Texas Cavalry.

# Another Account of the Light Killing, by Mr. Light's son-in-law

"I SEE IN FRONTIER Times for October, 1927, an article about the killing of the Light family on Grindstone Creek in Parker county, in 1869. The date is correct, but some of the details given are incorrect. Bill Light was an early settler of Parker county. His wife's maiden name was Mary Ann Porter.

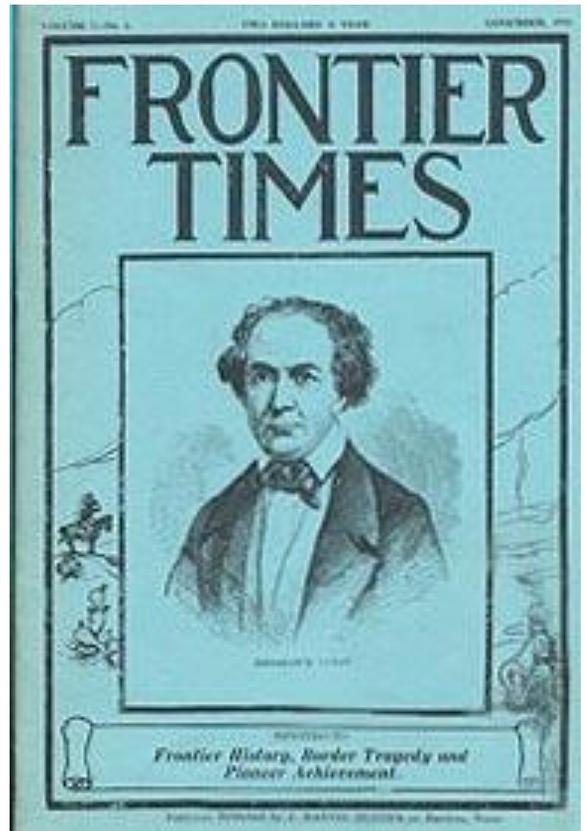
Bill Light was killed about six years before I went to that neighborhood . I married his eldest daughter. At the time of the killing Light lived on the bank of Grindstone Creek, and one Sunday evening the family went to visit a brother-in-law, Jim Newberry, who lived some distance away.

For some reason Light did not take his pistols with him on this trip. When they arrived at Newberry 's they found the family absent, and so they turned around and started back home. They were about one hundred yards from Newberry's house when the Indians rushed upon them.

Using rifles they shot Mr. and Mrs. Light down and scalped both of them. Huss Newberry and Elbert Doss, who were riding out on the range had stopped at the Perkins place, about a quarter of a mile below, heard the shooting and rode up there as fast as they could.

The Indians must have heard them coming, for they were just leaving when the boys came in sight of them. One of the Indian's had on Light's hat and they thought it was Mr. Light until he got behind some brush. The boys then ran to give the alarm.

When help reached the scene of the attack, Mrs. Light and her baby girl were dead, killed almost instantly. Mr. Light was still alive and lived for eight hours after being shot down. The little boy William Lee Light had been stabbed with an arrow spike in the shoulders, and was seriously injured . Emma, a girl about nine years old, had also been stabbed with an arrow. The oldest girl, Sarah Ann, escaped by jumping over a fence and hiding between rows of cane. She went to the house and secured a bucket of water and after the Indians left she returned to where her father lay suffering and gave him water to drink.



## This article appeared in the issue of November 1929

Neighbors gathered and did all they could to assist the unfortunate family The three dead, Mr. and Mrs. Light and baby, were buried in a cemetery near Grandfather Porter 's place, about a mile from where they were killed. The orphaned children went to live with both the parents of Mr. and Mrs. Light. William Lee Light, one of the children, now lives near Arlington, Texas. Emma, who married a man by the name of Tomlinson, also lives near Arlington and has a large family. Sarah Ann, my wife, has been dead for twenty years. She told me all about the tragedy many times During the Civil War the Indians killed one of my mother's uncles, Hy Maxwell, who lived on the Brazos river, about twelve miles south of Weatherford, just a few miles above the mouth of Patrick's Creek, at the upper end of the Big Valley. The Indians used to raid somewhere in that country every light moon, from May until November. When I was a boy I saw the Indians a number of times. I was born in Collin county, October 4, 1855, and I knew nearly every one in Weatherford in the old days."

