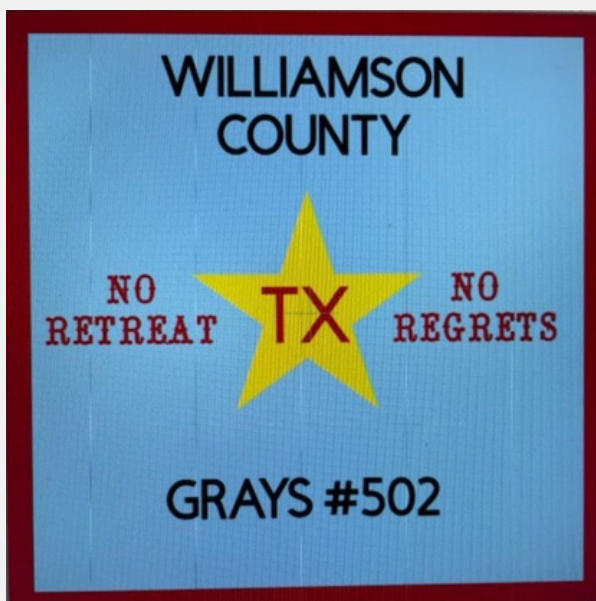




FORWARDING OUR FATHERS' FLAGS



Deo Vindice!

April 2025

Williamson County Grays Camp #502

Commander's Comments

Friends,

We've all heard the term, "Southern Gentleman." This begs the question, "What does it mean to be a Southern man in today's time?" One definition of a Southern Gentleman that I found is as follows, "A cultural archetype, often associated with chivalry, respect and good manners, particularly towards women, and a strong sense of honor and responsibility."

With that in mind, I proffer that nothing has changed regarding how we should carry ourselves. However, as we may find with the current climate, there are some people that don't understand or may even be detractors. I once held a door open for a lady and she read me the riot act about how she wasn't helpless and could do it herself! Gentlemen, don't let that response deter you! I assure you that that kind of reaction is in the minority and most ladies, of all political stripes, will acknowledge your courtesy whether they say so or not.

While chivalrous gestures toward women are easier to see, the true character of a Southern Gentleman is often demonstrated through his actions outside a family or social environment. Reputations are won or lost by being a man of your word, one who accepts responsibility for what he does even when decisions made turn out to be bad ones, or when the "right" thing to do gives way to what is simplest or most expeditious.

Your Honor is sacred. At his first inaugural, President Jefferson Davis stated, "We feel that our Cause is just and holy; we protest solemnly in the face of mankind that we desire peace at any sacrifice save that of **honor** and independence..." Men who are willing to **say** such words and, more importantly, to **act** on them, even to the point of death, are honorable men indeed. Such was the character of our Ancestors.

So, my fellow Compatriots, continue the legacy that inspired the term "Southern Gentleman" and carry yourself well. It reflects favorably on you, your family, and the SCV - as it should.

Deo Vindice
Billy Ayers - Commander, Camp #502
"No Retreat! No Regrets!"

Honoring Our Camp Heroes

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

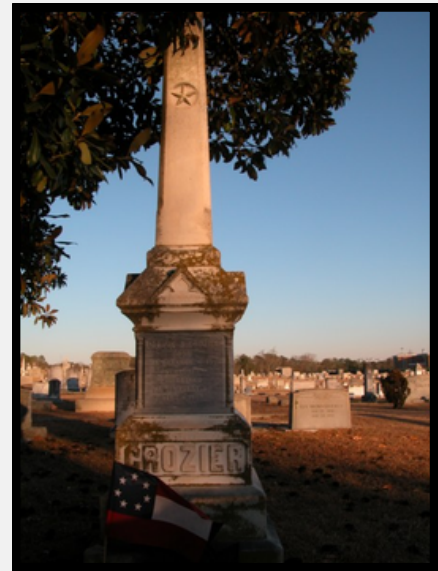
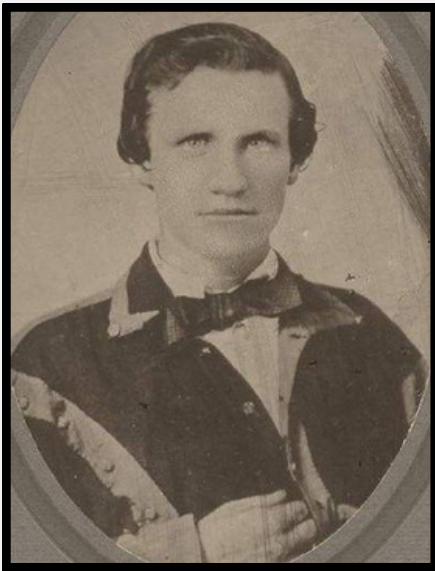
Williamson County Gray's Historical Compatriots

The Death of a Southern Hero

Name: Calvin Crozier

Rank: Private

Battles & Interesting Facts: Born in August of 1840 in Mississippi & Died 8 Sept. 1865 age 25.



