

# THE GRIFFIN MESSENGER

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VOLUME V

ISSUE III

The Monthly Newsletter of the  
Colonel William H. Griffin SCV Camp #2235  
HALTOM CITY, TEXAS

## Charge to the Sons of Confederate Veterans

"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 he loved and which you love also, and those ideas which made him glorious and which you also cherish."

-- Lt. General Steven Dill Lee, Commander General, United Confederate Veterans, New Orleans, 25 April 1906.

## NEXT MEETING

Tuesday, March 14  
Diamond Oaks Country Club  
5821 Diamond Oaks Drive, North  
Haltom City, TX 76117  
6:00 Eat and 7:15 Program  
Casual Dress Appropriate

James L. Newsom, Ph. D.  
will present a program entitled  
"To Kill a President"

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## CAMP OFFICERS

Jack Dyess, Commander  
Mike Vinson, Lt. Commander  
T. J. McClung, 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. Commander  
Bill Carrell, 3<sup>rd</sup> Lt. Commander  
John Jenkins, Adjutant  
Eric Oglesby, Chaplain  
Sheila Randolph, Recorder  
Joy Jenkins, Newsletter Editor  
Diane Dyess, Genealogist



## COMMANDER' REPORT



**Commander Jack Dyess**

Winter is over and we are beginning the busiest season of the year for Sons of Confederate Veterans members. It is now time for parades, cemetery ceremonies, color guard practices and performances, state and local conventions and all the other things we do as an organization. Hopefully, all our members will become more involved this year and make our camp more successful in our efforts.

A uniform (or period dress) is appropriate for most if not these events and required for the color guard. If you are looking for a uniform, I have several of varying types and sizes in which you may be interested. If so, let me know and we will try to get you equipped for the season's activities.

The Texas Division Dismounted Color Guard is already scheduled for several events during the coming year. We start our monthly practices next month. Lt. Commander Mike Vinson, 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. Commander T.J. McClung, Adjutant John Jenkins and myself are already members with complete uniforms. Each regular member of our camp is heartily invited to become one of us.

I realize that next week is Spring Break for many Texas Schools. However, I encourage you to make a special effort to attend our March 14 meeting to hear Dr. James Newsom.

Be sure to find your name tag and wear it at our next meeting.

Sincerely,

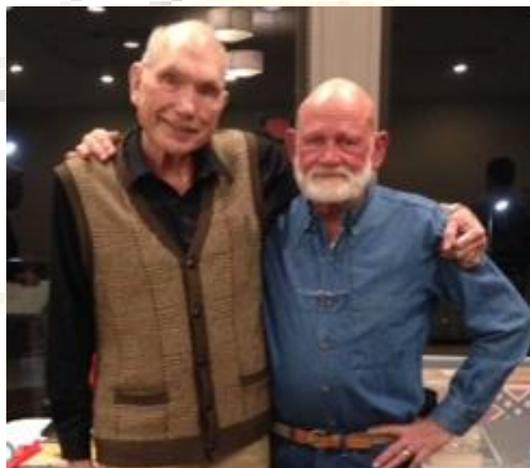
*Jack*

	<b>THIS MONTH'S SPEAKER</b>
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Professor James Newsom, Professor of History at University of Texas in Tyler has graciously agreed to drive to Haltom City to present our program. He is an outstanding speaker and was a featured speaker at the 2016 National SCV Convention last July. He has also presented to other historical groups such as the Sons of the Texas Revolution, Sons of the American Revolution, and Daughters of the American Revolution.

Please plan to attend this program. It will be both educational and entertaining. When asked to describe his presentation "To Kill a President", Professor Newsom said "Near the end of the War Between the States a Union cavalry raid--possibly with Lincoln's direct approval, hit Richmond and targeted the Confederate Congress and President Davis. The ramifications of this attack and its intended results proved to be catastrophic."

	<b>CAMP ACTIVITIES</b>
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**Author Charles Hayes and Commander Jack Dyess at the January meeting.**



## HEZEKIAH HAS FINALLY FOUND PEACE



Through the true camaraderie and brotherhood of Southern descendants, one Confederate soldier has finally found peace. Two adjutants, Bobby Joe Mitchell of the Christopher (Kit) Mott Camp 1379 in Holly Springs, Mississippi and John Jenkins of the Colonel William H. Griffin Camp 2235 in Haltom City, Texas joined forces to preserve the memory of Hezekiah Hardin, Co. I, 25<sup>th</sup> Alabama Infantry by marking his final resting place with his name.

