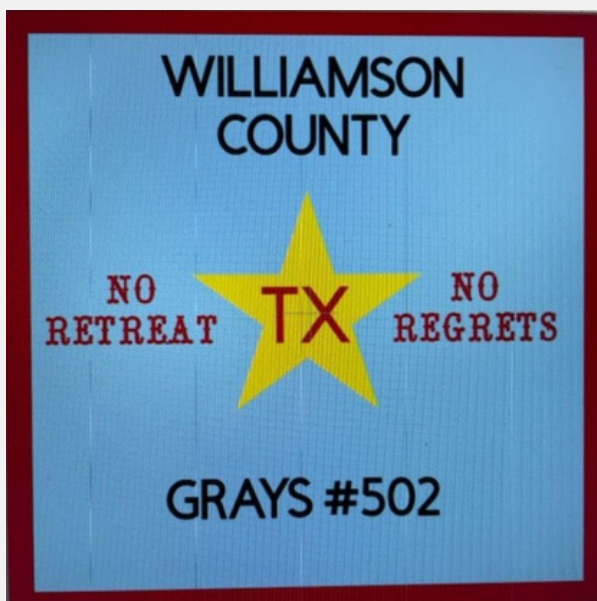




FORWARDING OUR FATHERS' FLAGS



Deo Vindice!

December 2024

Williamson County Grays Camp #502

Commander's Comments

Welcome to December,

This is my last month as Camp Commander. In January, Billy takes over. The election is over with God giving America a chance to repent. Our cause continues to speak up for the Confederate Soldier and his Cause. The Cause is the Constitution as written by the Founding Fathers. As we persuade our friends to think of politics within the framework of the Constitution, our elected will think in those terms. All the problems we are dealing with now are because our federal government is violating the Constitution. We remain the Woke's worst enemy.

When we started to defend the Memorial in 2020, I fully expected the average person to hate us. Through these 4 years I continue to be amazed that we are vastly supported. We have handed out more than a thousand Battle flags. We have never asked for money, but y'all have seen Shelby hand over hundreds of bucks to Mackey every month, freely given. The number of people who have their pictures taken with us, thanked us for being there, and drive by giving a thumbs-up is stunning. I can't count the number of people who come to us and ask if we have a petition to keep the Monument. We also give free therapy sessions to those who have had an encounter with "those people". The ones who oppose us have so many psychological problems that I can't list them here. Bottom line: the people want the Confederate history to be and to remain known.

I really enjoyed the Christmas Camp meeting with y'all. The comradery and fellowship of the group means a lot to me. Y'all may not know it, but I miss y'all when you can't make it. Your ladies and kids are always welcome. I think they add to the welcoming tone. If your dog behaves better than mine, bring him, too! Let me know if there is anything I can do for you. We're the group that cares about you, so let me know.

Deo Vindice

Lee Wallace - Camp Commander

Honoring Our Camp Heroes

We honor the bravery and sacrifices of our Martyrs of the South



George Washington Cluck
1839 - 1920

Williamson County Gray's Historical Compatriots

Name: George Washington Cluck

Rank: Private

Unit: Captain A J Berry's Company A of the 27th Brigade of the Texas State Troops

Interesting Fact: In 1860, John was a 20-year-old common laborer, meaning farm hand, and still living at home in Georgetown, TX. When the Civil War broke out, George's older brothers, Joseph and John, joined Company C of the 7th Texas Cavalry.

After the war, in 1871, George made a cattle drive up the Chisholm Trail with his wife Harriet, who was the first woman to make a Chisholm Trail drive. In 1873 the Clucks bought land 16 miles northwest of Austin which included Running Brushy Spring. The Cluck ranch and home became the nucleus for a community. A post office was authorized in February 1874 for the Running Brushy settlement. In 1887, Emmett Cluck, son of George and Harriet, renamed the town Cedar Park, after the parklike surroundings of his home.

George Washington Cluck and his brothers are three examples of the pioneer spirit and heroism that the Confederate Soldiers and Sailors Monument on the Williamson County Courthouse grounds honors.

Excerpts taken from the daily writings of Johnny Anderson, Williamson County Gray's 1st Lieutenant to honor Confederate History and Heritage Month.

Chaplain's Corner

Dear Friends,

The year 2024 has been passing more rapidly than past years. We watched the world go through wars and shifting while watching our own nation select its new president and the direction which we wish to see our Country go. It has been nail-biting but yet we see an overwhelming desire to turn to family and faith values. Many say it was a miracle and I must agree that it is.

Similarly, the history of Israel was one in which it prospered under the Lord's care but then it wandered from following God and breaking its covenant with Him. Their major crises were caused by the nation of Israel turning away from living according to God's Commandments and thinking that it no longer needed the Lord and his precepts. Have we not seen this in our nation? For each decade following World War II, Americans had great, unprecedented prosperity, but at the same time each decade experienced people turning away from God and not following his precepts but, in arrogance, thinking that faith and morals were "old fashioned". We have seen morals decline and with it a breakup of American families.

