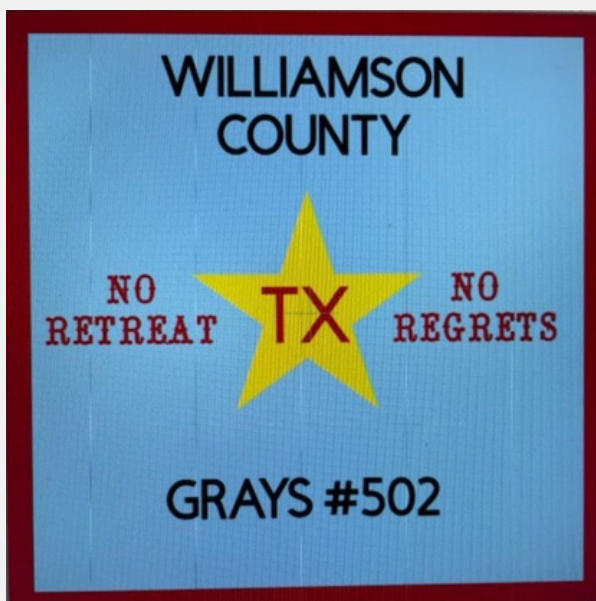




FORWARDING OUR FATHERS' FLAGS



Deo Vindice!

February 2025

Williamson County Grays Camp #502

Commander's Comments

Friends,

I have long thought about why my ancestors fought so vigorously against the North. I think it was for love. Love of the Constitution by which the States had control over their own destinies. Love of family, home, and freedom. You must remember, at the time, loyalty lay with the State you called home. And with Yankee hordes attacking the South, what else could a Southern man do? The North brought the War to our doorsteps.

Despite what the woke and leftist government would have you believe, and against the narrative being forced upon our children by the education system, we were a free and independent country with secession being a legal option. Was it for slavery? I think not! The North wanted a union based on their regional interests while the South formed its own union based on the Constitutional principles of the Founders.

Love. Why else would our ancestors have charged into cannon and musket fire or marched for miles on end, sometimes without shoes, proper clothing or provisions.? Almost always outnumbered and yet able to keep up the struggle for 4 long years. You will be told that it was so the rich could keep their slaves. Not a chance, gentlemen! It was love, love for their way of life and love of their rights that fueled their relentless fight.

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

A German In Texas

Name: Hugo H. Raven

Rank: Private, Company D, 1st Texas Mounted Riflemen

Battles & Interesting Facts: Born in 1837 in the Mecklenburg-Schwerin region of Germany. Joined the Confederacy in 1861 & again in 1862.



Texas has long been a land of opportunity, a place where men from all walks of life could make a new start. One such man was Hugo H. Raven, born in 1837 in the Mecklenburg-Schwerin region of what is now Germany. His family arrived in Texas in 1844, settling in Austin, where his father established a bookbinding business. Young Hugo worked alongside his father as a printer, embracing the culture and spirit of his new homeland.

But in 1861, as war loomed over the nation, Hugo faced a choice—one that many German Texans struggled with. Though most Germans opposed slavery, their loyalty to Texas ran deep. Out of duty to his State, Hugo enlisted in Company D of the 1st Texas Cavalry—also known as the 1st Texas Mounted Riflemen—in April of 1861. His unit saw duty at Fort Mason, guarding the Texas frontier.

In May of 1862, Hugo joined the 21st Texas Cavalry in Travis County, a regiment that would see action in some of the westernmost campaigns of the war. In 1863, the 21st Texas Cavalry took part in the Marmaduke Invasion of Missouri, pushing deep into Union-held territory. The regiment later fought in Arkansas and Louisiana, serving the Confederacy until disbanding in 1865. After the war, Hugo returned home, trading his bugle and saddle for a plow. He settled in Travis County as a farmer before moving north into Williamson County, where he lived until his passing in 1918.

Today, Hugo H. Raven rests in Round Rock Cemetery, alongside 61 other Confederate Veterans. His life reminds us that history is made up of real people—immigrants, farmers, soldiers—each with their own story of loyalty, sacrifice, and perseverance. We honor Hugo H. Raven—not just for his service, but for his unwavering devotion to the land and people he called home.

Chaplain's Corner

Dear Friends,

Christmas seems to be drifting past us and a new year and month have begun to take our attention. We can thank the Lord that we have survived the last four years which seem like a nightmare with tension everywhere and a tense battle for normalcy in a political and religious struggle. Collectively, we as a nation have entered a point in history where conservatives are challenged to wake up and smell the coffee because daily we have seen attacks on Judeo-Christian values. Not only have we seen the sad tearing down of monuments to American heroes who fought for the freedom of this nation, to an insanity of surgical removal of genitalia of children, to millions of illegal aliens, to an all-out infestation of godless and perverted tolerance of 'anything goes'.

