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Gen. Felix H. Robertson Camp 129
Waco, TX



March 2025 Newsletter

Notable Confederate Birthdays

March 1, 1831--Brigadier General Hiram B. Granbury

March 9, 1839--General Felix H. Robertson

March 17, 1828--Major General Patrick Cleburne

March 22, 1817--General Braxton Bragg

March 28, 1818--Lieutenant General Wade Hampton

Notable Battles

March 4, 1862--Battle of Pea Ridge

March 8, 1862--Battle of Hampton Roads

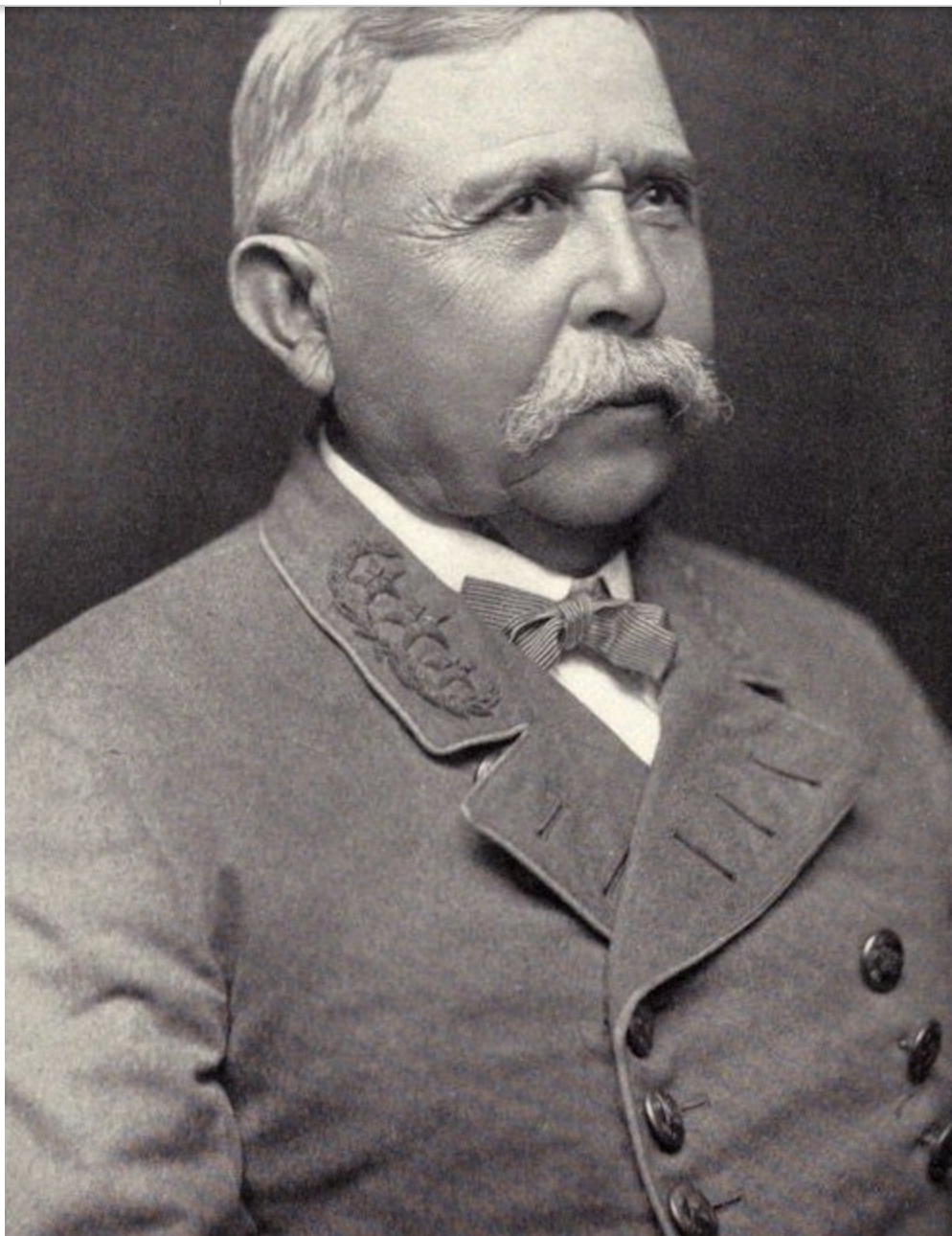
March 17, 1863--Battle of Kelly's Ford

March 19, 1865--Battle of Bentonville

March 26, 1862--Battle of Glorieta Pass

"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

Hello, hello, hello! Stand and be counted good people of honorable Confederate blood!