When I was in seminary we students would be asked, "Are you going to be ready for the new church?" It was a question which I found strange. I thought, "How can God's laws change? How can the Church which was founded by our Lord become a new church or change the commandments of the Lord?" Now I see! Those questions were the prelude to what was being pushed in college campuses and classrooms. It was the beginning of what we have seen which precipitated the dismantling of memorials and statues throughout our nation. It was the prelude to Wokeism and all other "isms".

I learned a great lesson in my seminary days. God is and always will be God. He does not change and His message does not change. He sent His only begotten Son to take on flesh, that is to become one of us, and save us through His death and glorious resurrection! We are not called to be perfect! However we all are called to be faithful. As Sons of Confederate veterans we are called to serve God and to do His work. We must realize that all Christians must be tools of the Lord in our daily lives. What we do now will affect future generations. Individually, let us all be God's tools to bring others the Good News and to stand by our Christian calling! Together, as Sons of Confederate Veterans, let us be faithful as they were faithful - to family and nation and utmost to God.

Have a blessed Christmas; one filled with love and happiness.



Don Sawyer, Chaplain





Ask the Colonel

December's Question

What are your New Year's Resolutions?

Compatriots,

A lot has happened over the last month and the month leading up to 20 January is looking pretty intense, too! We are living in "interesting times". We have experienced and will experience, some of the most momentous events in our nation's history. Are you ready? 2025 will be an extraordinary year. You can feel it in the air. So, how will you handle it? A good start is a plan and good plans most often come from thoughts and "resolutions". As Sons of Confederate Veterans, and especially Williamson County Grays, we have been through a lot in the past 4 and a half years - and have come out stronger for it! I call on you now, at this dawning of a new year and a new period in the Camp's history, to resolve to revisit the words and required actions of *The Charge*, to be more active in Camp meetings and events, to be a living testament to your ancestors' courage and commitment. Be part of a great history! Truth will ultimately and always prevail.

Happy New Year!

RECENT HAPPENINGS

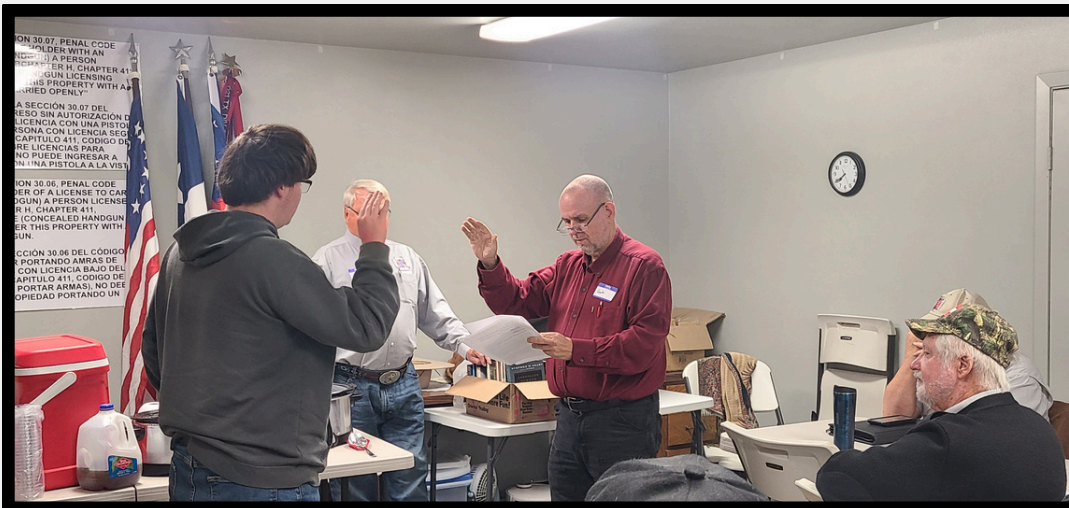
The Williamson County Grays have had a busy fall schedule. Here are some recent activities our members have participated in.



Colonel Shelby Little & Major Lee Wallace observe Veterans Day on the Georgetown Square.



Several compatriots celebrated the Christmas holiday with the Austin Civil War Round Table at the Texas State Capitol.



Swearing in of our newest and youngest member, Austin Lauw.