# So, what is it exactly that we're doing in Parker County on October 18?



We'll meet at 9 a.m. beside Porter Cemetery, install one marker, fire a salute if anyone brought a musket, take pictures, and be on our way to the next cemetery. Ditto for Fondren Cemetery. Ditto for Goshen Cemetery, and then we'll head for home. Simple and quick.

# **Directions for the Parker County marker trip, October 18, 2014. We'll be at our first stop at 9 a.m.**

Take I-30 west of Fort Worth toward Weatherford. Watch for a right exit for Highway 180 to Weatherford and Mineral Wells. Take that exit.

Continue west on 180 through downtown Weatherford, circling north around the courthouse, and continue west on 180 toward Mineral Wells.

In the west edge of downtown Weatherford there is a Y, with Highway 312 going left and Highway 180 going right. Stay right on 180.

About eight miles out this highway you will find the railroad crossing 180 on a diagonal trestle. Very soon after the railroad bridge you'll go under a powerline, and cross a bridge over a small creek.

Not far past this there is a Texas Historical Marker for Porter Cemetery on the north side of the highway. That's where we'll meet at 9 a.m. for our first installation.

The cemetery is in the field north of this marker. We'll have the combination to the gate so we can drive in if it's not wet.

**Porter Cemetery: 32.794928, -97.949378**

# From Porter Cemetery to Fondren Cemetery

Continue west on Highway 180 about 2.3 miles to FM 113. There is a sign just before it which points you toward Garner, Texas. Cool Banking Center is at this intersection on the northwest corner of the intersection. Turn north here on FM113.

Go North on FM 113 about six miles as it twists and turns to New Authon Road, where you'll turn east/right. The turn is just past a white modular home on your right. There is a green-and-white road sign on New Authon Road.

Go east and southeast on New Authon Road less than one mile to Pamela Kay Lane on your right. Turn right/south onto Pamela Kay Lane.

Fondren Cemetery will be on your right down Pamela Kay Lane a little way. It has a number of trees in it and a Texas State Historical Marker in it. There is a vacant mowed lot between it and the road.

**Fondren Cemetery: 32.870376, -97.965134**

# From Fondren Cemetery to Goshen Cemetery

Goshen Cemetery: 32.961671, -97.743858

The most direct way from Fondren to Goshen is very complicated. By then it'll be time for a cold drink and a snack anyway, so let's go back to town.

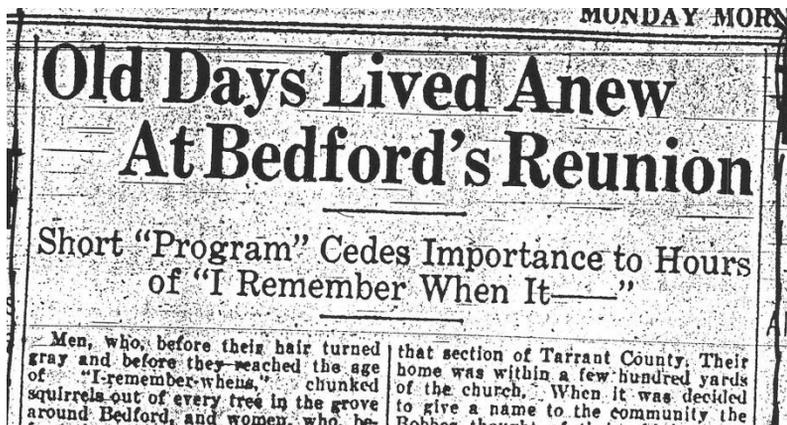
Go back north to New Authon Road, left to FM 113, and then back south to Highway 180. Then east on 180, and go all the way back to the Weatherford Courthouse.

Highway 51 goes directly north from the Courthouse circle. Highway 51 is North Main for a good while.

Take 51 all the way north to Highway 199 in Springtown. Go left/northwest on Highway 199. In about two blocks you'll see Goshen Road on your left. Take it left/west, and about 3.5 miles out you'll see Goshen Cemetery on your right/north.

