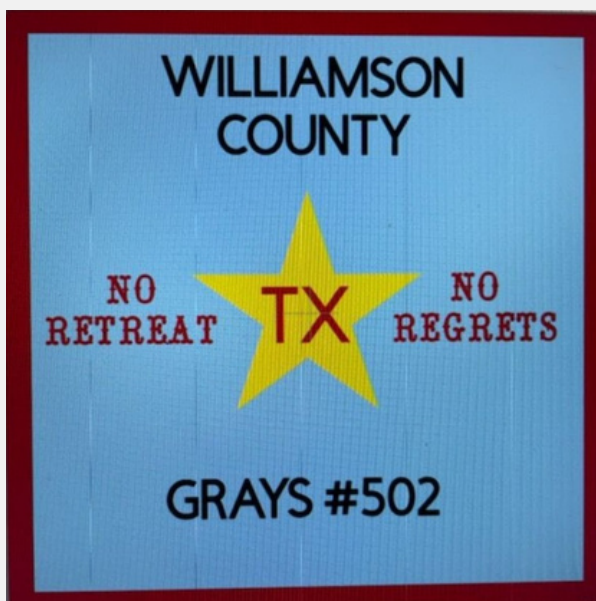




# FORWARDING OUR FATHERS' FLAGS



**Deo Vindice!**

March 2025

**Williamson County Grays Camp #502**

## Commander's Comments

---

Friends,

What we are going to talk about is not directed at any one individual, nor is it directed at any group. Let's start by saying, "Everyone can contribute!" I have said it many times and am not sure whether it is falling on deaf ears or compatriots that don't believe it to be true or both.

I acknowledge that we are a volunteer organization with free will in our participation. However, I can attest that you get out of the group what you put into it. Here are a few things for thought. At a bare minimum attend our Camp meetings. This is the foundation of the SCV. Don't be shy about speaking your mind or offering ideas. Everybody has a say!

With our diversity and different backgrounds, I am certain that there is a way for everyone to participate. For those who may be older or immobile, send out e-mails or give out words of encouragement to members who are able to do more. Those who are able, should attend events sponsored by other Camps, participate in local, State and National events put on by the SCV. Something as simple as a small presence in a local parade will provide invaluable exposure for the organization.

A final thought. Our kinfolds and Southern brothers were part of one of the greatest and most noble fighting forces to ever take the field of battle, true defenders of the Constitution. Let us not falter in our duty to defend their good name and allow their sacrifices to become a forgotten footnote in history.

*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 connection between Tennessee and Texas

Name: James H. Faubion

Rank: Private, Company C, 26th Tennessee Infantry Regiment

Battles & Interesting Facts: Born on August 30, 1844 near Parrottsville, Tennessee



James H. Faubion, a prominent Central Texas legislator, was born in 1844 in Cocke County, Tennessee. At the age of 17 (his muster roll card says 18), he joined Company C of the 26th Tennessee Infantry as a Private. Faubion was captured in 1862 when Fort Donelson fell and spent eight months at the Camp Morton POW Camp in Indiana. Upon his release and the regiment's reorganization, he went on to fight at the Battles of Stone's River (after which he was promoted to 1st Sergeant), Chickamauga, Lookout Mountain, Missionary Ridge, and Atlanta.

At the close of the war, Faubion moved to Leander, Texas where he farmed, raised cattle, and ran a lumber, hardware, and furniture business. In 1884, Faubion was elected as a State Representative in the Seventy-eighth District. He later became the President of the Farmers Insurance Company. He is remembered as a Tennessean, prisoner of war, farmer, politician, and a true hero of the South. James H Faubion is buried in the Bagdad Cemetery in Leander.

---



## Chaplain's Corner

---

Dear Friends,

The book entitled "Reconstruction, Destroying the Republic and Creating an Empire by James Ronald Kennedy is a must read not only for Sons of Confederates Veterans, but also anyone interested in American history, current affairs and politics.

As I young boy, I and my siblings heard from our grandparents stories about the Civil War and our family's role on behalf of the Confederacy. Growing up, I had a keen interest in reading more about the War because what I learned in school never answered my questions of "Why the War?" or "Why did the South secede from the USA? Things did not make sense to me. I was fascinated reading on facsimile Confederate notes that it read, "Six months after ratification of of peace between the Confederate States of America and the United States of America, the Confederate States of America will pay the bearer on demand ..... Dollars".