We can be thankful of the turn out of the past election being a mandate from the American public for a stop to the insanity. We have witnessed not only history but we can all believe is that we have witnessed God's hand in the waking of Americans to the danger of radicals and leftists wanting to change the USA into a socialist, God-less, weak, silent, servile population. Now we have witnessed the start of a revival of our nation. I am personally proud of Christians everywhere praying for the nation, rising up in school districts and voter precincts and stepping forward to engage the enemy within. I have never seen in my lifetime such a talented, capable, group of nominees for an incoming administration. We must see God in all of this. We should be so very proud of our new President, Vice President, cabinet members - probably the best ever in our life time.

I know that we will have to continue this fight for the soul of the USA. We join our voices to be heard, and counted in the polling places, school boards, colleges, and everywhere. We can expect more fighting since the radical left has not given up. They are the cancer that kills a nation. We just have to look at all of the millions who were killed and enslaved from Russia, China, Cambodia, Vietnam, Ukraine, North Korea, Cuba, and more. We, as members of Sons of Confederate Veterans, can be proud of our unwavering loyalty.

However, we can be happy that we are not alone now. Together with all of the fine people who have gotten involved in local politics, from voting, to school boards and city and state government, and with God's help, we will destroy the serpent. We are not just wanting to save our nation, but we want to turn hearts back to God. We need to turn people back to God and then we as a nation will continue to prosper. Our Lord Jesus said, "Without me you can do nothing, but with me you can do all things".

"If the nation turns back to God, I will bless them exceedingly!"



Don Sawyer, Chaplain





Ask the Colonel

February's Question

Why have you suspended your Heritage Defense Operations on the Georgetown Square?

Compatriots,

Saturday, 1 February, the Williamson County Grays stood their last vigil at the Williamson County Confederate Soldiers and Sailors Memorial - for now. Beginning in June 2020, the Camp has had almost a weekly presence on the Georgetown Square. We have endured all that the radical anarchists could throw at us and did so with courage, persistence, and civility.

The public has been our greatest ally while the Williamson County Commissioners Court has bravely ignored the woke and aggressive pressure thrown at them from many sides. Of course, we could not have achieved this victory without the active participation of the Camp's men and women throughout these past 56 months. I have advised the Court that we will immediately resume our vigil if challenged by the mob and we will continue to observe our Confederate holidays and special events at the Memorial. We are hopeful that the opposition has taken note of the results of the November election and all the events since the new administration took office last month - but as my old Commander was fond of saying - "Hope is not a method." We will remain vigilant and stay true to the *The Charge*.

Thanks to each of you!

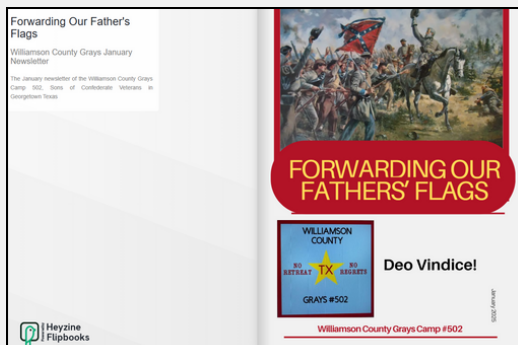
RECENT HAPPENINGS



Sheriff Matt Linderman spoke at our February Camp meeting to share his lifelong journey. From the dream of becoming a police officer to the fulfillment of that dream by serving as a Texas Ranger Lieutenant. Stating that he had seen the best & toughest sides of this State, he was ready to bring his experience and dedication to Williamson County. "Together, we'll build a safer, stronger community where justice and integrity lead the way."



John McCammon, Commander, Army of the Trans-Mississippi presented the 21st Century Heroes Award with a flag streamer to the Camp in February. This award is given to a Camp that donated a \$1,000 or more to the SCV Confederate Museum. .



Compatriot Johnny Anderson created the first-ever flipbook for the Williamson County Grays, Camp #502. This innovative flipbook allows readers to enjoy our newsletter online in a unique & engaging format. Johnny's creativity is truly remarkable & we deeply appreciate his contribution. We hope you take a moment to explore & enjoy our flipbook newsletter in the coming months.