On October 14, 1861 Hezekiah Hardin and three of his sons, George Washington Hardin, Jonathan Hardin and Wil-

liam M. Hardin enlisted in the 25<sup>th</sup> Alabama at Wewoka, Talladega County, Alabama. Hezekiah was fifty-six years old. He never owned a plantation or slaves. He was a mere farmer who enlisted in the Confederacy to defend his Southern homeland. By early March, Hezekiah was far from home at Holly Springs, Mississippi when he fell ill with fever. He died several weeks later on March 29, 1862.

George, Jonathan, and William had to move on with their unit leaving Hezekiah behind and alone and in an unmarked grave. By May 1<sup>st</sup>, William died and is buried somewhere near Corinth. George and Jonathan survived the war and were both paroled with their unit on May 26, 1865 at Talladega, Alabama.

In 1891, Hezekiah's wife, Catherine Mary Walker, applied for a widow's pension reliving the account of her husband's death at Holly Springs. She noted that she had learned of his death through her sons and the other soldiers in the 25<sup>th</sup>. It was apparent that she had never been able visit his grave or move his remains closer to home and family. She died in 1902 and is buried near her daughter in Georgia.

With time and the passing of earlier generations Hezekiah was forgotten. The wife and children who knew him had been laid to rest and no one was left to look for his remains. In 2015, after several generations had passed, Hezekiah's third great

grandson, John Jenkins, began looking for his Confederate ancestor. At about that same time, Bobby Mitchell and the SCV camp in Holly Springs decided to mark "those Confederate graves" at the Hillcrest Cemetery with leftover "Unknown" markers.

After a long search, John finally found Hezekiah and planned an 'out of the way' trip from Texas to Alabama to pay his respects at his grandfather's grave. The long-awaited trip was dampened when the long search suddenly ended with an "Unknown" marker. That is when the perseverance began and John applied for a VA headstone for Hezekiah.

The paperwork was completed and the VA headstone was delivered to a monument company in Holly Springs, but the job did not end there. After months and months of calls to the monument company, the headstone had still not been set and the monument company would not return calls. John reached out to the SCV camp at Holly Springs to ask for their help and met Bobby Mitchell.

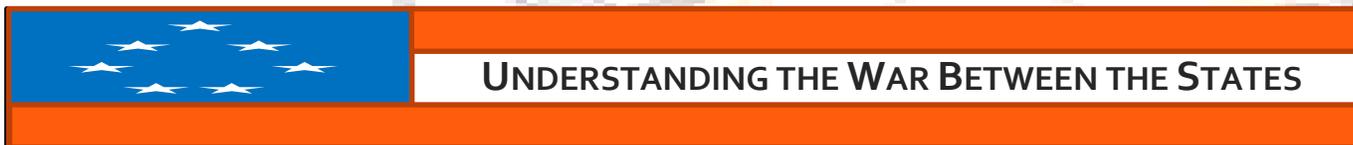
Bobby, an avid historian, had documented many graves and had placed many headstones, including the 'Unknown' headstones at Hillcrest Cemetery. He expressed a real interest in helping in any way he could. By the end of one week he had located the headstone, recruited two volunteers, completed the mission, and reported back to us with pictures.

With the work of two SCV members in two different states, Hezekiah's grave has finally been marked and his remains were put to rest with a Confederate marker.



Cade Gandy, Bobby Mitchell, and John Paul Hurdle of the Kit Mott Camp 1379 in Holly Springs, Mississippi

(Words truly cannot express our sincere thanks for the interest, time, and effort that Bobby Mitchell, Cade Gandy, and John Paul Hurdle each showed us. It was not only an immense favor to our family, but it was a real tribute to our Confederate ancestor whom they honored with their service. John and Joy Jenkins)



## **UNDERSTANDING THE WAR BETWEEN THE STATES SOCIETY OF INDEPENDENT SOUTHERN HISTORIANS**

### **Section Three: African Americans in the Southern Culture Chapter 10 – More on Americans of African Descent**

By Barbara Marthal of Tennessee., S. I. S. H.

