



# FORWARDING OUR FATHERS' FLAGS



**Deo Vindice!**

January 2025

**Williamson County Grays Camp #502**

## Commander's Comments

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New Year, New President, and New Camp Commander!  
Welcome to 2025

I have noticed that the election of President Trump has brought to many Americans, a feeling of hope and renewed optimism, especially to us Southerners who have been maligned and ridiculed for our beliefs. However, despite constant attacks from the left and the lack of support from many of our elected officials, I can proudly say that the Sons of Confederate Veterans and the Grays have stood fast in our beliefs that the South was right and that the Confederate soldier was a shining example of our founding fathers intent in regard to what it means to be an American. It is with these thoughts that I approach my duties as Camp #502's new Commander.

Local Camps are the backbone of our organization. Whether it be "guarding" our monuments, maintaining the resting places of our kin, contacting officials to further the Cause, or by supporting the various Camp, State, and National activities that we are involved in. I have stated many times, "Everybody has something to contribute."

In closing, though we are a fraternal organization, do not forget to include friends, significant others, and the children, who are going to be the next generations to Forward Our Fathers' Flags!

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

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

**Williamson County Gray's Historical Compatriots**

**A Tale of Two Little Brothers - Ancestors (Great Uncles) of Shelby Little**

**Name:** Edward P. Little

**Rank:** Private

**Unit:** Company C, 28th Tennessee Infantry

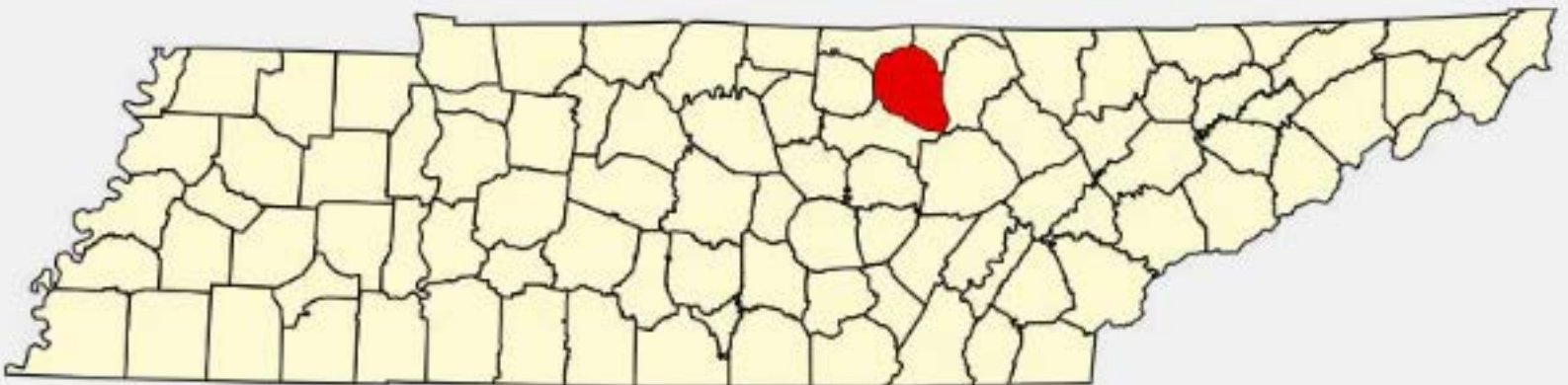
**Battles & Interesting Facts:** Enlisted 5 September 1861 in Overton County, Tennessee at age 20. His first battle at Fishing Creek (Mill Springs, Logan's Crossroads), Kentucky in January 1862 would be his last. He was mortally wounded and died in a Yankee field hospital; buried on the field.

**Name:** Arthur D. Little

**Rank:** Corporal

**Unit:** Company C, 28th Tennessee Infantry

**Battles & Interesting Facts:** Younger brother of Edward. Enlisted 10 September 1861 in Overton County, Tennessee at age 19. Fought at Fishing Creek, Shiloh, Murfreesboro, and Chickamauga (September 1863) where he was killed in action and buried on the field.



