

[View this email in your browser](#)



Gen. Felix H. Robertson Camp 129
Waco, TX



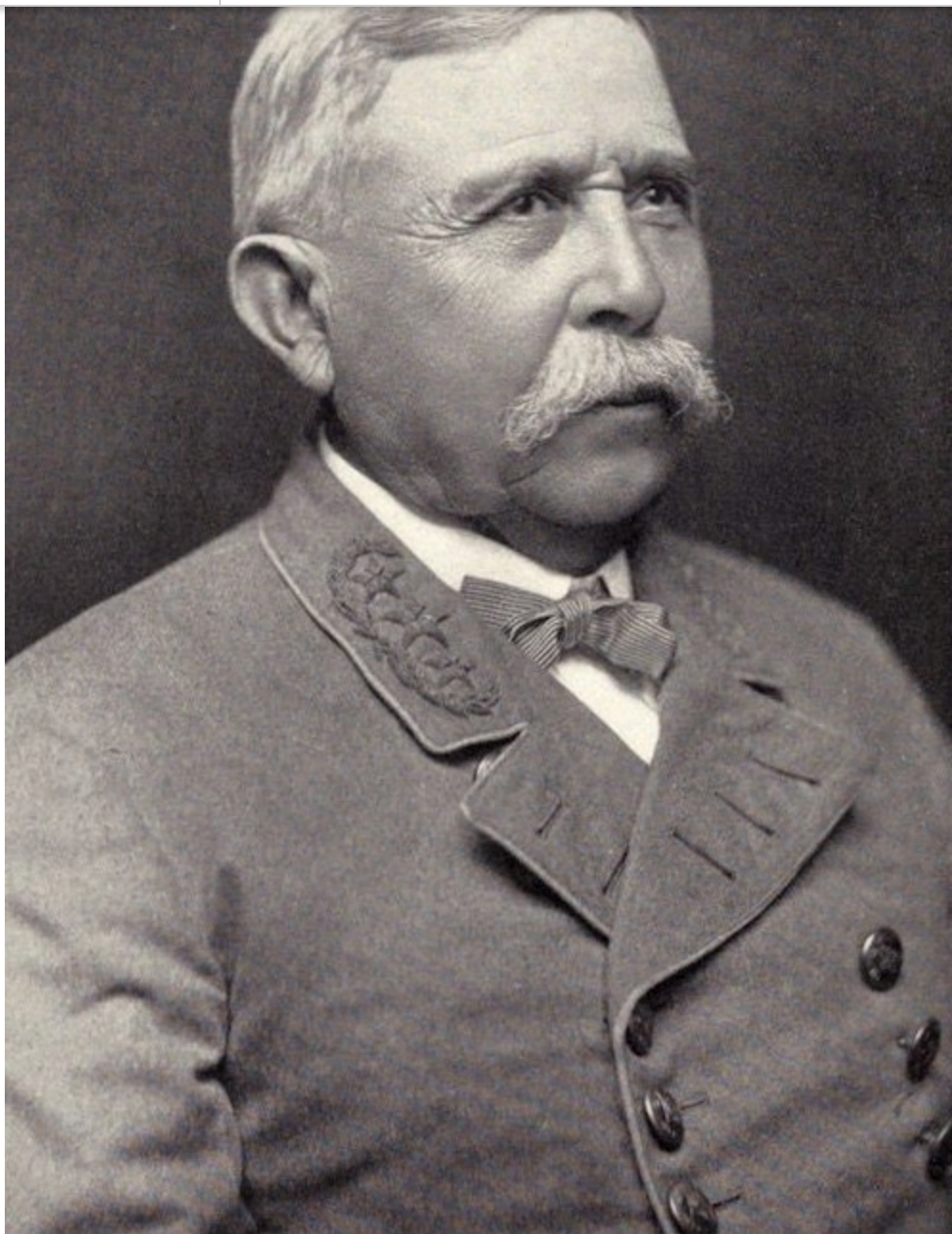
August 2024 Newsletter

ATTENTION!

The General Felix H. Robertson #129 Camp **WILL NOT** meet on Tuesday, August 13, at Poppa Rollo's. Instead, the camp will meet at noon on Saturday, August 17, at the Pearce Museum located at Navarro College in Corsicana. Admission is \$8.00 for adults; \$6.00 for 55 or over. They do have a gift shop. The museum closes at 4:00 p.m. We will resume our monthly meetings at Poppa Rollo's on September 10.

"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."

