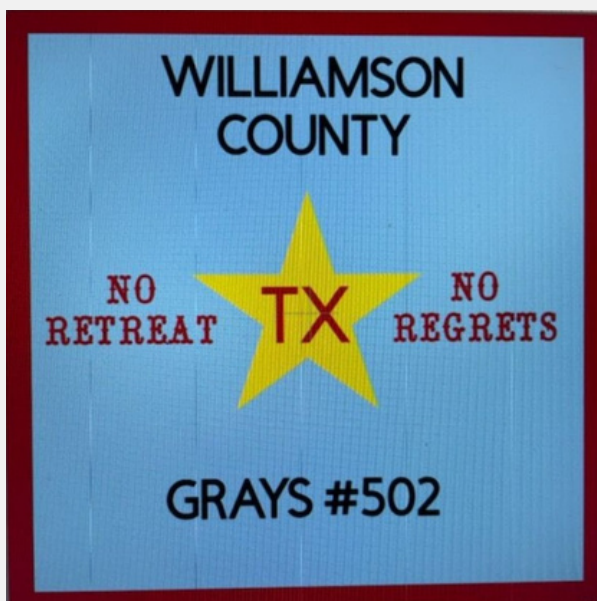




FORWARDING OUR FATHERS' FLAGS



Deo Vindice!

November 2024

Williamson County Grays Camp #502

Commander's Comments

Welcome to November,

I'm writing this before the election so I can only pray that God's will be done. If it goes badly, remember that our forefathers survived Reconstruction. We will survive too. The principles of Constitutional Liberty will survive with us. Constitutional Liberty is what the true history of why the South fought. While on the Square, we tell people our true history because they want to know how to resist the slanders of woke, fake history. The wokies haven't debated us in over a year. I'm thankful to y'all who come out to support us. For October we've had Billy, Mackey, Reese, Grant, Randall, Raymond, Jim Pederson, Shelby, Tracy, and me. I always enjoy y'all's company.

I didn't make the Black Powder Shoot with the Lampasas Camp, but i heard we were well represented. I also heard a rumor that Johnny Anderson shot better than Cheryl. I don't believe it! Shelby and Teresa gave the talk to the Temple Camp this month. Michael Axelrod, Tracy, and me joined Shelby at the Austin Civil War Round Table for a talk on the naval situation in the first months of the war.

Action Steps:

- Talk to family & friends about joining or supporting our Camp & the positive aspects of our Southern culture.
- Support candidates who respect Constitutional Government.
- Volunteer for campaigns or conservative nonprofits, and find ways to make a difference.

Reminder: The Texas Division is hosting the SCV National Reunion in July of 2025. .
Make plans to be there!

Update: The elections are over and we all have reason to believe that better days are ahead!

Lee Wallace - Camp Commander

Honoring Our Camp Heroes

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

Compatriot Raymond Merritt's CSA ancestors.

Name: Hugh Harlton Merritt

Rank: Private

Unit: Co H, 41st Mississippi Infantry

Battles: Chickamauga, Murfreesboro, Missionary Ridge, & Perryville.

Interesting Fact: His older brother, Harvey, was in the same unit and was mortally wounded at Chickamauga.

Marriage: Hugh married Rhoda Isabelle Jackson Merritt. Hugh was born in 1841 and Rohad was born in 1850. They had at least 8 eight children together. Rhoda passed away in 1899 at the young age of 48. Hugh lived on until 1922 when he passed away at 81 years of age.



Hugh Harlton Merritt and his wife, Rhoda Isabelle Jackson Merritt

Courtesy of Find A Grave:

<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/41609015/hugh-harlton-merritt>

Chaplain's Corner

Dear brothers in Gray,

We certainly live in an interesting time in history. We went through the Covid years to be assaulted with wokeism in the past four years and when things seem to be getting worse, America voted for conservative candidates for our new President and Vice President, which has renewed so much new hope.