## An Interesting Observation You May Find Useful in Your Research...

There is an amazing computer technology now which can scan printed text and recognize individual words, making indexing of old printed records virtually obsolete. Don't think it's perfect.



If the newspaper wasn't scanned with the lines very close to horizontal, the software won't work in searching it...even on large words in the headlines. If you know something should be in the paper on a certain date, it pays to go ahead and look. The new indexing software may missed it.

# McConnell's Classic History of the Texas Frontier Now Free Online

*Here are hours of interesting reading for those long winter evenings.*

Like many of us, Joseph Carroll McConnell's interest in local history was inspired by a grandmother who had lived it.

McConnell was born in 1892 in Mineral Wells. When he was six his father moved the family to Palo Pinto. The Palo Pinto schools served him well. Carroll later got a bachelor's degree from TCU and a law degree from George Washington University in Washington DC.

At the urging of his grandmother he began to interview and record the stories of the first white settlers on the Texas frontier while they were still alive to tell them firsthand. He interviewed over five hundred families from the Red River to the Rio Grande.

That grandmother, Mary Jane Taylor, had come to Palo Pinto County in 1857 with her father's family. They were there throughout the exciting years of the Indian raids. McConnell's book includes several notes about encounters her father, George H. Bevers, had with Indians.

Her husband, Hannibal Giddings Taylor, served in a frontier regiment during 1864 and 1865, for which service Mary Jane Taylor was pensioned by the State of Texas. Her interesting pension file includes an affidavit made by his sister. In it she mentions having woven her brother a "buffalo blanket" from the hair and wool of a buffalo which he used in the service. Mr. Taylor died in 1904.



McConnell published his first volume in 1933. He served two terms in the Texas House of Representatives during the years 1935-1939. In 1939 he published the second volume of his frontier history.

He died October 20, 1988 about a week short of his 96<sup>th</sup> birthday. He lies buried in Laurel Land Cemetery in southwest Fort Worth.

His two volumes are online:  
<http://www.forttours.com/pages/mcconnellbook.asp>

# Comanches!!!

*During their childhoods many of our Confederate ancestors were familiar with the farming Indians who still lived in several places in the Southeast. But when they got to the Texas frontier they learned that not all Indians were created equal.*



Before they got horses in the late 1600's the Comanches were a comparatively-poor branch of the Shoshoni tribe who lived by hunting and gathering, always on foot. They lived in the area of the Great Basin out West.

With the horse came an explosive expansion to the south and east where they took advantage of the bison herds. In time the lands they ranged became known as Comancheria.

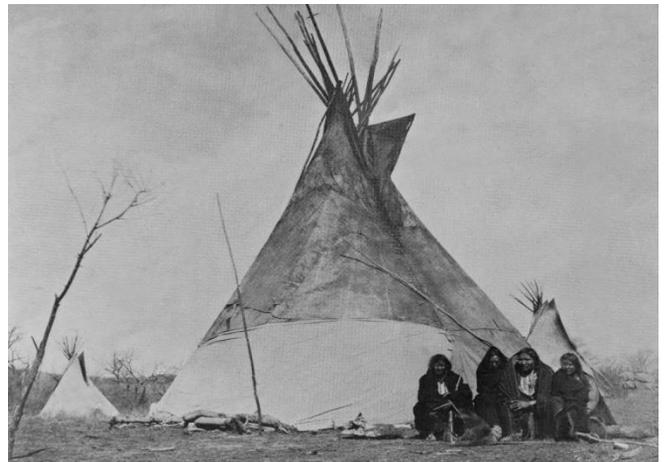
Texas would have been a mighty dull and different place without them.

People who lived in this part of the country before 1875 knew that the Comanches weren't yet convinced that they'd lost Texas. The last raids in the counties just to our west and north were in 1874 and they ended a twenty-year period when this was the most dangerous place to live in North America.

The Plains Indians who raided here were a mixture of reservation warriors from just across the Red River and tribesmen from the High Plains of Texas who had never made any pretense of settling down.

Historians have estimated that more than four hundred whites were killed or captured within one hundred miles of Weatherford during those exciting, challenging years.