In the aftermath of the War Between the States, on September 8, 1865, Calvin Crozier—a young Confederate Veteran from Texas—was brutally executed by soldiers of the Thirty-third United States Colored Troops while passing through Newberry, South Carolina. Having just recovered from illness and en route home after four long years of war, Crozier was escorting a young woman when he confronted a soldier behaving inappropriately toward her. In the altercation that followed, Crozier wounded the man. Though he could have fled or remained silent, Crozier took full responsibility for his actions, refusing to let an innocent man take the blame. Captured by the enraged soldiers and brought before their commanding officer, Crozier was summarily executed without trial—shot at close range and then finished off with a pistol shot to the head.

Eyewitness accounts paint a harrowing scene. Crozier was made to kneel beside a ditch near the railroad, just after sunrise, facing a firing squad of five. After his death, soldiers crudely covered his body with leaves. Local citizens later recovered the body and gave it a respectful burial. In time, the town of Newberry moved his remains to Rosemont Cemetery, where a monument now honors his memory. His death, long remembered as a tragedy of postwar racial and political tensions, was seen by many in the South as a symbol of courage and sacrifice. Each Memorial Day, his grave is adorned with flowers by the women of Newberry, preserving the legacy of the young Texan who, in their eyes, died defending Southern honor.

Summary taken from of various articles, historical marker, and Find-A-Grave

Chaplain's Corner

Book Review Part I: The Civil War Diary of Father James Sheeran, Confederate Chaplain and Redemptorist By: Chaplain Chorbishop Donald J. Sawyer, D. Mn

Recently I saw an advertisement in the Confederate Veteran for a book entitled "The Civil War Diary of Father James Sheeran, Confederate Chaplain and Redemptorist, edited by Patrick J. Hayes. I was fascinated about the book that spoke of the Civil War but was not a book of battles and armies but a daily diary written by a Confederate chaplain.

James Sheeran was baptised in Temple Mehill (Michael) County Longford, Ireland on June 21st, 1819. No record of his birth is supplied. He emigrated from Ireland at the age of twelve and went first to Canada, then to New York City. He met a girl named Margaret and they married. We do not know when or where they married but they eventually lived in a tiny backwater town in Pennsylvania. They had three children, Isabella, John, and Sylvester. They later moved to Michigan and the children were baptized in the fall of 1845. His wife died a short time later and he put his two surviving children in safe keeping and joined a religious order of priests called Redemptorists (Redeemer) and made his vows and put on the habit on September 18, 1858. From there he was assigned to the parish of St. Alphonsus in New Orleans. On August 21, 1861 records say that he left for Camp Pulaski, Northeast of Baton Rouge to serve as a chaplain there and that fourteen days later he left for Virginia with his regiment. He was appointed officially on October 2, as chaplain to the 14th Louisiana Volunteers and eventually was amalgamated into what became known as "Lee's Tigers" so named for their ferocity in battle and unruliness as men. He kept a daily diary throughout the War and his diary passed hands with friends and then to bishops who kept them until they were published.

He saw considerable action with the 14th Louisiana through battles of Williamsburg, Seven Pines, Beaver Dam Creek, Gaines' Mill Run, Chantilly, South Mountain Harpers Ferry, Sharpsburg, and Fredericksburg. After the second winter, the 14th participated in the battles of Chancellorsville, Second Winchester, Wilderness, Spotsylvania, Salient Gap, Hanover Junction, Third Winchester, and Cedar Creek until he was taken prisoner.

What is so attractive about reading this non-fiction diary of a chaplain is that it shows the lives of the men who fought and also gives us a war-time glimpse of Southern cities like Richmond, Atlanta, and New Orleans. It is one thing to talk about battles, but this book puts a face on the combatants and gives the reader a view into the arduous lives of the common soldiers. It is fascinating to read of their sleeping under their wagons while it poured rain on their hungry bodies; the medical trains which followed the troops, the food wagons, and unfortunately the aftermath of battles with the bodies of young men who died for their nation's freedom.