Getting to be that time again- mow, mow, mow! Thanks to Steve, we can knock that out pretty quickly! Also, it's just about time to do highway trash maintenance. We will discuss and pick dates to get on top of our business.

Well, Ft. Bragg and Ft. Benning are back! Kind of Wonder how long it'll take to find somebody to rename Ft. Hood? Hate to black pill, but I don't see the politicians stepping up to rename bases and/or ships to their former Confederate glory. They will probably walk that line just as they are doing and find someone with the same name, just as they've done. But, I hold out hope and will take what we can get.

This month is the birth month of our camp's namesake! Of course there'll be cake! Also, Roland's birthday is this month, so brush up on your birthday song singing skills!

The talk will be on Gen Felix Robertson himself! Ann is scheduled to present the talk, but there might be a secret guest speaker! Either way, looking forward to it!

See y'all there!

DEO VINDICE!!!

Lt. Commander's Comments

by Markham B. Dossett

I hope all of our members have been active in responding to pleas for money and Congress contact to restore the Reconciliation Monument in Arlington Cemetery. This monument signals the coming together of the North and South after the War for Southern Independence. It has stood since 1914 and was unveiled on the 106th anniversary of Jefferson Davis's birthday. Most presidents have laid a wreath there on Memorial Day. Now a bunch of northern liberals got permission to take it down. We are fighting to keep it up. Please donate what you can and send a letter to President TRUMP and your

Next, they are trying to take down STONE MOUNTAIN in GEORGIA.

2nd Lt. Commander's Comments

by John Dickey

Greetings Compatriots!

I hope all of you survived the cold spells and the recent surge of the flu bug. Fortunately, we do not have to contend with the recent measles outbreak that has been in the news.

However, various diseases and epidemics rose during the war in camps and on the battlefields. Measles was much more prevalent during the Civil War, which was often ignored since it was considered a childhood disease. The symptoms of measles are like smallpox. Victims had a fever, cough, runny nose, and a rash of red spots that could cover the entire body. With camps teeming with people never exposed to measles, many soldiers were highly susceptible to the disease. By the end of the Civil War, 67,000 Union soldiers contracted measles and more than 4,000 died.

Some of the most common diseases found during the Civil War were intestinal diseases caused by contaminated food and water, as well as poor living conditions. Most common was a bacterial infection called typhoid fever. Symptoms include muscle aches, headache, stomach pain, diarrhea, and it was one of the most feared diseases throughout camp because it was so common. Known as "camp fever," it caused about $\frac{1}{4}$ of the deaths caused by disease. Unfortunately, doctors did not know the cause of typhoid fever and so treated only the symptoms with opiates, turpentine, quinine, capsicum (an herbal medicine), and calomel (mercury chloride).

Another intestinal disease, dysentery, was caused by bacteria or parasites, poor living conditions, or contaminated food or water. Marked by bloody diarrhea, fever, nausea, and cramps, it acquired many humorous names from soldiers. Some called it the "the runs", the "Tennessee Trot", or the "Virginia Quickstep". Purgatives like turpentine or castor oil were used to treat dysentery. The disease was not always fatal, but it did cause many deaths because of the treatments used. For example, in October 1863, Private John Leopold of the

Surgeons tried medicines such as turpentine, lead acetate, aromatic sulfuric acid, tincture of opium, silver nitrate, belladonna, and calomel to treat the disease, but unfortunately, he died after twelve days of treatment. Even the environment was a hazard to soldiers' health. Mosquitoes carried parasites that caused many deadly illnesses. Most common were yellow fever and malaria. They both have similar symptoms including fever, tiredness, vomiting, headache, and in severe cases, yellow skin, seizures, and death. But, while yellow fever is a virus, malaria can be treated with medicine. In the 1860s, two treatments were found to help alleviate the symptoms: arsenic and quinine. During the Civil War, many soldiers were issued a ration of quinine, often mixed with whiskey to cover the unpleasant taste. This method proved effective and is still used today to treat the disease.

While many of these illnesses are still around today, they are not nearly as prevalent or deadly as they were 161 years ago.



