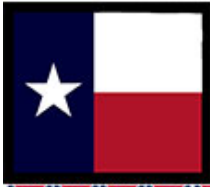


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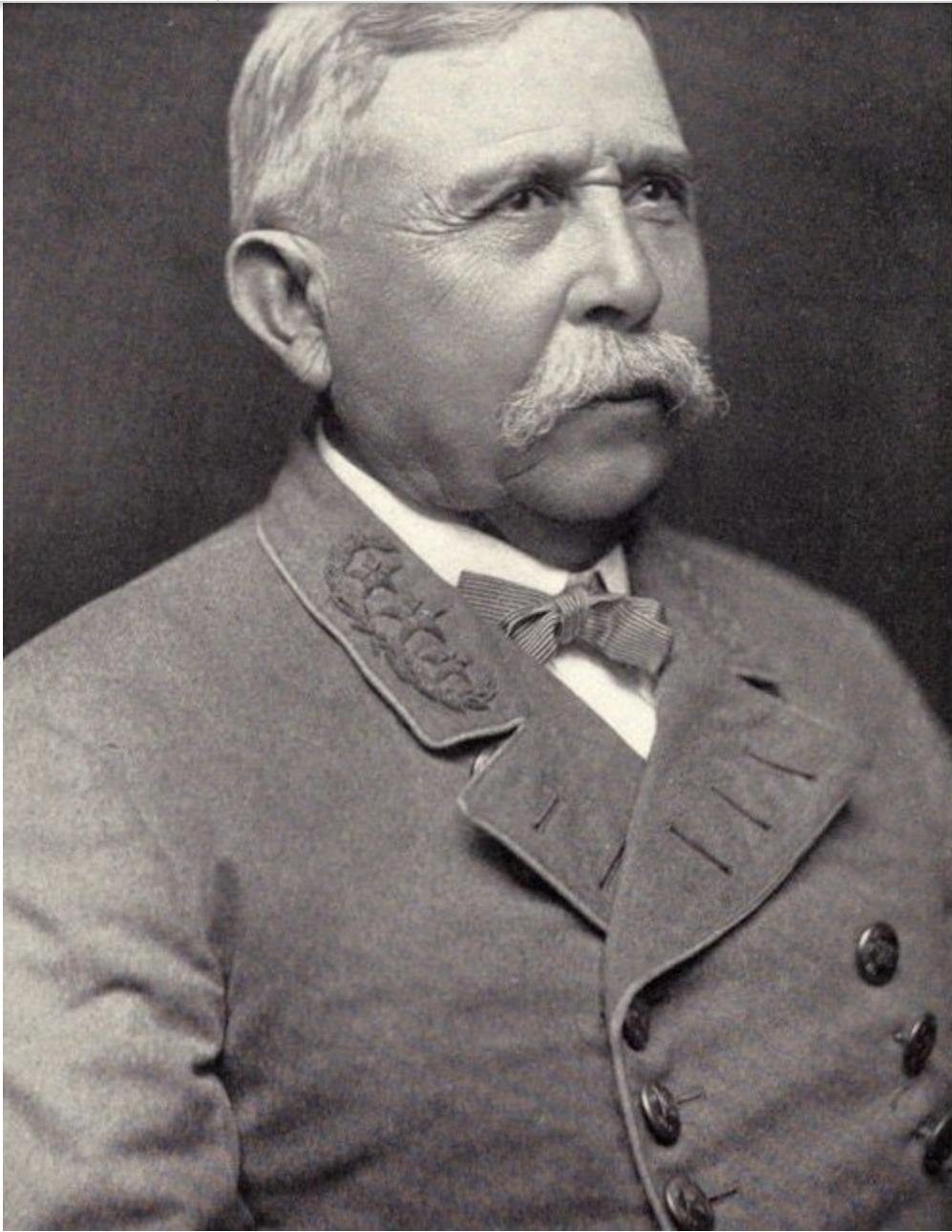
Gen. Felix H. Robertson Camp 129
Waco, TX



May 2025 Newsletter

"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 and howdy to all! It's hard to believe it is May already!

This month our guest speakers are Rhett and Katelyn Kearns. Katelyn is a historical dressmaker, patternmaker, and YouTuber. Rhett is a museum curator and interim director at the Pearce Collections Museum in Navarro College, a military historian, and a passionate Civil War reenactor.

I look forward to learning more about their exhibits and upcoming projects. If you haven't visited, I recommend you take a trip to Corsicana! It has excellent artifacts, displays, and a pretty decent gift shop!

The last highway pick-up was on April 26th. Markham, Pat, Steve, and I participated in that. We can focus more on maintaining the I-35 flag, Fletcher cemetery, recruiting, and/or sales!

For updating purposes, my property was put on the market on the 25th. That said, I'll be around as long as that takes. If I find out anything else, I'll let y'all know! No matter where I go, Waco Camp #129 will always be my home camp. Every one of you deserves more credit than what you get, y'all have done much work for "forwarding the colors!" and exemplifying "the Charge".

See yall on the 8th!

DEO VINDICE!!

Lt. Commander's Comments

by Markham Dossett

May is the beginning of summer in Central Texas. School lets out near the end of the month and travel begins for many families. We end the month with MEMORIAL DAY. We will celebrate the bravery and mourn the loss of veterans from all wars. In SCV we will discuss and honor our ancestors who fought for States Rights from 1861-1865.

As we travel, we can educate people we meet about the real cause and real issues that brought on the War of Southern Independence. If you meet an Abe Lincoln fan you should recommend "THE REAL LINCOLN" by Dr. Thomas DiLorenzo. Dr DiLorenzo is now the president of the MISES INSTITUTE in Auburn, Alabama. He was born in Pennsylvania and so they cannot say he is an aggrieved Confederate. The Institute is an advocate for States Rights and less federal control over American citizens lives and businesses. I am a long time member, Check it Out!

by John Dickey

Greetings Compatriots!