#### **Editor's Introduction**

In 1619 a ship arrived in Jamestown, Virginia Colony with 20 indentured servants of African ancestry. Purchased by tobacco farmers, thus began the history of people of African ancestry living in what would become the United States of America. But before long African laborers were purchased as bonded persons, slaves for life, and laws soon permitted owners to also own the children of their female slaves. Puritan Separatists began the northeastern colonies at Plymouth in 1620 and soon afterward joined British and others in the trans-Atlantic slave trade business. They sailed to African seaports, purchased Africans captured by rival tribes, brought them back across the Atlantic and sold them at New World seaports, including the 13 British colonies. People in all the 13 colonies were buyers, but most were purchased in the southern colonies. Descendants of African ancestry living today in the US are here, not Africa, because of this slave trade. They would not have been able to come otherwise. We estimate that 25,000,000 were captured by fellow Africans and enslaved; 12,000,000 were sold for the trans-Atlantic crossing; 10,000,000 arrived in the New World, and only 575,000 (the lucky ones) were legally imported into what became the United States (beyond 1807, about 25,000 were smuggled in). The 1810 census reported 1,304,151 people of noticeable African ancestry. Not all were slaves, for 97,284 were living in the Southern states as independent persons and 76,086 were living independently in the Northern states. Considering that life was hard back then for most people, this population growth is evidence that Africans

were far more resistant to disease than were Native Americans and, by and large, were receiving sufficient care to live then-normal life spans and raise children. Over the next 200 years, to 2010, the African American population grew 6,173 percent to 37,035,333. With few exceptions, these people are descended from the original 600,000. But historian Barbara Marthal tells that the history of people of African ancestry in America is not that simple.

### **The Broader History, by Barbara Marthal**

Current biology and scholarship proves there is a larger story – thanks to the science of DNA and too-often ignored historical documents, literature and art, we find that the history of people of African descent is broad and fascinating. You see, DNA follows the wanderer no matter where he or she goes. We can analyze tissue samples from today's African Americans and easily identify their African-specific DNA traits.

The Moorish Empire, centered in North Africa, was present in Spain from 713 to 1492, a span of 781 years. Those Africans living in Spain and Portugal during the Moorish Empire contributed much to the scholarship, science and geography of the New World. Even after Queen Isabella demanded the removal of African Muslims and Jews from Spain, they continued to man the ships of Her Majesty as crew, pilots and captains, and some as slaves. Trading contacts between the Iberian Peninsula and Africa remained. Some in Africa had wealth and gold to finance explorations. In this way, people of African descent helped discover the New World. Not all were slaves. Many sought to rebuild their lost wealth in the New World, then return to Morocco, Algeria, Libya, Egypt, Mauritania, Mali, Niger and other North Africa and West Africa countries. Through such existing contacts with Africa, Portuguese and Spanish rulers and adventurers undertook profitable slave trading, which became the engine that drove the development of the New World. You see, people of African descent did not simply come as slaves. They played an important part in the discovery and building of the New World and of what would become the United States.

In the southern colonies that had early ties to Spain, Portugal and France, indentured Africans were freed after working off their indentures. Because of such early cross-cultural interactions, the South became a much more tolerant society than the one begun by Puritan Separatists in the Northeast. Southerners opened their doors to slaves, indentured, freemen, Jews, Protestants, Catholics, a significant population of African Muslims, and people of mixed ancestry with the promise of success to those who were willing to work. People with African DNA pioneered and provided a vast amount of agricultural knowledge and physical labor in the building of America – providing the skills and work which built the foundational wealth of our country

and made available the resources required for sufficient health care and community support to live then-normal life spans and raise children.

When the call for arms was made to defend the southland, people of African descent, for the most part, responded throughout the south in support of their state. They served as support troops and unofficially as soldiers. Many, like the author's third great grandfather, remained on the plantation and did his best to protect everyone living there, both his family and the master's family. Another of the author's family relations accompanied his young master to the war, served the entire length of the war and received a Confederate pension.

Can you better understand why the vast majority of southern black people, both slave and free, considered the South as their home and opposed the agenda of the American Colonization Society, which, in reality sought to deport them? – why they considered America “my home where my ancestors have bled and died long before many others arrived on these shores?” and – why many who had served the Union as civilians and as troops returned to the South to reclaim their southern roots?