I began to realize that the Confederates were not after destroying the USA, but were looking for peace. This began my interest and understanding. While reading Mr. James R. Kennedy's book, I came to understand the reason for the war and the indelible destruction to democracy of the United States of America and the current state of our nation, including wokeism, huge deficits, government overreach, and control of all aspects of our nation. I recommend this book to everyone because Mr. Kennedy paints the Reconstruction in all of its realities. It may be said that Reconstruction of the South may have been worse than the War. It also explains the unplanned growth of a centralized government by big businesses, special interests, and financiers in ways that the Founding Fathers never planned! The never wanted an over-grown centralized government. They saw that the States were the ones to control the federal government and gave certain limited powers to that government.

It is said that "The winner of a war, writes the history of the war". This is an understatement. President Lincoln ignored the civil rights of people and State governments, imprisoned State lawmakers and judges who dared to speak out against his actions, ignored the American Constitution, and concurred with the devastation that his generals and troops waged against the Southern people, their homes, cities, property, and lives. Mr. Kennedy shows how the War and subsequent reconstruction of the Southern States was the beginning of America's imperialism which was led by industrialists and financiers of the so-called Golden Ages like the Rockefellers, Carnegie, J.P. Morgan, and Vanderbilt.

Now, what we see, in the overwhelming victory of conservatism, is a reaction to the government that Lincoln and his backers created - an oppressive beast with a never-ending hunger to take away people's lives and rights for the benefit of the few. With the new administration we see hope for the people and perhaps a return to a less powerful centralized federal government and stronger State governments.



Don Sawyer, Chaplain





# Ask the Colonel

## March's Question

What role did women  
play in War for  
Southern  
Independence?

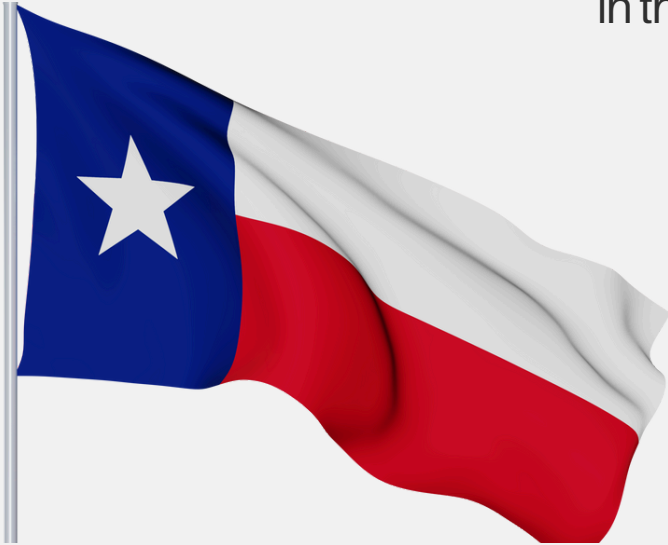
---

March has been designated as Women's History Month in America and there is so much to tell about their contributions to our State and Nation. No, gentlemen, they are **not** the weaker sex! Throughout our history, they have stood by their men, for their men, and many times, in lieu of their men. They have been regaled in song and literature for their courage and sacrifices. I think about that song "*This Woman is a Soldier, Too*" that kinda sums up what they can do. Our Southern women exemplified that character and those qualities in the extraordinary and dangerous circumstances of that War. They are no less courageous today, gentlemen. They are a critical part of our support, both individually and collectively. How is your Camp utilizing this valuable asset?

---

# 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.



Williamson County Grays Camp #502 celebrated Texas Independence & Secession Day (2 March) on the Georgetown Square. In 1836, Texas declared independence from Mexico. Texians and Tejanos won their independence at the Battle of San Jacinto and Texas became a Republic. Texas went on to join the U.S. as the 28th State in 1845. Texas withdrew from the Union in 1861 and joined the new Confederate States of America.

## Committee Meetings

These committees have met over the last month. Please let us know if you are interested in joining one of these committees.

**February 21/March 14 - Awards Committee:** Reviews and applies for awards for individual members and for the Camp.

**March 3 - Cemetery/Graves Committee:** Plans for and executes identification and location of Civil War Veterans burials, maintenance of gravesites, cleaning and repair of grave markers, and requesting VA markers for unmarked Veteran graves.