Father Sheeran was a dyed-in-the wool Confederate. And even though he was not born in this country and lived in the north as a young man, he was 100% Confederate. He was bold, articulate, loyal, and his daily goal was to witness Christ to all of the men, Catholics and Protestants. He did not merely visit the troops he lived as one of them. He sacrificed daily for the Cause. He was loved by all the men and respected by all officers, including Generals Jackson, Lee, and others.

In his diary he speaks about his encounters with other Irishmen who were prisoners of war. He spent time showing them that "King Lincoln" trampled on the Constitution and convinced many not to re-enlist in the northern army. To one northern soldier he said, "My parting advice.... before going to bed every night, try and recall to your memory the number of times Abe Lincoln has perjured himself by violating the Constitution since his induction into office; then put your hand to your breast and ask yourself in the presence of God, if, in fighting for your perjured President, you are fighting for the Constitution of your country?"

Join us next month for the concluding story of Father Sheeran!



Ask the Colonel

April's Question

What's So Special About April?

CONFEDERATE HISTORY & HERITAGE MONTH RESOLUTION

This is the text of the resolution adopted by the Texas Senate on 30 March, 1999 & signed by Governor Rick Perry

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 526

WHEREAS, April is the month in which the Confederate States of America began & ended a 4-year struggle for States' rights, individual freedom, & local government control; and

WHEREAS, The State of Texas declared herself to be a free & independent State & subsequently joined the Confederate States of America of which it was a member State from 1861 until 1865; and

WHEREAS, The battlefields, monuments, museums, & other historical sites to be found in Texas allow our citizens & visitors to remember, study, & appreciate the men & women of that unique time in the history of Texas & the nation; and

WHEREAS, The flag of the State of Texas was carried by Texas Confederate soldiers in every major battle of the War Between the States & the State contributed over 115,000 soldiers & sailors to the service of the Confederate States of America; and

WHEREAS, During the period of reconciliation, Texas Confederate Veterans became instrumental in the continued development of our State & local governments & our institutions of higher learning; and

WHEREAS, We honor our past & draw from it the courage, strength, & wisdom to go forward into the future together as Texans & Americans; and

WHEREAS, The State of Texas has long recognized her Confederate history & the leaders who made sacrifices on behalf of the Confederate Cause; and

WHEREAS, The Texans who served in the War Between the States are memorialized in almost every county in the State, & many cities & counties in the State of Texas bear the name of Confederate Veterans; and

WHEREAS, It is important for all Texans to reflect upon our State's past & to respect the devotion of her Confederate leaders, soldiers, and citizens to the Cause of Southern liberty; and

WHEREAS, In years since the War, the morally abhorrent practice of slavery has in the minds of many Texans become the prime motivation of Southern soldiers, despite the fact that 98 percent of Texas Confederate soldiers never owned a slave and never fought to defend slavery; and

WHEREAS, Politically correct revisionists would have Texas children believe that their Confederate ancestors fought for slavery when in fact most Texans joined the Confederate Armed Forces to defend their homes, their families, & their proud heritage as Texans; and

WHEREAS, Confederate Memorial Day in April is a time for all Texans to honor those men & women who died for Texas, & also all the Texans who came afterward & benefitted from their legacy of honor & devotion to our State; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the Senate of the State of Texas, 76th Legislature, hereby recognize April as Confederate History & Heritage Month in the State of Texas & encourage all Texas schools & citizens to join in efforts to become more knowledgeable of the role of the Confederate States of America in the history of our country.

That's what is so *special* about April...

RECENT HAPPENINGS

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

We hope you will join us at an event in the near future.

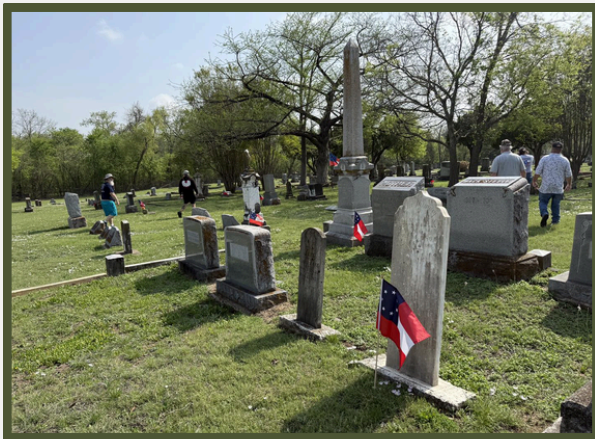


Flaggers at the I.O.O.F.