We must remember what Saint Peter writes in his second letter chapter 2 . . .
“and among you also will be false teachers who will smuggle in pernicious heresies. They will go so far as to deny the Master who acquired them for his own, thereby bringing on themselves swift disaster. Their lustful ways will lure many away.”. 2nd Peter, 2: 1-2

Peter warns us again in 3: 3-7, “note this first of all: in the last days, mocking, sneering men who are fueled by their passions will arrive on the scene. They will ask: “Where is that promised coming of his? . . . The present heavens and earth are reserved by God’s word for fire, they are kept for the day of judgement the day when godless men will be destroyed.”

He then states in 3: 12, “You ought to live holy and godly lives as you look for the coming of the day of God and speed to hasten it!” He concludes, saying in 3: 17-18, “You are forewarned beloved brothers. Be on your guard lest you be led astray by the error of the wicked and forfeit the security you enjoy. Grow rather in grace and in the knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Glory be to him now and to the day of eternity! Amen.”

Let us remember in our struggles to keep the Confederate monuments and the values of our forefathers. 1) Our battle is a part of the larger battle that is going on. 2) God is heavily involved with this battle and we can see His hand in our country. Be cheerful, confident, strong! It is because the Lord is leading us into battle! God is with us!



Don Sawyer, Co-Chaplain





Ask the Colonel

November's Question

What is leadership?

Upcoming Discussion Topics

- Leadership
- Membership Participation
- Recruiting & Retention

Compatriots,
Last month I posed the question "What are the greatest threats facing the SCV?" I linked this question to America's plight. At this writing, the election is over and it is clear, from a national perspective, that the American people believe that strong leadership does matter! In our Camps we must have the same resolve - electing Leaders who have a clear focus on our Mission as stated in *The Charge*, have the personal qualities of decisiveness, communication skills, and organizational ability. Perhaps the critical factor is time. Without it, all the great ideas and personal skills are severely handicapped. You simply cannot lead by example if you're not there with "the troops". Most of us have had enough life experiences to know exactly what I mean. Leaders set the "tone" for the organization. Men will willingly follow Leaders they perceive as competent, caring, and trustworthy, but will not go "above and beyond" for those who are "leaders by position" only. At the November meeting we elected new Camp officers for 2025. They are good men and will need our support and counsel as we face new challenges in the coming year.

RECENT HAPPENINGS

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



Compatriot Dustin Lauw & his wife Cheryl Lauw volunteered to portray Confederate soldier and cattleman John Snyder & his wife Catherine Jane Coffee Snyder for a Cemetery Tours program in Georgetown. John, a rugged figure known for his cattle ranching, shared tales of frontier life, while Catherine recounted the lives of the Snyders buried in the I.O.O.F. cemetery. Together, they wove a story of Texas pioneers & the families who shaped our region.

Other Compatriots included Billy and Cheryl Ayers who portrayed Colonel John T. Coffee and his wife Eunice Margaret Amelia Allen Coffee; and Shelby Little and Teresa Chapman who portrayed Captain Dudley Snyder and his wife Mary Ann Oatts Snyder.



About a dozen Williamson County Grays participated in the Salt Works Camp's 1st Annual Black Powder Shoot in San Saba. Pictured here are Johnny Anderson who took first place overall (yes, he out-shot Cheryl which is quite a feat!), & Jake Haugh and Billy Ayers who took first place on various shooting rounds. All in all it was a great day with lots of friendship, food, and guns! We are already looking forward to next year's event.



Williamson County Grays Camp #502 members enjoy dinner at the Cotton Patch before giving a presentation on Heritage Defense for the Major Robert M. White Camp October meeting in Temple. Shown are Shelby Little, Tracy Wallace, Lee Wallace, & Jim Pederson.

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.

November 11: Veterans Day - We'll be on the Square.

December 5, 2024: Our annual Christmas gathering with gifts and prizes.

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!