## Legislative Action:

The 89th Texas Legislature is in session and, as in previous sessions, Bills have been introduced for Monument Protection and to abolish or change the name of Confederate Heroes Day. Identical Protection Bills have been introduced in the Texas Senate by Senator Brandon Creighton (District 4 - SB 317) and in the Texas House of Representatives by Representative Stan Gerdes (District 17- HB 3227). All SCV members, families, and friends should contact and thank these gentlemen, then contact their own Texas Senators and Representatives to support these important Bills. This year may be our best chance to finally getting a Monument Protection Bill passed. At this point we are not too concerned about losing Confederate Heroes Day. In past sessions, these Bills have never made it out of committee.

---

**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](mailto: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 20:** Austin Civil War Round Table

**March 29:** Division Executive Council -Waco

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

**April:** Confederate History and Heritage Month

**April 5:** ATM Picnic in Mansfield, Louisiana

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

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

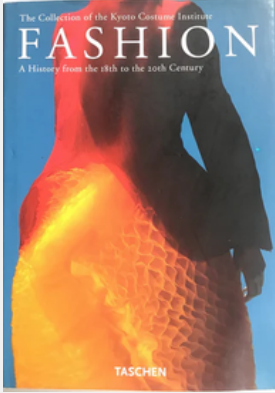
**June 6-8:** Texas Division Reunion in Mineral Wells. More information can be found at: <https://scvtexas.org/event/texas-division-reunion-2025/>.

**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



Fashion Examples.  
Available on Amazon.



Crotchless Pantaloons



Southern Ball Gowns

Ladies,

The Texas and National SCV Reunions are bringing elegance to life with a formal ball. Your stunning historical dresses straight out of the 19th century will fit right in. As you prepare for this enchanting evening, here's what you need to know about the ball gowns of the era!

1. **The Dress:** Go big! Go Fancy! Nothing is too outrageous or ostentatious. Natural fibers tend to breath better. The dress should not touch the floor once it is on with a hoop skirt, otherwise you risk tripping yourself or your partner during dancing! The right underpinnings, like hoop skirts, will not only keep your gown perfectly in place but they add to the drama and elegance of the evening. Your unmentionables are truly the secret to comfort and style! For affordable, yet stunning dresses that you can adapt to your style check Victorian Choice or Etsy.
2. **Unmentionables and Underthings:** Wear historically accurate unmentionables. For example, crotchless pantaloons. Nothing says classy like built in air-conditioning and effortless bathroom breaks. The lift and squat technique of crotchless pantaloons will keep you cool and efficient.
3. **Hoop skirts versus crinoline:** Hoop skirts can be 3 to 6 layers. Crinolines often give the same shape without the size. Take a look at both and think about how wide of a circle you would like to have. Hoops can be expanded or taken in easily. Crinolines are one size. Both come in natural fibers or polyester. In my experience, the natural fibers breathe the best.
4. **Hair:** Parted in the middle, usually a low bun with or without ringlets. Accessories include ribbons, snoods, hair pins, and other accessories designed to keep your hair tidy and secure while socializing and dancing.
5. **Shoes:** Flats. Square toes are most historically accurate. But, in today's world, a pair of comfortable ballet shoes or other type flats work as a great substitution.

Written by Teresa Chapman

---





# The Guest Column

## Conclusion: Belle Boyd The Confederate Spy

Written by Linda Turner

Belle was betrayed by a lover and sent to the Old Capitol Prison in Washington, D.C. Not a model prisoner, Belle was released in a prisoner swap. After her release, three Allan Pinkerton detectives followed her resulting in another arrest. This time, a typhoid fever outbreak won her release.

"If it is a crime to love the South, its Cause and its President, then I am a criminal." ...Old Capitol Prison 1862. In 1864, Belle attempted to sail to England but was stopped by a Union blockade and sent to Canada. There she met and married a Union naval officer who arranged a successful trip to England for her where Belle gave birth to her first daughter. She tried her hand at acting by offering dramatic readings based on her own *"The Perils of a Spy"* with moderate success. In 1866, her husband died (or maybe she left him?), so Belle sailed back to Canada and eventually returned to Front Royal.