Lt. Gen. Stephen D. Lee



Pictured above is the namesake of our Great Camp, Brig. Gen. Felix Huston Robertson. Much can be said about this great general in his service during and after the war in Texas. He was the only general who was a native-born Texan. Not only that, but he and his father, Jerome Bonaparte Robertson, were the only other father-son generals on either side of the war besides Gen. Robert E. Lee and his sons. After the war, Robertson chose Waco as his permanent home. He began to study and practice law, while also being inspirational in the area to stand up against the Yankee invasion known as Reconstruction. He passed away on April 20, 1928, and was buried in Oakwood Cemetery in Waco. He left behind one last legacy as being the last surviving Confederate General.



by Bobby Fears

Greetings, fellow Southern patriots!

I don't know about you all, but this July has been cooler than recent summers.

Don't get me wrong, it hits the hot mark, but I just hope August is merciful!

This month, on August 17th at noon, we will meet at the Pearce Museum in Corsicana on the campus of Navarro College. The museum opens at noon and closes at 4:00 pm. The costs are 8\$ for adults and 6\$ for 55 and over.

Amongst the variety of exhibits is the CW one, where over 15,000 documents, letters, and other items are displayed. The contact info and location are as follows:

3100 W. Collin St.

Corsicana, TX 75110

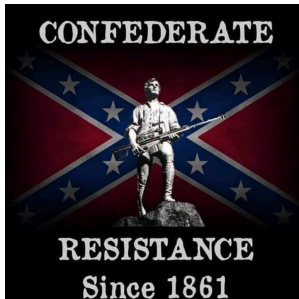
903-875-7438

pearcemuseum@navarrocollege.edu

Let me know if you need a ride, and I will do my best to hook you up!

I look forward to seeing you all there!

DEO VINDICE!



Lt. Commander's Comments

by Markham Dossett

As we approach the end of summer and the end of this election cycle, we should all examine how our vote will further the goals of our ancestors who fought for the CONFEDFERACY. I believe they held STATES RIGHTS, Individual LIBERTY, Capitalism and the Second Amendment at the top of their list.

The SCV is not a political organization and does not endorse any candidate. However, I have never seen such a stark difference in Candidates and Parties as I see today in this election. I think most of us who are active in SCV probably see these differences very clearly. One

State Rep, and Governor have discovered this while doing voter turnout research. So, we all have two jobs this fall. Find one friend to attend our meetings, join SCV, and get ALL your friends who hunt and fish to register to vote.

2nd Lt. Commander's Comments

by John Dickey

THE LITTLE GUN COMPANY THAT COULD

During the War, a vast number of gun manufacturers were literally standing in line, offering their weapons to either side, and sometimes both. New innovations and ideas were introduced that were highly successful or highly unsuccessful.

One of the lesser-known companies was J.H. Dance & Brothers, located in Columbia, Texas. They made revolvers that were, for the longest time, private custom orders only. And it wasn't long before their reputation and quality spread across the State.

The company was originally making steam engines, while some of the brothers decided to make a few custom revolvers for their family and friends. Just before the War began, they stepped up the gun manufacturing to where they were one of the most important gun manufacturers in Texas and for the Confederacy.

Production was briefly hampered when four of the brothers enlisted in the 35th Texas Cavalry. However, on May 1, 1862, three of the brothers were detached to the factory and began searching in earnest to find at least 35 "gunsmiths" to meet the supply requests that were coming in.

In 1862, they petitioned Governor Lubbock for \$5000 to increase the size of their facility and raise the production level of their revolvers. By the end of the War, their production totaled 500 guns.

Once production ramped up, they became the fourth most productive and were

on them. They were later made with the shields and had a serial number along with marks with numbers, symbols, and initials. Those with no marks were sold in the civilian market.

The .44 caliber Dance gun had the same dimensions as the .44 Colt Dragoon but was lighter in weight and had shorter cylinders, so it was not as powerful. The Dance revolvers usually had round barrels, but a few were made with octagon barrels. All of the guns had rifled barrels, making them much more accurate, especially at longer distances.

The .36 caliber was very limited in production with only 135 known to have been made; today, only three are known to exist. The Dance revolvers were very popular with the Texas Rangers mostly because of their local availability and durability. Surprisingly, the most notable owner of their .44 caliber was the most feared warrior of the plains – Apache chief Geronimo.

By November 1863, the Dances had decided to sell their business to the Confederate government. Cousin Mattie wrote that "the boys think it quite possible they will quit the shop soon" and added that George had left for Houston "to see if he could make a government affair of it." Further, "he thinks perhaps it will be done." Revolver production had ended in East Columbia by December 10, 1863, and Mattie wrote that she had been "in town all week helping the boys to leave."

The federal occupation of Matagorda Island, located just off the Texas coast near Brazoria County, prompted the belief that the county was about to be invaded. The Confederate government doubtless wanted to consolidate the Dances' skills farther inland and out of harm's way. The Dances relocated to a site three miles north of Anderson in Grimes County, and here, the Confederate government built a powder mill and pistol factory. On February 7, 1864, Mattie Duff received word from Uncle Harrison that "they were not quite ready for making pistols, but soon will." One of the last known shipments of Dance revolvers took place on April 18, 1865; a lot of twenty-five six-shot pistols was sent from Anderson to the Houston Depot of Supplies. At the war's end, the Dances returned to East Columbia and the manufacture of gristmills and cotton gins.