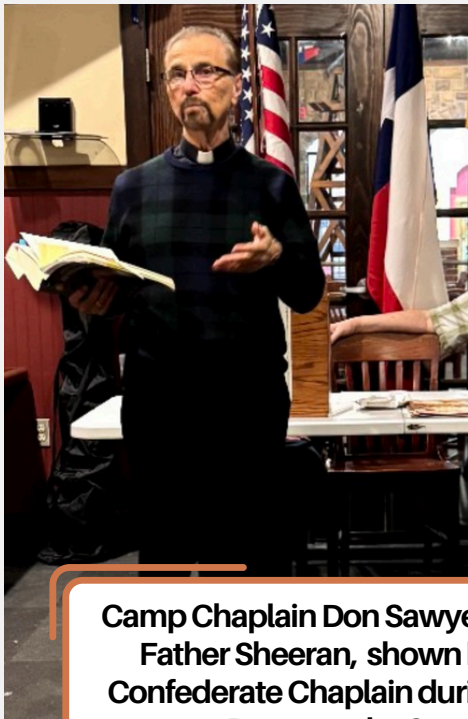
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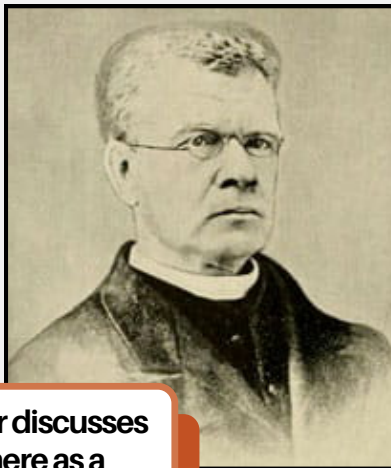
Division Commander Michael Hurley, his wife Tami (UDC), Johnny Anderson, Camp 2nd Lt. Commander, & Shelby Little, Division 1st Lt Commander, met with SCV HQ representatives at the Marriott-Hobby Hotel in Houston in preparation for the upcoming National Reunion in July. It's going to be a great gathering! Registration is open and we hope to see you all there!

RECENT HAPPENINGS

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



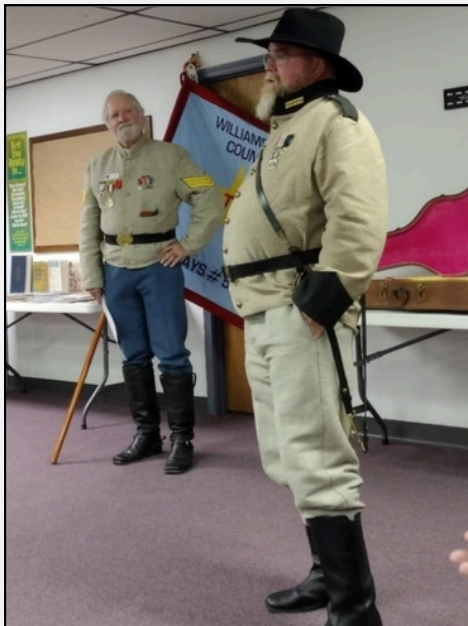
Camp Chaplain Don Sawyer discusses Father Sheeran, shown here as a Confederate Chaplain during the War Between the States.



Major Robert M. White (Temple) Camp Meeting
11 February



Compatriots Lee Wallace, Tracy Wallace, Billy Ayers, Cheryl Ayers, & Teresa Chapman attended.



Compatriot Shelby Little and Camp Commander Billy Ayers discussed Heritage Defense battle strategies at the Lee/Jackson dinner hosted by the Plemons-Shelby Camp (Amarillo)
25 January

Doesn't our new Camp flag look amazing?



We want to know!

Please submit photos & a short summary of activities you have participated in on behalf of the Camp to colskl@hotmail.com.

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.

March 2: Happy Texas Independence Day on the Square!

March 6: Camp meeting. Dinner served at 6:30 P.M.

March 29: Division Executive Council -Waco

March 30: Flagging Graves at the IOOF (Georgetown).

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

April 5: ATM Picnic in Mansfield, Louisiana

April 19: Texas Division Picnic in Mexia

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

May 3: Black Powder Shoot with the Salt Works Camp in Lampasas

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

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

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

Hattie Cluck, Legacy of a Texas Pioneer



Hattie Cluck's life is a remarkable story of grit, courage, & influence on the development of Texas. Born Harriet Louise Standefer on April 14, 1846 in Cherokee County, Alabama. She migrated to Texas as a toddler & grew up claiming Texas was the only home she had ever known.

On June 25, 1863, Hattie married George Cluck, a Confederate soldier in the Texas State Troops. Together, they faced the hardships of frontier life with unwavering resilience, building a life that spanned 57 years of marriage. Their journey was one of adventure and adversity; they fought off bandits, helped establish a city, & raised nine children. Their enduring love story is a testament to their strength and dedication as they navigated the challenges of both family and frontier life side by side.

