GUIDE TO RESEARCH AND DISCOVERY OF CONFEDERATE VETERANS

PURPOSE OF RESEARCH: PERSERVE INFORMATION ABOUT WHERE CONFEDERATE VETERANS GRAVES ARE LOCATED AND INFORMATION ABOUT THE MANS CIVIL WAR SERVICE.

ARCHIVE OF RECORDS: THE SOUTHWEST COLLECTION ON THE CAMPUS OF TEXAS TECH UNIVERSITY IN LUBBOCK, TEXAS WILL ARCHIVE AND RETAIN THIS RESEARCH. THIS WORK WILL NOT BE LOST TO FUTURE GENERATIONS.

KNOW WHAT THE CONFEDERATE GRAVES SURVEY TELLS YOU:

1. Each page has five names all in the same cemetery, each page will indicate if the men on that page are Confederate, Federal or Able Bodied Men. These will not be mixed on a page. If there is some identification at the grave site to indicate that man was in the Civil War that is how it is marked on the form. For a grave to be marked as Able Bodied Men there will be no marker of service and the birth date will be between 1790-1851.
2. The name and dates will be just how it is on the grave marker. If a military unit is noted that means the stone has that unit on it. If the unit is in brackets it means the person that did the survey found this information somewhere else and has include it here.

HOW TO FILL OUT THE CONFEDERATE GRAVE SURVEY: FIELD NOTE UPDATE

1. This is a two-part form to be filled out for each man when additional information has been found.
2. The top of part one is the cemetery information. Fill this out once and make a copy for each man that will need this form.
3. Veteran Information: Given name will be the name on the grave stone if the full name has been found include it in brackets. Suffix will be JR, SR, DR, ect. Source will be" walked cemetery". Ordinal will be the number of unit. Unit type will be infantry, carvery, artillery ect. AKA will be any name the unit or company was known as. Marker type will be the same as on the grave survey. Unit on marker state yes or no and in brackets put what unit is on marker. Last year seen will be the year the graves survey was written.
4. Part two is for notes on the man and his service. Fill out the submitter information on one form and make a copy for each man that needs this form. Put the man's name on top of this second page.

5. This form does not have to be filled out if no war service information can be found on an Abled Bodied man. Keep all research done for each man stapled together and this will be given to the archive. Indicate on the research that no war information was found.

PLACES TO LOOK FOR INFORMATION

If you have done genealogical research you might have places to look not listed. This is a guide of what I have found to produce the information needed and in a fast manner. If you have never done this type of research it might be helpful to learn some basic genealogy skills and use this guide as needed.

GET ORGANIZED

1. Know what information you need to find.
2. Research one county, one cemetery, and one man at a time. Moving around from one county, cemetery or man on the graves survey will cause confusion and will result on no complete work. Start with the county you live in you will be motivated to finish.
3. Have a file folder for each county general information and a folder for each cemetery in that county. Examples of what would be here is a list of Confederate Pensions filed from that county or any list of veterans. Anything about a Confederate veteran that can help with your research.
4. The men on the graves survey are not listed alphabetically so I find it useful to give each man a number. I make and keep copies of all information I find on each man all this is paperclipped with his number on the first page if I think the file is complete I staple it and mark it done on the graves survey.
5. Because this research may take a while and as you get back to do some more you need to know what you have found and where you have looked and found nothing. Therefore, you must keep a record of your research. You can keep it simple but keep everything.

GENERAL COUNTY AND CEMETERY RESEARCH

The best place to get general information is at the county or town library, museum, courthouse, or funeral homes where the cemetery is located. Some can be found in the internet. Always ask at the places you go they are there to help. Local information might be found by talking to local people at the coffee shop.

1. Cemetery books: Do you have a graves survey on every cemetery in the county? Look for any names missed on the survey. Compare the grave dates or inscriptions that might be different than your survey make a note of these. Look for the wife's name put it on your graves survey if not listed. Look for county and local maps that contain cemetery information.
2. Look for anything done by the United Daughters of the Confederate or Confederate Veterans Camps. These groups might have made lists of their members with units served or graves they marked.
3. County history books: these have family histories look for the names on the graves survey.
4. Newspapers: look for obituaries or any stories on Confederate veterans.

5. Texas Confederate Pensions index: the best place to find this is www.tsl.state.tx.us/arc/pensions/index.com This site will give you names and pension numbers of each man that applied or received a pension when they lived in that county. Copy your counties index and look for a man by name also he might have applied when he lived elsewhere. If the man's widow got a pension that number will be here also many times the widow received a pension but the man had been rejected. Many pensions were rejected even if the man served. Many pension applications can be found for the man and or his widow on www.ancestry.com . These applications are the best primary source for which unit a man served. Many records are lost and this is the man himself telling what he did in the war.
6. Look for county information on the web by putting the name of county in search see what you can find. The best site is a free www.rootsweb.com listed as gen web with the county name.

RESEARCH ON INDIVIDUAL VETERANS AND THE UNITS THEY SERVED

Began to research each man on the graves survey form. Look in the type column if "VA" is here that is a stone issued by the veteran's administration most of the time this will be the correct unit for that man. If you want to verify this or add to this man's file go ahead with more research. Keep in mind an err on any research can happen. I have found about a ten percent err rate on graves marked by veteran groups or the graves survey paperwork. If the man's grave only has CSA or is on the able-bodied list than a complete genealogical workup might be necessary. A man's complete file should have copies or notes on all information found and the two-part field note update form filled out and stapled together.

1. First place to look is the free site www.findagrave.com . Put the cemetery in and that site will have the information needed to fill in the top part of the field note update form. Put in the man's last name for this cemetery and find your man and his wife. Sometimes your man's page will have lots of genealogical information and pictures of the grave. Make a copy of this page and use it as the first page of your research.

2. Family trees contain information on the man's life. To find war service, you need to know where the man was in 1860. Often, he joined with a unit from this state and county. Sometimes the man's father or brothers were in the same unit. Family trees can be found on the web at: www.rootsweb.com , www.familysearch.org , or www.ancestry.com .

3. Many men had the same name. Make sure you have the correct man's information and he is the one on the graves survey. One way to find him and his family is to look in the census records. The 1850,1860,1870 census will tell you where the man lived before and after the war. The 1900-1930 census will tell if the man lived in the county where the cemetery is located. The 1910 census ask if the man served in the civil war look at the 3rd question from the end on the right side there will be a c/a or u/a. This question is another primary source. Census records can be found at: www.ancestry.com , www.familysearch.org .

4. It might be worth your time and money to pay for www.ancestry.com . This site will have family trees, census records, veteran administration grave records, complete veteran and widow pension records, military records and much more. This site will link you to the man's www.findagrave.com . If you also paid for www.fold3.com this site will link you to the man's original military records. If there is no link go to fold3 or find a grave and find your man.

5. Unit history is good to include in each man's file. Make this the last thing you do because you need to be sure you have the correct man and his unit. Unit histories will often tell you the counties the men in the unit lived. Unit histories are all over the web just search for the man's unit. The U.S. National Park Service site: www.npsgov/cicilwar/soldiers will have each man in a unit listed and some unit histories but it is hard to use.

CONCLUSION

As stated before all your hard work will not be lost to future generations. If you can copy all the graves surveys and each man's information and give these to the counties library or museum they love to receive new research materials. I have done this for Gray, Moore, Roberts, and Childress county I have had wonderful help from the people that worked at these counties library's.

Rocky Jim Sprott is the Grave Survey Coordinator for the Texas Division he will be the person that all the research will be sent to and he will send it to the Southwest Collection contact him at:

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