**Overton County, Tennessee**

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## Chaplain's Corner

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Dear Friends,

I just put down the January/February 2025 Confederate Veteran magazine in which I was reading fascinating articles from Lt. Commander-in-Chief Anthony M. Griffin, "Forward the Colors" by Paul C. Graham, "Membership as Christian Witness" by Rev. Dr. Tom Hiter, and "Reconstruction, the Southern Resistance Movement" by James Ronald Kennedy. These articles not only reinforced the truth about the South's war for independence but also explains the truth of the Southern states desire for independence and the intent of the power elites to create an empire at the cost of the American Constitution, the lives hundreds of thousands of soldiers and Southern people.

While I was reading this, I remembered talks given by men of our Camp which explained the industrialization of the USA with the proceeds of the Opium Wars in China where British and Americans pushed opium on the populace of China for profits which later helped to finance New England factories. By the way, China has not forgotten this and we are seeing paybacks by their activities of our drug problems.. I also recall a talk given at one of our Camp's meetings in which we heard of the French Revolution which pulled down Christianity for the Goddess of Reason in which a common prostitute was enthroned on the high Altar in the iconic Notre Dame Cathedral as the same Goddess.

When we study the so-called Age of Enlightenment, it was anything but enlightenment. It too wanted to pull down Christianity and push atheism and man's capability to become God. It taught that real enlightenment was man seeing that he has all the capabilities and power to become God Himself. It was championed in all of the highest circles of royalty and the upper classes. It, like the Age of Reason, was doomed for failure, but in the aftermath it brought atheism, wars, and destruction with a lingering disconnect of individuals from Christianity and the seeking of God's blessing and will. It was thoroughly anti-Christian. We live in the inheritance of all of the effects of these failed ideologies. And ultimately, Wokeism is an attribute of Godlessness and the dehumanizing of man and control imposed from government!

Gentlemen, we all attempt to make the true story of the Civil War known by friends, families, and all others. Wokeism has infiltrated the education systems of this nation and has twisted the real history of the War for Southern Freedom Into calling anything Confederate as being racist and anti-democratic bigotry and a threat to America. What we must realize is that we are Christian witnesses to the Truth, the Truth of Christ and his Church. Being at the monument on Saturdays, placing flags on the graves of our Veterans, and teaching the truths of the War for Southern independence is actually being true to our Judeo-Christian values. Surely, we are involved. not by chance, but by a belief in each of us that we have been called by God to make the truth known - to tell the real story! As Rev. Dr. Tom Hiter says in his article, "We are an organization of Christian men."

 Don Sawyer, Chaplain 



# **Ask the Colonel**

## **January's Question**

How are we doing  
Generals Lee?

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**Compatriots,**

Each January we celebrate Confederate Heroes Day in Texas. Established by the Texas Legislature in 1930, 19 January was selected to honor the birthday of General Robert E. Lee and the memory of the tens of thousands of Texas men and women who answered the call for independence. In 1906, General Stephen D. Lee authored "The Charge", calling on the descendants of those brave patriots to vindicate the Cause for which they had fought. These Confederate officers were, indeed, conspicuous heroes - just like the men they led into battle. So, how are we doing in fully appreciating the courage and sacrifice of our forefathers? What are we doing, collectively and individually, to vindicate the Cause for which they fought? This is a new year, one full of promise and opportunity for us and those who believe as we do. Resolve now to truly make this a New Year, Compatriots!

**Happy 218th Birthday, General Lee!**

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# RECENT HAPPENINGS

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



**Trans-Mississippi Army  
Commander, John Mc-  
Cammon came to visit the  
Wilco Grays in January 2025.**

**Commander Billy Ayers, 1st Lt.  
Cdr Johnny Anderson, and  
Compatriot Shelby Little receive  
their Guardian awards at the DEC  
meeting on January 4, 2025**



# RECENT HAPPENINGS



## Camp Change of Command Ceremony

6th Brigade Commander Mackey Fair (far right) administers the Oath of Office. L-R are 2nd Lt. Cdr Tracy Wallace, Camp Commander Billy Ayers, 1st Lt. Cdr Johnny Anderson, and flag bearer Compatriot Shelby Little.



Previous Camp Commander Lee Wallace and 2nd Lt. Cdr Tracy Wallace attend Our Lady's Maronite Catholic Church to hear Camp Chaplain & Chorbishop Don Sawyer.