As the first recorded woman to travel up the Chisholm Trail, Hattie made the perilous journey with George while pregnant with their fourth child, a true testament to her unyielding strength. Known for her remarkable ability to ride and shoot, she was more than capable of defending herself and her family in the rugged wilderness. Standing side by side with George, they faced the dangers of the frontier with courage and determination, never backing down from the threats that came their way. In fact, one of her most renowned feats was when she fought off a group of bandits who had targeted their herd of cattle while traveling along the Chisholm Trail. With sharp instincts and expert marksmanship, Hattie managed to fend off the attackers, saving the herd, solidifying her reputation as a courageous woman, and securing her place in history.

As the postmistress of a town called Running Brushy, Hattie once asked her son, Euell, for his thoughts on renaming the town. He suggested "Cedar Park," and the name stuck. Today, the city is known as a testament to Hattie's influence on the community and surrounding area. Hattie's legacy is celebrated today in Round Rock, Texas, where statues of her, her son, Euell, cowboys, and long horn cattle, stand at the Brushy Creek cattle crossing, honoring her contributions to the area and her incredible journey through the hardships and triumphs of the Texas frontier.

The Guest Column

"If it is a crime to love the South, its cause and its president, then I am a criminal."

...Old Capitol Prison
1862



Belle Boyd The Confederate Spy

Written by, Linda Turner

Born in 1844 in Martinsburg, Virginia, Maria Isabella Boyd, known as Belle, would live an idyllic childhood roaming the hills of Virginia, becoming an expert marksman, horsewoman, and horse fancier. Her wealthy family provided her with an excellent education, social training, and in Bella's case, a keen interest in the Southern Cause. Not classically beautiful, Belle's engaging and witty conversation skills and flirtatious nature, turned many a manly head while raising a few eyebrows among the prim and proper ladies. Assured of a well-to-do marriage and future, Belle's world changed overnight by the appearance of "those meddling Yankees." Federal troops began arriving in the Martinsburg area, much to the consternation of the town folk; especially the ladies. Union soldiers often taunted the ladies on walks or ripped down Confederate flags from their houses....so, as Belle claimed, she had no choice but to shoot the scoundrel soldier who had insulted her mother. Being a crack shot, she didn't miss. The dead soldier's mates wasted no time in reporting the incident. Following an investigation, the Union commander agreed the soldier had been out of line and no charges were forthcoming. The incident brought the Boyd family under suspicion. Belle was encouraged to move to Front Royal where relatives operated the Front Royal Hotel, a fine establishment providing rooms and meals for traveling businessmen and important government officials. It was the perfect setting for a certain clever young lady to listen and learn, watch and report. A spy was born!

Under the guise of witty conversation at dinner or riding her fine horse about the countryside, Belle noted the positions and numbers of Union troops and befriended young soldiers who either willingly or unwittingly shared information. At dinner one evening, "I heard mention of a certain Major General Shields planning a surprise attack on General Jackson's troops. As soon as I could, I saddled up and rode 15 hours to warn them....but I arrived almost too late as the armies were already positioning themselves. With no thought to my personal safety, I dismounted and ran toward the Confederate lines, across an open field, federal pickets firing, rifle balls flying about my feet, tearing my skirts. Lt Henry Douglas rescued me, took me to Col Turner Ashby, who received my hastily reported information and passed it to Jackson."

The battle raged, up and down the Front Royal main street but Jackson's troops won the day. Belle received a note of appreciation from General Jackson and was awarded the Southern Cross of Honor and an honorary Aide-de-Camp position. Belle continued to act as a courier, often using her slave, Eliza Hopewell, to deliver messages secreted in a hollowed out watch box. But her luck ran out when she was betrayed by a lover!

What happened to Belle when she was betrayed?
Find out next month when we finish the story of Belle Boyd, Confederate Spy.

CONFEDERATE ART & WRITINGS

Art: Don Troiani

"4th Tennessee Cavalry, Black Trooper, Chickamauga, Sep. 1863"



In September 1863, during the battle of Chickamauga, Colonel William S. McLeMore, Commander of the 4th Tennessee Cavalry Regiment had a black servant named Daniel McLeMore who organized a group of fellow servants into a company of between 40-50 men. They were at first ordered to guard the horses of the soldiers, but sitting out of the fighting long enough, they asked a Captain Briggs if they could participate in the fighting.

Captain Briggs recalled that "After trying to dissuade them from this, I gave in and led them up to the line of battle which was just preparing to assault Gen. Thomas' position. Thinking they would be of service in caring for the wounded, I held them close up to the line, but when the advance was ordered, the negro company became as enthused as their masters and filled a portion of the line of advance as well as any company of the regiment. While they had no guidon or muster roll, the burial after the battle of four of their number and the care of seven wounded at the hospital, told the tale of how well they had fought."

-Captain Briggs, 4th Tennessee Cavalry

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."