Americans now could take some lessons from those raiders about protecting our way of life from threats, foreign and domestic..



**Our Ancestors' Life and Times**

## Comanches!!! cont.

*The Comanches called themselves “Nuh-muh-nuh,” which in their language means “The People,” with a capital T and a capital P. That’s how they saw themselves in relation to their world.*

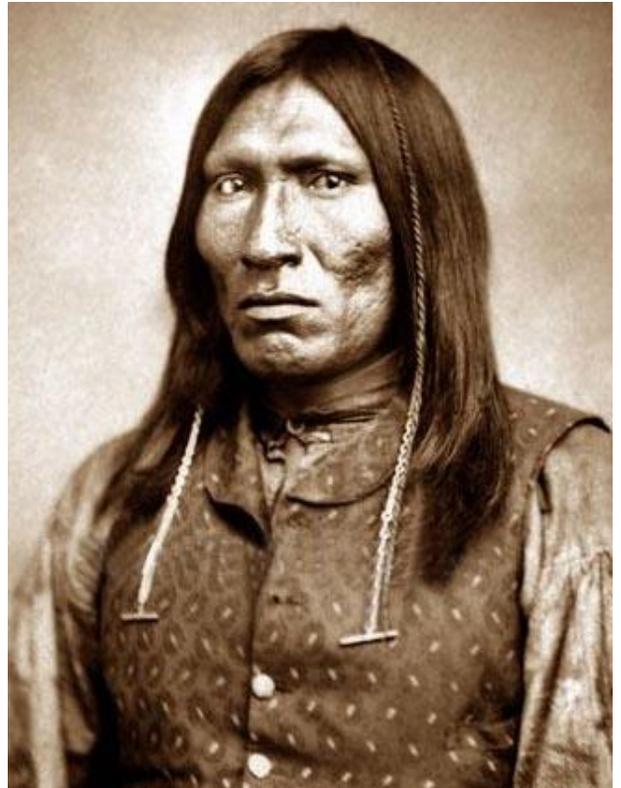
The years of contact between the Comanches and white settlers, the Texans especially, have produced a fund of very readable literature. Much of it was written by the settlers themselves or from interviews with them.

John Wesley Wilbarger’s Indian Depredations in Texas was printed in 1889 and has ever since been a standard in nearly all Texas libraries. It contains accounts of about 250 specific raids and is widely available at low cost. You can read it free online.

Wilbarger’s brother, Josiah Wilbarger, was scalped and left for dead near Austin in 1833. The circumstances of his survival are nothing short of miraculous. He lived until 1844.

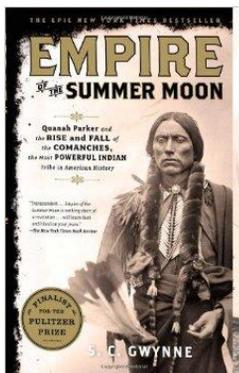
Equally interesting is John Henry Brown’s Indian Wars and Pioneers of Texas, written (as Wilbarger’s) mainly from interviews with raid survivors. It’s also available online and fully searchable.

And then there’s Joseph Carroll McConnell’s remarkable book, The West



Texas Frontier, available online after years of having scholars make their own photocopies of it.

Most recently, the book to have is Doyle Marshall’s A Cry Unheard: The Story of Indian Attacks in and Around Parker County, Texas 1858-1872. If you can find one, you’ll pay dearly for it.