Belle graced the stage again with dramatic portrayals of a somewhat embellished tale of her adventures as a spy and prisoner using the stage name, Nina Benjamin. In 1869, while performing in New Orleans, she met her second husband with whom she had four children. Sixteen years later she divorced him and only a few months later, married a young actor 17 years her junior. This young man required Belle's financial support so she went back to performing. At age 56, on June 11, 1900, while waiting to take the stage in Kilbourn, Wisconsin, Belle Boyd died of a heart attack. Members of the Grand Army of the Republic served as pallbearers at her funeral.

And so, *"La Belle Rebelle"*, *"Siren of the Shenandoah"*, *"Cleopatra of Secession"*, *"Rebel Joan of Arc"*, and the *"Amazon of Secession"* lies quietly in the Spring Grove Cemetery so very far away from her beloved Virginia hills beneath a simple gravestone that reads:

Belle Boyd  
Confederate Spy  
Born Virginia Died Wisconsin  
Erected by a comrade

A spy, an unconventional life, lived as Belle herself said, "I allowed but one thought to keep possession of my mind – the thought that I was doing all a woman could do for my country's Cause."

Deo Vindici

Sources: Belle Boyd in Camp and Prison (personal memoirs, 1867) Brother Against Brother (Front Royal and Warren Heritage Society) Abbott, Karen (2014) Liar, Temptress, Soldier, Spy: 4 Women Undercover in the Civil War

---

# CONFEDERATE ART & WRITINGS

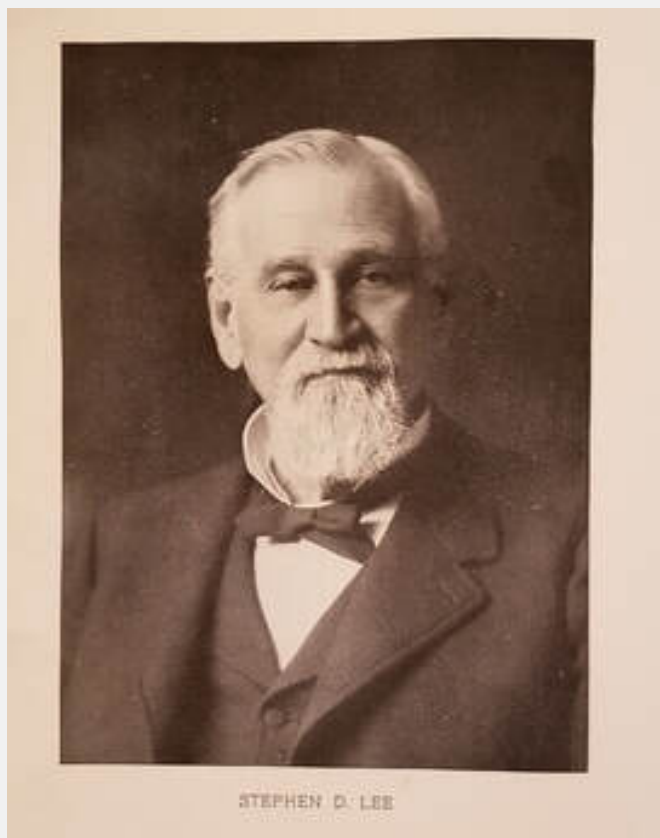
Artist: Unknown. Color Bearer of the 10th Tennessee Infantry Regiment  
Happy Saint Patrick's Day!



Monaghan's Lament  
By Jed Barum

*It was just outside of Shepherdstown, late in August '64,  
A thousand miles from New Orleans, a thousand days at war.  
We had spent our weight in heroes gold, we had spent our dash and hope.  
We had nothing left but war and death, so we gave them Yankees both.  
In a thunderous din of doom and death, federal cavalry drove the field  
and in a thunderous wave of lead and lust, we leveled and they reeled.  
In a counter-charge, we cut them down, dead and dying strewn the sand,  
and the cost was dear for one of our own, Colonel Billy Monaghan.  
A thousand miles from New Orleans, in the cold Virginia sand,  
we buried Billy Monaghan. But another Irish Warrior in the ground.  
Another brave Confederate Martyr is heaven bound.  
God bless you, Billy Monaghan, may your name forever stand,  
among the heroes of New Orleans, favored son of Ireland.*

# 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."**