Over one million white Americans are unaware that they are of partial African descent. I tell people, if you can't handle surprises, do not get a DNA analysis. People of African ancestry should be proud of these ancestors who played a major role in discovering the New World and in building the United States – continuing to add to that great legacy today.

### **Summary**

One needs to look back over 1,000 years to understand how people of African descent helped discover the New World and build what is considered today “the greatest country on earth.”

### **Recommended Readings**

- ***The Making of New World Slavery: From the Baroque to the Modern, 1492-1888***, Robin Blackburn, pub. 1997.
- ***Slave Ships and Slaving***, George Francis Dow, pub. 1968.



## UP-COMING EVENTS

### **Saturday, April 8 Medal of Honor Parade Gainesville, TX**

This is annually the largest gathering of American Medal of Honor Veterans in the country. There are usually 15 – to 25 of these heroes from World War through the current wars in attendance. The parade consists of units representing these conflicts including the War Between the States. You will be very impressed by this ceremony. Attendance/participation is completely free. You may march with us, ride on one of the SCV floats or simply be a spectator. We encourage period dress but that is, of course, not required. Contact Jack for more detailed information including directions and times.

### **Friday and Saturday, May 5-6 Texas MOS&B Society Annual Meeting, Fredericksburg, TX**

### **Friday and Saturday, May 12-13 Forts Muster sponsored by the Texas Civil War Museum, Fort Worth, TX**

This is an educational event (school children on Friday and public on Saturday) with educational booths and displays set up by representatives on all historical groups from Texas history including frontier Texas Rangers and Indian fighters, Indians, Union soldiers, Confederate soldiers, Buffalo Soldiers, cowboys, vaqueros, etc. It is also a great opportunity to recruit new member for SCV and our camp. If you walk down Exchange Street in period dress, you will seldom be able to walk more than 100-feet before being stopped and ask if someone can take your picture by visitors from all over the world. The popularity of Confederate soldiers and their ladies is declining only in this country as will become clear at the number of foreign visitors who want a photograph with someone in a Confederate uniform or period dress. Again, this event is completely free of charge.

### **Saturday, May 20 Grave Dedication and Cross of Honor Ceremony Lawrence Chapel Cemetery near Taylor, TX**

This ceremony is in honor of an Auxiliary member of Camp #2235, Joy Jenkins' great, great grandfather, Alex Bryant Townsend, who served the Confederacy in Co. C, 17th Texas Infantry. Every member of our camp should make a special effort to support Joy and John by attending this event

### **Friday and Saturday, June 2-4 Texas SCV Division Reunion Fort Worth, TX**

This year's reunion is right here in Fort Worth at the Radisson Hotel located at North Freeway and Meacham Blvd. Admission to the reunion is free including business meetings, vendors' areas (great opportunity to see and obtain WBTS items including period dress).

### **July 18-23 SCV National Reunion Memphis, TN**

Based upon my personal knowledge of some of the individuals involved in the planning of this reunion and the tours they have announced, I expect this to be the best Reunion I have experienced since joining the SCV. If you want to expand your education of the WBTS and have an extremely enjoyable vacation, you should start planning to attend this event now. It is only a short one-day drive (approximately seven-hours). I don't think I have ever looked forward to a reunion as much as this one. Please note the outstanding events planned that are listed below. Jack Dyess, Commander,

#### ***Shiloh Battlefield Bus Tour:***

*Nestled on the tranquil banks of the Tennessee River lies Shiloh National Military Park. On April 6-7, 1862, this rural countryside was the scene of the earliest bloody battle of the war.*

#### ***Memphis Queen Dinner Cruise:***

*Two-hour cruise with meal and live band*

#### ***Mud Island Civil War Museum & Chicken/Fish Fry:***

*The strategic importance of the Mississippi River during the U.S. Civil War and the military campaigns initiated by both Union and Confederate forces are emphasized in five galleries of the museum. The major battles that occurred on the Mississippi, as well as those on the Tennessee and Cumberland Rivers, are highlighted. The war on the river comes alive with a simulated battle between a Confederate river battery and a scale reproduction of the front one-third section of a Union Ironclad Gunboat.*

#### ***Ladies' Victorian Village Tour & Tea:***

*During Memphis' early period of growth in the mid-19th century, a few wealthy Memphians built grand, Victorian-style homes in what was then the outskirts of the city.*

#### ***Forrest's Memphis Raid & Civil War Sites:***

*On September 10, 1864 Forrest staged a nighttime raid, hoping to free Confederate prisoners and capture two Union Generals, Washburne and Hurlburt,*

who were in command there. Forrest led about 1,500 men against a force of 6,000 Union soldiers.