Book Reviews

by Cary Bogan

"Voices of the Civil War: Charleston", by the Editors of Time-Life Books, published by Time-Life Books. This is a volume in the Time-Life Series "Voices of the Civil War". This volume covers the Siege of Charleston from the period after the surrender of Fort Sumter to the fall of the city to Union forces in 1865. It covers the initial Union naval efforts to take the city with ironclads alone, which failed disastrously. Siege operations on land with naval support followed. This led to the glorious Confederate victory at Fort Wagner on Morris Island. The guns on Morris Island protected the forts in the harbor. Eventually, the Federals captured Morris Island and began to demolish Fort Sumter. The book covers the heroic defense of the fort as it was turned into a pile of rubble. This book is an excellent summary history of the siege and an opportunity to hear the voices of those who were there.

"Thunder in the Harbor: Fort Sumter and the Civil War", by Richard W. Hatcher, III, published by Savas Beatie. This book is an excellent history of Fort Sumter, from its construction to its fascinating history during the WBTS. After the surrender of the fort to Confederate forces Fort Sumter was the center point of the Southern defense of Charleston harbor. It repelled a powerful Union naval attack using ironclads. After the fall of Morris Island the yankees planted guns

attack. The garrison lived like gophers, digging bunkers and earthworks to defend against further naval and ground assault. At this time there were only three or four guns actually mounted in the fort that could defend against warships. The defense of Fort Sumter is one of the epics of AMERICAN military history. The book also covers the history of the fort from the end of the war through it's coastal defense history to being part of the national park service. This is an excellent book.

"Holding Charleston by the Bridle: Castle Pinckney and the Civil War", by W Clifford Roberts, Jr. and Matthew A.M. Locke. This is a history of Castle Pinckney which was a "Second Series" fortification built in Charleston Harbor. Construction began before the War of 1812 and was completed in the 1820s. It was a poor cousin to the much bigger Fort Sumter, but it's history is still interesting. It was a single story work designed to mount 9 heavy guns on the lower level, and 10 guns in the open on the upper level. The poor design of it's casements meant that smoke from the discharge of the guns made operating the guns in the casements difficult. After the yankees began pounding Fort Sumter into rubble Castle Pinckney was covered in dirt and sandbags, and guns were only mounted on the platform on top. The Castle never came under fire during the war, and was used for a prison for Union prisoners taken at First Manassas. This is an excellent history of a nearly forgotten piece of WBTS history.

"Tullahoma: The Forgotten Campaign That Changed the Course of the Civil War June 23-July 4, 1863", by David A. Powell and Eric J. Wittenburg, published by Savas Beatie. At about the same time that the Vicksburg and Gettysburg Campaigns were occurring another campaign took place in Middle Tennessee between Bragg's Confederate Army of Tennessee and Rosecrans's Union Army of the Cumberland. The results like the other two campaigns were disastrous for the South: the Middle Tennessee agricultural area was lost to the Confederacy. Compared to Gettysburg and Vicksburg there was comparatively little bloodshed during the campaign. Bragg was out maneuvered out of several positions resulting in his army falling back to Chattanooga south of the Tennessee River. The retreat was bad for Confederate morale as the army fell back out of it's namesake state. This book, supported by excellent maps, is an outstanding look at this important operation.

"Victory or Death: The Battles of Trenton and Princeton, December 25, 1776-

high quality maps as well as the driving tour built into the high quality text. This covers the pivotal campaign that may have saved America.

“Disaster in Korea: The Chinese Confront MacArthur”, by Lt.Col. Roy E. Appleman, AUS (Ret), published by Texas A&M University Press. This is an excellent in depth history of the Chinese surprise attack upon the United Nations forces in Korea, in particular, the mostly U.S. Eighth Army on the western side of the Korean Peninsula. The Army also had large numbers of South Koreans as well as other soldiers such as British Commonwealth and Turks. Without transportation, armor, or air cover the Chinese Communist Forces routed UN troops and forced them into an embarrassing retreat.

“The Vistula-Oder Offensive: The Soviet Destruction of German Army Group A, 1945”, by Ian Baxter, published by Casemate Publishing. After a long pause for logistics purposes along the Vistula River the Soviets bounded forward, taking Warsaw and coming up just short of Berlin along the Oder River. This is a brief heavily illustrated book, though there were not enough maps for me to follow all of the action in the text. I had to rely on my West Point military atlases. The photographs were excellent.

“The German Way of War: From the Thirty Years War to the Third Reich”, by Robert Citino, published by the University Press of Kansas. This is the first of a series of four books concentrating, mostly, on the German army in World War II. This book is the background on the German way of war leading up to the moment of glory: the six week defeat of France in 1940. It then has an afterward on the beginning of Operation Barbarossa, the attack on the Soviet Union in 1941, where things started to unwind. This is further discussed in the next three books.

Upcoming Events!



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