Williamson County Grays Camp #502 commenced Confederate History and Heritage month by "flagging" the I.O.O.F Cemetery placing more than 160 First National flags on Confederate graves.

Camp 1st Lt Commander Johnny Anderson has mapped all the graves using a longitude & latitude system to ensure that every grave is flagged.

Weather permitting, the Camp will return to the I.O.O.F. Cemetery on 1 May 2025 at 10am to collect flags and perform some maintenance on graves.



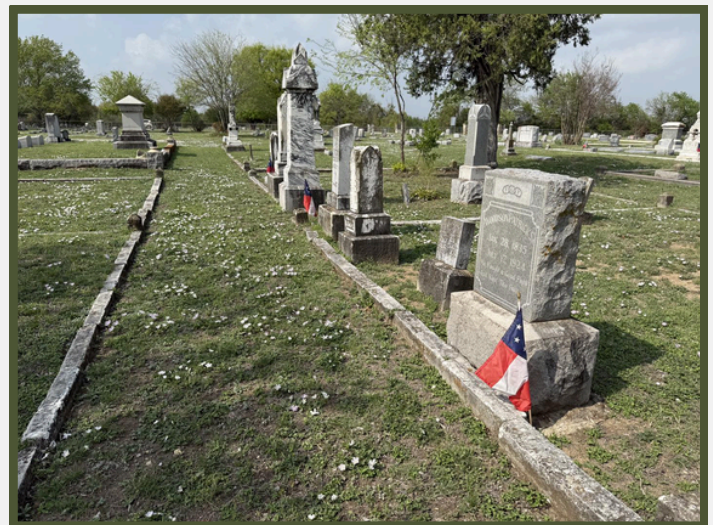
Photos of gravestones with First National Flags.



Members of the Williamson County Grays Camp #502 flagged the I.O.O.F. Cemetery on 30 March 2025



Cemetery checks every night!



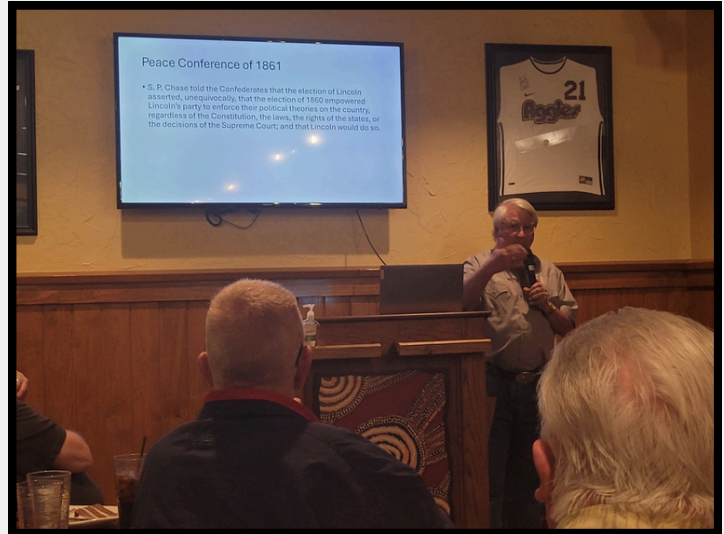
Photos of gravestones with First National Flags.
Photos of gravestones with First National Flags.

RECENT HAPPENINGS

The Williamson County Grays have had a busy schedule. Here are some recent activities our members have participated in. We hope you will join us at an event in the near future.



Previous Commander Tommy Turner speaks at the Colonel John S. Mosby Camp 1409 in Tennessee.



Previous Grays Commander Lee Wallace talks about the causes and the Cause at the Sul Ross Camp in Bryan-College Station.

Legislative Update from Commander Hurley!

The Texas Division SCV has been steadfast in pushing a monument protection bill through the Texas House of Representatives for over a decade but without success. The Texas Senate has shown its support by passing monument protection bills during the last two legislative sessions, only to face the House's inaction. We have received assurances once again from key Texas Senators that if a bill passes the House, the Senate will pass its companion bill. Moreover, the political climate has shifted with the election of President Trump last November, giving us a good chance of passing the bill.