Some Camp members attend the Austin Civil War Roundtable and learned about Colonel William Barksdale and the Battle of Fredericksburg from Frank O'Reilly, Historian for the Fredericksburg and Spotsylvania National Battlefield

# 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.

**January, 2025:** Lee/Jackson Dinners - Waco, Gatesville, Temple, Amarillo.

**January 19:** Confederate Heroes Day Observance on the Square.

**February 6:** There is a new Sheriff in town, and you have the opportunity to meet with him during our Camp meeting in February. Former Texas Ranger Matt Lindemann will share with us his hopes and plans for Williamson County under his administration. Dinner is served at 6:30 P.M.

**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.

**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.



# CONFEDERATE ART & WRITING

## **"Crowned with Glory"** By Michael Gnatek



## Ladies Corner

### Narrative: "Crowned with Glory"

The colonel pointed his gleaming sword  
to where the Yankee cannon roared.

"That battery! We've got to charge it!  
Guide on the center, Color Sergeant!"

As the mottled ranks of brown and gray  
lined in neatly ordered array,  
the Color Sergeant strode to the fore,  
where all could see the flag he bore.

Pure white stars on a cross of blue  
fluttered on the bright red furls that flew,  
full of hope and aspiration,  
the defiant symbol of a proud new nation.

Frayed and ragged and battle scarred,  
escorted by an eight man Color Guard,  
it led the way across that flaming field  
where Yankee guns stood wheel to wheel.

Bullets and shells began to whine &  
tore great gaps in the rebel line  
The colonel reeled, the sergeant fell dead,  
cut down in the hail of whistling lead.

The regiment staggered and began to waver,  
except a young corporal, who was a little  
braver.

Tearing the flag from his dead brother's grasp  
"Come'on" he rasped.

The sight of that boy waving the flag on its  
pole,

was enough to stir every Southerner's soul.  
Raising their fearsome Rebel yell,  
they charged into that man-made hell.

The Corporal led them at a run  
into the mouths of those blazing guns.  
Rushing headlong into the enemy's midst  
They fought with clubbed muskets,  
bayonets, and fists.

When it was over, the boy paused to rest  
cradling the flag up close to his chest.  
A simple bandage was soaked with red,  
where a Yankee bullet had creased his  
head.

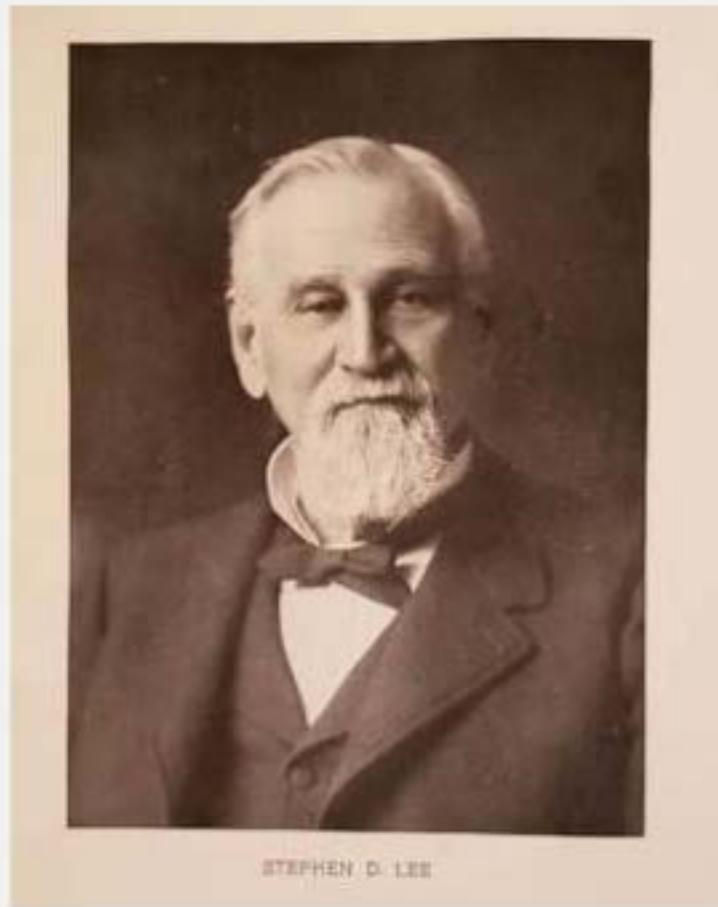
It might have been Shiloh, Atlanta, or  
Antietam.

Johnny Reb would follow  
if the flag was there to lead 'em.

That bullet riddled banner  
told a brave man's story,  
the bloody rag wrapped 'round his head  
became a crown of glory.



# 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."**