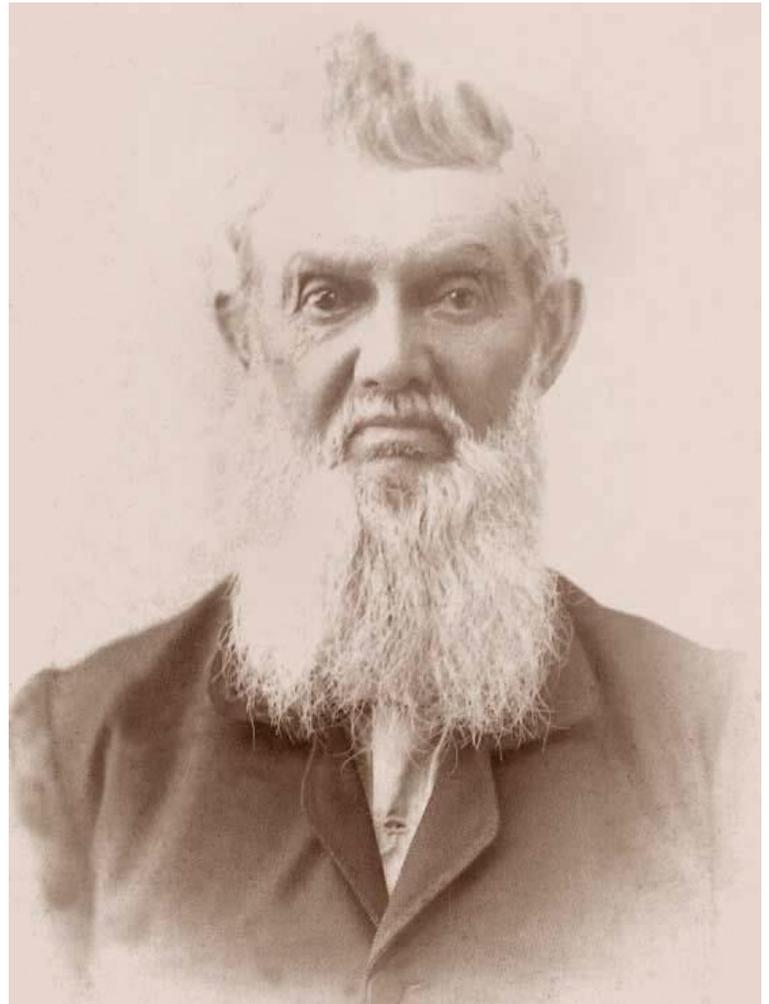


Anyone with an interest in Texas history needs to have a knowledge of the Comanches. Just for the sheer joy of reading get yourself a copy of this wonderful book, recently released. The author, S. C. Gwynne, is an award-winning journalist with a wide range of expertise in recent and not-so-recent history. He lives in Austin.



# Poking Around on the Internet Yields Some Interesting Things

*Hundreds of Confederate veterans lived here in Tarrant County for a while and then moved on. While looking for something else we discovered another one who'd lived at Arlington for several years before moving West.*



We've discovered the names of many of our Tarrant County vets because they lost a wife or child here and left a headstone we could read. Such was the case for Stephen Strange Ramsey (1825-1915) who buried his wife at Johnson Station in 1876. A little further digging revealed that he'd settled here in the late 1850's. He served the South in J. C. Kearby's Company, working at Tyler, Texas as a harness maker for much of his time. His third wife applied for a widow's pension and got it based upon records of his service which had survived in the National Archives. By 1880 it was safe enough to move out West and he went to Callahan County where he died. He's buried in Old Cottonwood Cemetery there.

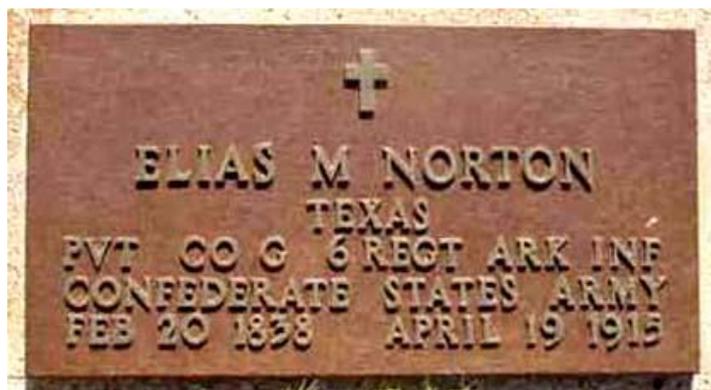
## **New Confederate Vet Just Discovered in NW Tarrant County, in line for marker.**



Charles T. Stokes was a Missourian who served in Co. H, 3<sup>rd</sup> Texas Cavalry. He lived just inside Wise County when he was pensioned.

He died in 1913 and was buried in Indian Creek Cemetery near Haslet in Tarrant County. The cemetery is on private land. He'll be getting his first grave marker before long, thanks to our OSC grant.