Finally, some rain has blessed us, and we pray for more.... Just not all at once!

Jn my recent surveys at First Street Cemetery, I came across the graves of James, Thomas, and William Harrison. Little known as to their historical status, is the fact that they each were generals in the War.

The Harrison brothers—James, William, and Thomas—were indeed notable Confederate generals who served in different theaters during the American Civil War. Their contributions to the Confederate cause were significant, and they each played distinct roles in various battles and campaigns.

After the war, all three brothers were buried in Waco, Texas, which reflects their connection to the region. The legacy of the Harrison brothers is remembered in the context of their military service and the impact they had during the conflict.

What had piqued my interest, was the fact that James H. Harrison served under the command of Col. J.W. Speight. Since Speight had never had a military command, he turned to Harrison for his immediate support and command expertise. They were a very successful pair, in that they never lost a major battle. Speight and the 15th Texas Infantry were very much in demand by a number of Confederate generals. So much so, that in 1863, Gen. Kirby Smith had submitted his recommendation to President Davis for Speight's appointment as a Brigadier General.

However, because of his injuries and poor health, Speight was in the process of returning to Waco to resign his commission. He had turned over his command of the 15th to Harrison; Gen. Smith subsequently submitted the promotion request for Harrison.

All three of the Harrisons led successful campaigns as field commanders for the remainder of the War. Each returned to live in Waco. They were successful lawyers and businessmen. James was a State Representative for 12 years. At one time, all three brothers were buried in the First Street Cemetery, but James was eventually moved to Oakwood Cemetery at the request of his wife and their family.



Book Reviews

“Hell by the Acre: A Narrative History of the Stones River Campaign, November 1862—January 1863”, by Daniel A. Masters, published by Savas Beatie. This is the best, most detailed, account of this misunderstood engagement to be written to date. All of the previous works can now be put to the side in favor of this book. The book is blessed with the usual excellent Savas Beatie maps which greatly facilitate the understanding of the battle. The book covers the political doings in both the Army of the Cumberland and the Army of Tennessee. The pressure on both army commanders, Rosecrans and Bragg, are discussed and noted insofar as they influenced their plans. The status and morale of the troops and their commanders are noted and discussed. The significance of the Battle of Stones River was that it was the closed thing to a victory that Abe Lincoln had going for him at the end of 1862. The North suffered the disaster at Fredericksburg on December 13th, 1862. Grant’s supply base at Holly Springs, Mississippi was destroyed by cavalry, resulting in him being forced to retreat away from Vicksburg. Likewise, Sherman’s direct attempt to move against Vicksburg failed at Chickasaw Bluff. At the beginning of 1863 the North suffered the embarrassing defeat at Galveston. Stones River, or Murfreesboro, was a victory, though a costly one, that Lincoln had to have.

“A Tempest of Iron and Lead: Spotsylvania Courthouse, May 8-21, 1864”, by Chris Mackowski, published by Savas Beatie. This book deals solely with the Battle of Spotsylvania Courthouse, and only briefly with the campaigning that occurred before and after. Like other Savas Beatie volumes, including the one above, the cartography is excellent; the reader is not left wondering where the unit just mentioned in the text is located. It is not as in depth as Gordon C. Rhea’s book published over twenty-five years ago, but it hits all of the bases. This is a fine book that will appeal to both novices and more mature readers.

“Unlike Anything That Ever Floated: The Monitor and Virginia and the Battle of Hampton Roads, March 8-9, 1862”, by Dwight Sturtevant Hughes, published by Savas Beatie. This is another volume in the Emerging Civil War Series. Like the others in the series it is both a history book and a driving tour guide book. In this it functions very well. The book spends a great deal of time on the design and construction of both ships, with twenty diagrams showing the intricacies of each ship. This alone made this book worthwhile. The author is a Naval Academy graduate who served for twenty years and retired as a Lieutenant Commander. His expertise and enthusiasm show throughout this book.

Army. This is the second of three books in the U.S. Army history of ground operations. It begins immediately after the end of the Chinese First Phase Offensive. It covers the Second Phase Chinese Offensive through the retreat to the south of the Eighth Army and X Corps. It covers Matthew Ridgeway's assumption of command, his rallying of the UN forces and driving the Communists back north of the 38th Parallel. The book ends at the point where peace negotiations begin. This is a good book, though in my opinion it is not as good as the books published in the late 80s and early 90s by Roy Appleton, who was the author of the first volume, South to the Naktong, North to the Yalu.

"To the Last Extremity: The Battles for Charleston, 1776-1782", by Mark Maloy, published by Savas Beatie. This book is one of the volumes in the Emerging Revolutionary War Series. This covers the fighting in the Charleston area from the repulse of Crown forces in 1776 to their capture of the city in 1782, which was the worst American defeat of the war.

"From Moscow to Stalingrad: The Eastern Front, 1941-1942", by Yves Buffetaut, published by Casemate Books. This is a book in the Casemate Illustrated Series. These books are summary histories with lots of generally very good illustrations ranging from photographs to commissioned artwork. The maps are adequate. This book covers the Eastern Front from the failure of the German attack on Moscow to the beginning of the Battle of Stalingrad.

"Military Dogs of World War II", by Susan Bulanda, published by Casemate Publishing. This is another book in the Casemate Illustrated Series. As the title says the subject is military working dogs of World War II of all nations.

French Napoleonic Infantry Tactics 1792-1815", by Paddy Griffith, published by Osprey Publishing. The late Paddy Griffith was a noted British military historian who specialized in the tactical employment of soldiers on the ground. This book is his interpretation of the French Army in action.

Upcoming Events!

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