Book Reviews

by Cary Bogan

"Shiloh and the Western Campaign of 1862", by O. Edward Cunningham, edited by Gary D. Joiner and Timothy B. Smith, published by Savas Beatie. Savas Beatie is a publishing house that goes out of their way to publish unique out of the way stuff. This book is a PhD dissertation that the author never intended to be published. Originally published in 1966, this dissertation has always been considered one of the better works on the Shiloh campaign, with a number of ideas that were original for it's day. Since that time, of course, other ideas about the battle have emerged. This author, for example, believes that the Hornet's Nest was far LESS significant to the course of the battle than earlier, or even some later writers. The editors, Professors Smith and Joiner, have carefully reviewed the book, bringing some things up to date, or catching a few errors. They note these items in the footnotes in the body of the book. As a whole, this book ranks up there with the best of the Shiloh books that have been more recently written. This book is highly recommended.

"Rethinking Shiloh: Myth and Memory", by Timothy B. Smith, published by The University of Tennessee Press. This book is a series of nine essays written about how historical memory has affected the history of the Battle of Shiloh. The nine essays are: Terrain at Shiloh; The death of Albert Sidney Johnston; The Hornet's Nest in Civil War memory; Benjamin Prentiss as a hero of the battle; Lew Wallace's march to the battlefield; Mississippi Secession Committee Delegates at the battle; Civilians at Shiloh; The New Deals effect on the Shiloh National Military Park; and the making of the Visitor Center movie, "Shiloh: Portrait of a Battle". All of these essays are of interest to Shiloh battle buffs.

"This Great Battlefield of Shiloh : History, Memory, and the Establishment of a Civil War National Park", by Timothy B. Smith, published by The University of Tennessee Press. This book is a series of essays dealing with the

time discussing the various personalities that were behind the creation of the park. Among these was Union veteran D.W. Reed, of the 12th Iowa Infantry Regiment. He fought at the Hornet's Nest, where he was seriously wounded. He was the park historian, and most responsible for the interpretation of the battlefield. His view of the Hornet's Nest as the most significant portion of the battle has come under fire in more recent years. This book is recommended for serious Shiloh buffs.

"The Confederate Military Forces in the Trans-Mississippi West, 1861-1865: A Study in Command", by William Royston Geise, edited by Michael J. Forsyth, published by Savas Beatie. Like the first book I reviewed for this newsletter, this book is an unpublished dissertation, that was written for a PhD in 1974. This book is not a history of the Trans-Mississippi Department, but it is a history of it's command structure: the men who commanded, the men who manned it's staff departments, how they dealt with each other, and how the department was organized. This is nit picking history, but it is darn good nit picking history.

"Helmet for my Pillow: From Parris Island to the Pacific", by Robert Leckie, published by Bantam Books. Mr. Leckie's memoirs were one of the bedrock references for the HBO miniseries "The Pacific". After the war Mr. Leckie was a newspaper reporter and subsequently a writer. I have read numerous books of his and enjoyed all of them. He writes well and is entertaining with his snarky sense of humor.

"Okinawa: A Decorated Marine's Account of The Last Battle of World War II", by Robert Leckie, published by Penguin Books. This is a very short and sweet account of the last American battle of World War II. The next battle would have been the invasion of Japan. I have read numerous books on Okinawa as of late, and this is the one that a novice reader should start first. Then they can move to the U.S. Army Official History.

"One Square Mile of Hell: The Battle of Tarawa", by John Wukovits, published by NAL Caliber. I purchased this book at the gift shop at the USMC Museum outside of Washington, DC. This is a medium length read of the bloody Battle of Tarawa Atoll in the Pacific in 1943. This was one of the first major amphibious landings in World War II...and it succeeded at an enormous price. Lessons from Tarawa were used to great affect later in the Pacific war.

battles of the 20th Century to illustrate how wars are won, and can be won in the future. The five battles are: The Battle of Mons, 1914; The Battle of Shanghai, 1937; The Destruction of Army Group Center, 1944; Counterattack Across the Suez Canal, 1973; The Battle of 73 Easting, 1991.

“Osprey Combat Series: British Infantryman Versus Mahdist Warrior”, by Ian Knight, published by Osprey Publishing. This is an illustrated volume showing typical combat actions between British soldiers and Dervishs in the Sudan in the years 1884-1898.

Upcoming Events!



Share



Forward



Copyright © 2024 Sons of Confederate Veterans, All rights reserved.

Want to change how you receive these emails?

You can [update your preferences](#) or [unsubscribe from this list](#).



INTUIT
mailchimp