**In late September we discovered a new Confederate veteran qualified to be placed on our Northeast Tarrant County Civil War Veterans Memorial. Elias M. Norton died in Hurst in 1915 and was buried in Callahan County, Texas.**



# WONDERING WHAT YOU CAN DO TO SAY “THANKS” TO YOUR OUTGOING COMMANDER?

*Here's something which would make him very happy.*

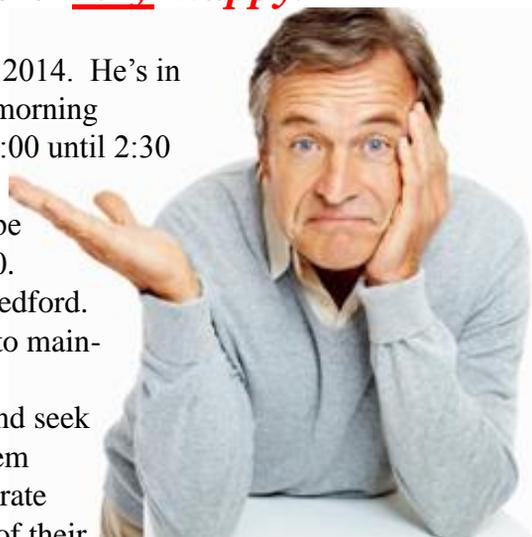
Mike's church is celebrating its 140 birthday on November 2, 2014. He's in charge of the arrangements for that day. After a regular Sunday morning worship service, they're having a covered dish lunch and, from 1:00 until 2:30 P.M., an old-fashioned country congregational singing.

You are, of course, invited to the whole day's to-do, but he'd be ***especially*** happy if you could come to the singing from 1:00-2:30.

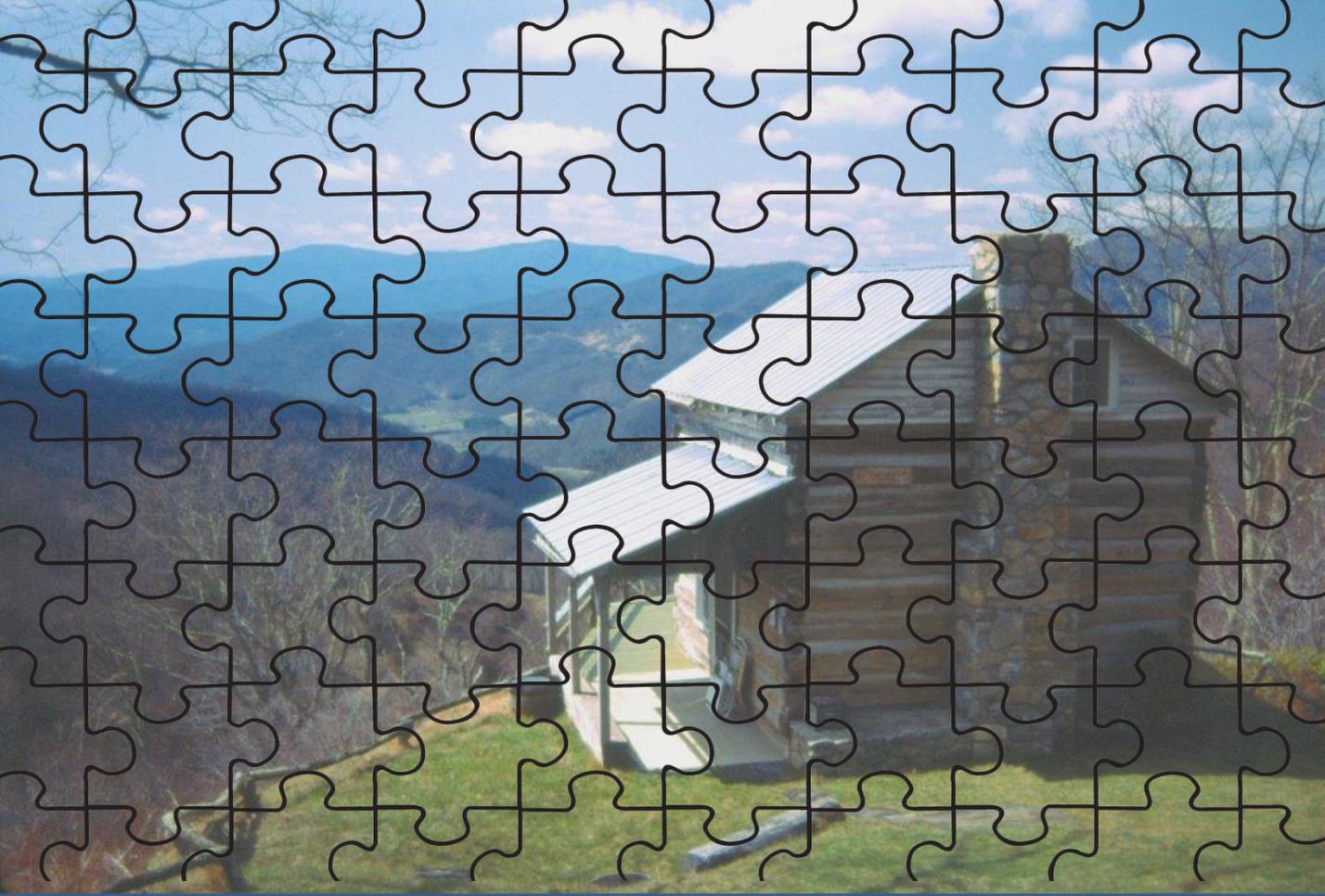
This is at Bedford Church of Christ, 2401 Bedford Road, in Bedford. This is the same church which allows us space on their property to maintain our Northeast Tarrant County Civil War Veterans Memorial.