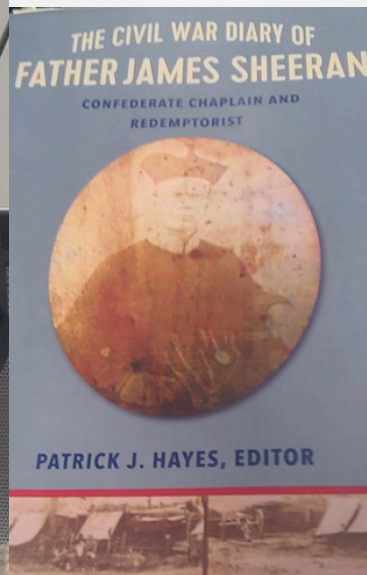
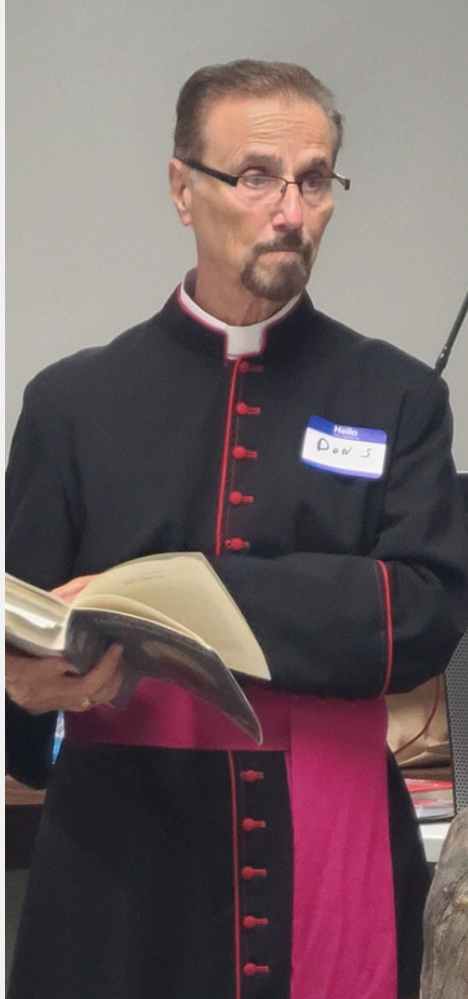
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Unloading and staging wreaths for the Wreaths Across America program at the Texas State Cemetery. Pictured is Johnny Anderson helping to unload 3,500 wreaths. Also participating was Texas Division SJA Rob Jones, Shelby Little, and Teresa Chapman.

The Williamson County Grays purchased 45 wreaths to be placed on Veteran graves throughout the cemetery.



Don Sawyer, Catholic Bishop and Camp Chaplain shared the story of Father James Sheeran and his writings as a Catholic Priest and Army Chaplain during the War. His book provides a personal and intimate perspective on the War, blending personal reflection with historical events. Father Sheeran chronicles his experiences and observations while ministering to soldiers on both sides of the conflict, offering insights into the human side of war, faith, and survival.

UP COMING EVENTS



Texas and National Guardian Program
Billy Ayers and Shelby Little are now Guardians of 2 Confederate graves. We have plenty of Confederate Soldier graves to adopt; over 1000 in Williamson County alone. Contact Billy or Shelby if you are interested in becoming a Guardian.

Speakers: We are looking for folks who would like to give a talk at a Camp meeting. If you, or someone you know, is interested, please let us know at our next Camp meeting.

January 2, 2025: First meeting of the new year! Join us for a traditional Southern meal of black-eyed peas, greens, and cornbread. New Camp officers will be sworn in. Let's get 2025 started right!

January 19, 2025: Confederate Heroes Day Observance on the Square.

March 30, 2025: Flagging Graves at the IOOF.

April, 2025: Confederate History and Heritage Month - On the Square, Red Poppy Festival.

June 6-8, 2025: Texas Division Reunion in Mineral Wells, Texas. More information can be found at: <https://scvtexas.org/event/texas-division-reunion-2025/>.

July 16-20, 2025: Texas Division is hosting the SCV National Reunion in Houston. Information can be found at: <https://scv130.com/schedule/>.

Williamson County Grays' T-shirts are available for \$25. Attend a Camp meeting or contact Billy Ayers for additional information.



Ladies Corner

Wakefield Story Billy Ayers' Ancestor

This is a handwritten story from Billy Ayers' XXX ancestor.

Let's remember an incident in this writer's life. When long ago a little girl's grandfather drove by the house on the way to the Old Soldiers Reunion. He was driving his favorite horse in a high-wheeled buggy and the little granddaughter began begging to go with him to the picnic near Bowie, Texas.

As mother was to attend later in the day, Grandpa took for on with him. Annoyed that mother was late and Grandpa had to take me up on the platform when dinner was to be served to the 19 elderly Southern Soldiers who were present. At the table, they stood and gave the Rebel yell before sitting down to eat. The little girl's plate was heaped with food and imagine grandfathers embarrassment when she said, "But Grandpa, I don't like possum-n-taters!"

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CONFEDERATE ART & WRITING

Mrs. Wigfall's Wedding Dress By Dale Gallon



Dale Gallon highlights the second flag of the 1st Texas Infantry Regiment, part of Hood's Brigade, Longstreet's Corps, Army of Northern Virginia. The description in the title block reads: "The 1st Texas participating in the capture of Smith's Battery (4th New York Independent Battery) at Devil's Den, 2 July 1863, Gettysburg." Tradition has maintained that Colonel Wigfall's wife, Fannie, just prior to the Battle of Gettysburg, sewed the battle flag out of her wedding dress to replace the original banner lost in Miller's Cornfield at the Battle of Sharpsburg. This was partially true. Daughter Lula, who was fifteen years old at the time, recalled that "the large white star was the special work and pride of her mother. It was made from her wedding dress, as was also the stripe around the edges."

THE CHARGE



“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 Soldiers’ 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.”