### **Elmwood Cemetery Tour:**

*Elmwood is the final resting place of more than nine hundred Confederate soldiers in Confederate Rest, along with nineteen Confederate generals: Isham Harris, Governor of Tennessee during the war and the Nathan Bedford Forrest Family plot, containing his mother, brothers and son.*

### **Fort Pillow Field Trip:**

*The fort was originally built by Confederate troops in 1861 and named after General Gideon J. Pillow of Maury County. It was abandoned in 1862 due to the Union Navy's advancement along the Mississippi River.*



We believe that General Robert E. Lee was not only the greatest general of all time but also one of the greatest men of all time. We believe the admonition given by him to his soldiers in 1865 to "*Abandon your animosities and make your sons Americans*" should be followed.

We believe the words found in General Nathan Bedford Forrest's farewell address to his men on May 9, 1865, "*Civil war, such as you have just passed through, naturally engenders feelings of animosity, hatred and revenge. It is our duty to divest ourselves of all such feelings, and, so far as it is in our power to do so, to cultivate feelings toward those with whom we have so long contested, and heretofore so widely but honestly differed*" apply to us also. Again, in an address to the Independent Order of Pole Bearers Association on July 5, 1875, "*We have but one flag, one country; let us stand together*" also applies to us.

We believe that SCV members should follow *The Charge* given by General Steven Dill Lee – *both of them*. He gave the second Charge, the one we recite at every Camp meeting, to the SCV in 1906. In 1896, he gave his first Charge to all, including us, who would be writing and teaching southern history. *Trusting into their hands [Southern Historians] the vindication of the South and of the Confederate soldier, we commend to them a model and a motto. The model is The Confederate Soldier. The motto is, Let him live in History, as he was in War, and as he is in Peace ... He had fought with honor; he surrendered with honor, and he has abided*

*the issue with honor. He returned to the Union as an equal, and he has remained in the Union as a friend ... the Confederate soldier honors the flag which cannot wave without testifying to this great work of the South, while it proclaims alike the glory of the American Union. He learned to love that flag when he was a boy. He loved it even when he fought it. Every impulse of his generous nature prompts him to love Dixie and the Star Spangled Banner ... The Confederate soldier is a patriot of the highest type. He was a soldier because he was a patriot. He is a peaceful citizen, because he is a patriot. He has forgiven the war with its attendant injustice of invasion and reconstruction. He has risen above the humiliation of surrender. From the hero of war he has grown to be the hero of peace. In this character he deserves to be painted by history.*

Several thousand Confederate Veterans attended the 1896 Reunion in Richmond. The minutes state that applause almost continually interrupted General Lee while he gave his report. The delegates to the Reunion unanimously adopted the report.

If several thousand soldiers, who fought for the CSA, unanimously supported the *Stars and Stripes* and set an example of being good U. S citizens only 31 years after the War ended, and 19 years after *Reconstruction*, Camp #2235 will do so 151 years after the War.

We believe the 50-star flag of the United States of America is the symbol of the Country of which we are citizens and which we love and respect. We also feel that if you think there is a better country in the World, perhaps you would be happier if you moved there.

We shall not, under any circumstance, tolerate racism of any type by word or deed.

We pledge to assist and support all other heritage organizations, male or female, whose beliefs, goals and objectives are similar to ours so long as such assistance and support is in accordance with our Constitution, the Charge given by General Steven Dill Lee, and our Camp's basic beliefs.

We believe the admonition in the Charge given by General Steven Dill Lee to emulate the virtues of the Confederate soldier as exemplified by General R. E. Lee and other great leaders includes conduct becoming a gentleman or lady at all times and failure to do so is totally unacceptable.