***Please make every effort to get you and your spouse there***, and seek out some of the church members and tell them you appreciate them letting us keep our memorial there. Several of our local Confederate veterans were charter members of the church in 1874, and some of their descendants are still there every time the doors are opened. One of our veterans, Milton Moore, gave the church and cemetery the five acres of his farm where they still meet.

We're not doing anything special that day as an SCV group, so we don't need to show up in uniform. We will, however, be recognized as a group when the guests are introduced.



And...please humor him...by sitting as close to the front as you can. It makes the singing sound exponentially better.



This month's puzzle is the seat of someone's happiness up in the North Carolina mountains. Click on the link below, then choose a skill level from the resulting options at left. The Jig Zone internet site makes it easy to make puzzles from your own photographs, too. Enjoy!

<http://www.jigzone.com/puzzles/4E1676FF8EA?m=81250DB2BB.B091686&z=6>

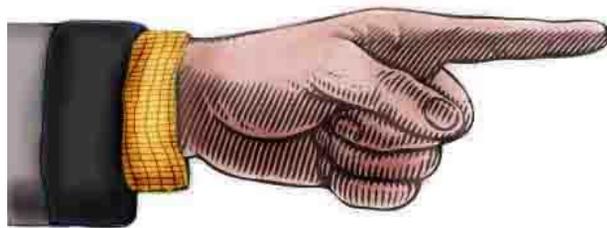


**THANKS!!! To Tammy and Doris Patterson for taking your editor down to Worthington's on Labor Day to get a few little things done.**



**Thanks to Tammy and Doris  
Patterson for taking us to Bear  
Creek Cemetery on September  
13 to set Mr. Jones' new marker.**

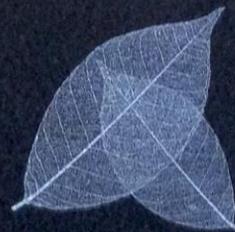
**Thanks to James Alderman for  
taking us down to Worthington's  
on September 11 to make four  
markers.... And for dropping off  
two of them at the cemeteries on  
the way home.**



**Thanks to Kent Mathews for  
coming out to help set  
markers on September 20 at  
Oakwood and Polytechnic  
Cemeteries in Fort Worth.**



*[Laser-etched onto black granite]*



**WORTHINGTON**  
*monuments*

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# And just when you thought it couldn't get any better.....