The key to our success lies in getting the bill heard by the Culture, Recreation, and Tourism (CRT) Committee to which the bill has been assigned. For a bill to be heard in its designated committee, the bill's author must request a hearing. Texas State Representative Stan Gerdes (R - Bastrop) has taken this step by requesting a hearing in writing and through a personal visit with CRT Chair Representative Will Metcalf. The Texas Legislature runs until June 2, 2025. Given the slow pace of the legislature, it's imperative that we secure the hearing within the next 2 weeks. The urgency of the situation calls for immediate action from all of us.

WHAT CAN YOU DO TO HELP?

I would like all Texas Division compatriots to email Representative Will Metcalf and the CRT Committee Clerk, Lauren McCarthy, to ask that HB3227 be set for a hearing as soon as possible.

will.metcalf@house.texas.gov
laurenk.mccarthy_hc@house.texas.gov

UP COMING EVENTS



Texas and National Guardian Program
Billy Ayers, Johnny Anderson, and Shelby Little are now Guardians of 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: If you, or someone you know, is interested in giving a talk, please let one of your Camp officers know.

April: Confederate History and Heritage Month

April 17: Austin Civil War Round Table

April 19: Texas Division Picnic in Mexia

April 22: JROTC Awards Ceremony at Hendrickson High School

April 25, 26, 27: Red Poppy Festival on the Georgetown Square

May 1: Regular monthly meeting / IOOF Flag Retrieval

May 3: Black Powder Shoot with the Salt Works Camp in Lampasas
JROTC Awards Ceremony at Westside High School (Houston)

May 30-31: Fort Parker hosted by the Temple Camp

June 5: Regular monthly meeting

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

July 3: Regular monthly meeting

July 16-20: The 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

And the winner is... Cheryl Ayers



Grand Champion



First Place

Well, gather 'round, y'all, because have we got a tale to tell about our very own Cheryl Ayers. She's always cooking up those mouth-watering meals at our monthly meetings, but this time, she really outdid herself. At the Cowboy Church Chili Cook-Off in Weir, Texas, Cheryl won First Place and then, she snagged the overall Grand Champion title!

Now, we've always known Cheryl could cook, but after this, we're all convinced she's a chef extraordinaire. It was a tough competition, as she put her chili against 16 other flavors. When it was done, she had left behind many broken-hearted cowboys who had been perfecting their chili for years! But Cheryl didn't bat an eye and showed them what real chili tastes like. It's no wonder folks show up to our meetings—ain't nobody coming for the speeches; they're all there for Cheryl's famous cookin'! So the next time you know Cheryl is going to cook one of her amazing meals - don't bother bringing your Tupperware because there won't be a smidgen left to take home!

Written by Teresa Chapman

The Guest Column

Florence Nightingale - Nurse or Spy?

By Linda Turner

Well, it depends on which Florence Nightingale you're talking about? And how one defines "spying". In consideration of the old Irish saying, "Every man is sociable until a cow invades his garden."

Twins Mary Sophia & Samuel Hill were born in Dublin in 1819. Children of a physician, the two decided to move to New Orleans as young adults. Sam becoming an engineer & Mary, a teacher. Following a rather intense disagreement, Sam impetuously joined Company F of the 6th Louisiana Volunteers in 1861. Knowing that her brother was "not cut out to be a soldier," Mary decided to follow along to "look out for him" by attaching herself to the regiment's medical unit. With what she had learned & her own innate ability, Mary would become known as the "Florence Nightingale of the Army of Northern Virginia."

Mary & Sam's first experience was the first Battle of Manassas. In her diary she wrote, "Men were begging me to pick Minie balls out of their legs and arms....blood was everywhere... with few supplies, I tore down blinds & curtains from the windows of the house to use as bandages.....the sights of the wounded were fearful to look at." Terrified that she might see her own brother or friends from Walker's Brigade, she worked tirelessly, caring for the wounded, feeding them & using every nursing skill she possessed.

In 1862, as Sam's regiment prepared to join Stonewall Jackson's Valley Campaign, Mary moved on with them as well. Sam had proven his sister's fear & despite a brave heart, he was not always an able soldier - frequently losing his belongings and cartridge belt. She paid special attention, seeing that he was well fed & clothed. The fighting during the Seven Day Battles was intense & casualties were heavy. Sam was gravely wounded & though he did survive, he was transferred to the Engineer Corps. But Mary stayed - continuing to nurse in Richmond or wherever she might be needed. During those years, Mary began traveling between Union & Confederate strongholds delivering letters & messages to families anxious about their loved ones in battle. Twice she traveled home to Ireland to visit specifically with families who had sons in the battles - both sides. By 1864, the Federal authorities had begun watching her & she was arrested in New Orleans & accused of giving information to the enemy - Treason - Spying.