June 6-8, 2025: Texas Division Reunion in Mineral Wells, Texas. Let us know if you would like to share a ride to the event. 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

Cheryl Ayers

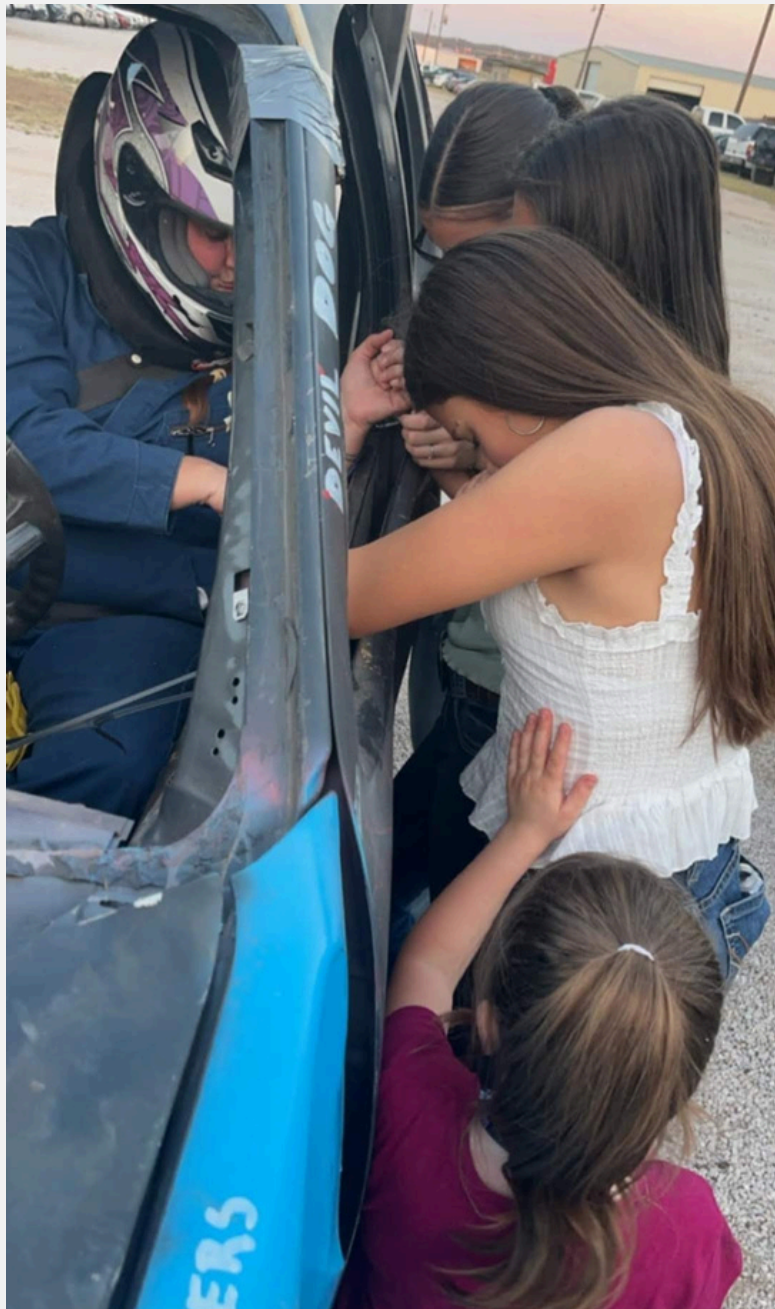
Brave, Bold, & Brief in the Demolition Derby

Cheryl Ayers might not have lasted long in the Burnet, Texas Demolition Derby, but boy, did she make an entrance. With a prayer and brave heart, she revved her engine &, with a look of sheer determination, she punched the gas to enter the crash, bang em' up, fighting ring.

Her family cheered as she charged into the ring like a bull on roller skates—only to get pancaked by a group of more experienced demolition drivers a half minute later. One, two, three times, Cheryl held on through multiple hits, spinning around to face off with her competitors .

Ultimately, her vehicle was shoved into a dirt berm from which Cheryl was unable to extract herself.

“YOLO!” Cheryl yelled from the wreckage, her thumbs up in the air letting everyone know she was alright. She may not have taken home a trophy, but she surely won the award for most fearless.



CONFEDERATE ART & WRITING

The Gray Wall

By Don Troiani



Confederate infantrymen from the Army of Tennessee in late 1864 or early 1865. Late in the War, with the outcome almost certain and their ranks depleted by casualties, the heartiest of these men fought on. Stubborn, defiant, but most of all brave and loyal to the Cause they believed in, they continued to fight to the very end. Deo Vindice!

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 Soldier’s 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.”