*At the end of the Trivia Program we'll award the Incredibly Prestigious Mudwall Jackson Cup to the person who comes up with the most surprising correct answer, as determined by general consent of the audience. Made from a variety of spare parts in true Confederate tradition, it boasts two Quaker Guns on top.*

*It's the winner's to keep until our Trivia Program next year. All we ask is that next year you bring it back!*

*Why do this?*

*Remember the timeless Latin maxim:*

**“Novus cognicium necetatus mirthia.”**

**Learning new stuff should be fun.**



# More Internet Gold



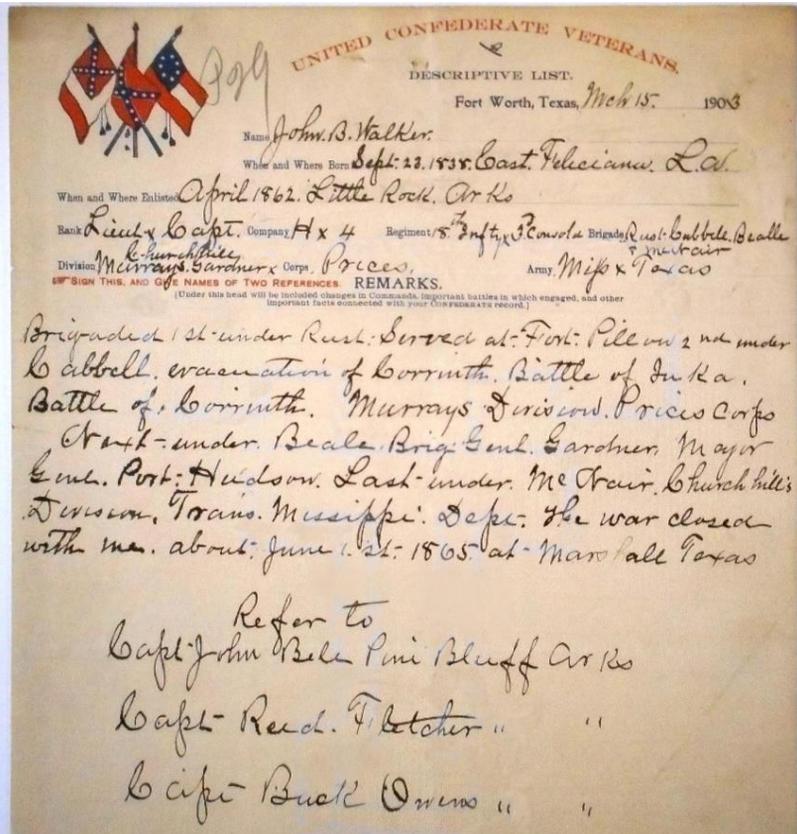
We've known for years that Texas Tech at Lubbock had a large stash of the records from Fort Worth's Robert E. Lee Camp #158 United Confederate Veterans. Thus they were basically untouchable to us in our research on Tarrant County veterans. Now, though, they've all been scanned and are easily available online.

Spend some time browsing through the collection. Start by going to:

<http://collections.swco.ttu.edu/handle/10605/45428>

In the search box, start by typing in "R. E. Lee Camp 158" and see where the results take you. Enjoy!

The veteran at right, Capt. John B. Walker, will be getting a headstone at Oakwood in November. This is the paper he completed to join the R. E. Lee Camp in Fort Worth in '03.



**TEXAS TECH UNIVERSITY™**  
Southwest Collection/Special Collections Library

OCT. 18  
FOUR  
STONES TO  
SET IN  
PARKER  
COUNTY

OCT. 30  
SCV  
MEETING

NOV. 2  
BEDFORD  
CHURCH OF  
CHRIST  
BIRTHDAY

NOV. 11  
FORT  
WORTH  
VETERANS  
DAY PARADE

NOV. 15  
GRAPEVINE  
VETERANS  
DAY  
PARADE

NOV. 22  
THREE  
STONES TO  
SET IN  
OAKWOOD

**As has always been  
our custom, we will  
not have formal camp  
meetings in November  
or December.**

**Our other activities  
will go on as usual.  
Be thinking of what  
you can do to make  
our camp even better!**





**“Oh for goodness sake! You men!  
Here... I’ve got some rope!”**

*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.*