Weak from a recent bout with scarlet fever, Mary was found guilty & sentenced to four months in the Juliet Street Women's Prison. Harsh treatment left her in poor health for the rest of her life. Appeals to clear her name were all unsuccessful. After the war, Mary became the first matron of the Soldiers' Home established by the Armies of Northern Virginia and Tennessee. There, she touched the lives of many veterans & their families. In 1902 health problems forced her to retire & move to New York to live with a nephew. At her death, as stipulated by Mary in her will, her body was transferred to New Orleans by train for burial. Early on the morning of her train's arrival....."Through the streets of New Orleans marched a long line of aged men wearing grey uniforms, with bowed heads & saddened hearts. Before them was borne the remains of a woman whom they had known in adversity, & now honored as a queen among Southern sympathizers. The Florence Nightingale of the Army of Northern Virginia was dead, & its surviving veterans sought to show their love & appreciation by burying her with full military honors, an unusual & beautiful occurrence."

And from the New Orleans Times-Picayune, 1902,

"Veterans bore her to the grave. Wrapped in the Stars and Bars around the casket, and sounded taps as the Earth claimed her." Deo Vindici

CONFEDERATE ART & WRITINGS



Southern Belle in the Storm

By Teresa Chapman

**In the soft hush of the Southern dawn,
A lady stands, her resolve drawn.
The whispers of war drift through the trees,
Carried along on the Southern breeze.**

**As the battlefield calls her brothers away,
She watches her Love ride at break of day.
Her strength, though silent, still fiercely glows,
And only her grace and her courage shows.**

**Her hands are stained, but her spirit won't yield,
She clings to His Word more than sword or shield.
"Though all may be lost," she whispers aloud,
"My God is my shelter, my rock, my shroud."**

**As her father fights on faraway shores,
She stitches her quilts by the candle's core.
Each thread a prayer, each knot a plea,
For the souls she loves, and their families.**

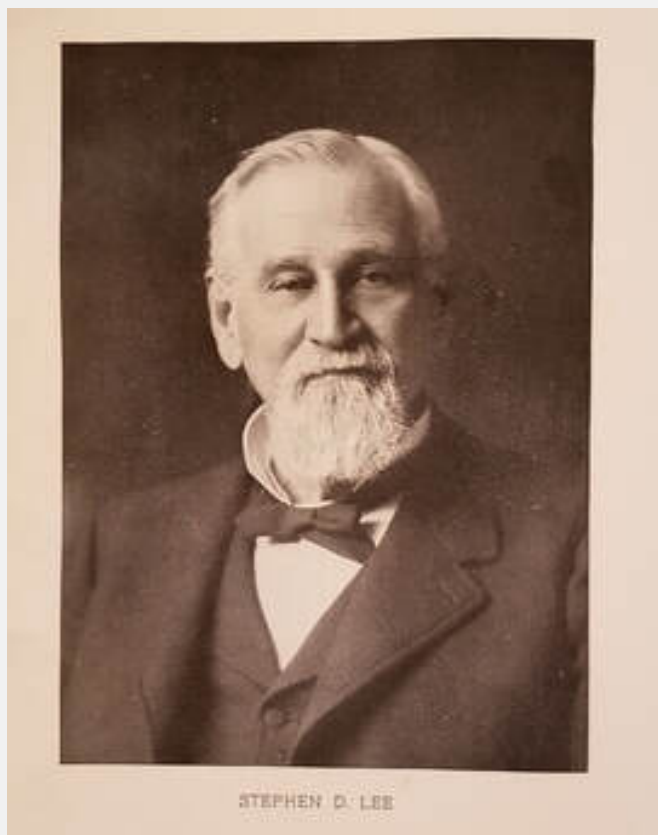
**Her hands, once delicate, now firm and true,
Tend to the wounded—do what's due.
She whispers them comfort as the hours crawl,
A balm for their pain, a gentle call.**

**Through the flames of war, her spirit stays,
A Southern belle, steadfast in her ways.
Though the world may crumble, and the war be lost,
Her heart stands firm—no matter the cost.**

**With dirt under her nails and fire in her eyes,
She watches black smoke paint those Southern skies.
No riches remain, no home to defend,
She swore she'd rise—and begin again.**



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."