

Issue 1: January, 2019

THE RAGGED OLD FIRST



The Official
Newsletter of
Hood's Texas Brigade,
Camp #153
San Antonio, TX.

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GOODBYE 2018, HELLO 2019!!

By: Dustin W. Seiler

What a year! From the miles of parades we marched/floated it, to the dedications of the brave men and women of the south at cemeteries across south Texas, to having our fellow camp members and cadets receive accolades on the Division and National stage our camp has done it all. Our camp and its members participate in a wide array of activities which include-but are not limited to; living history public education, living history reenactments, parades in and around the greater San Antonio and Hill Country area, U.S. veterans grave dedications and re-dedications, genealogical and historical research as well as SCV JROTC Award presentations. We may have had fun, it is sobering that we also have had some bitterness this year.

This past year we lost two members of the camp, David "El Jefe" Sweeney & John B. Hollje. Both men proudly served their country in the armed forces and carried the spirit of their beloved ancestors until the day our Lord called them to cross the river and rest under the shade of the tree. They will be deeply missed by their fellow compatriots on this earthly

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realm. But we must look forward as we continue on in our mortal journey. In spite of loss this year, we welcome James Polk Palmer, Jr. and Calvin W. Elton as new members of the camp as well as Mrs. Phyllis Tausch and Mrs. Joyce Manuel as new friends of the camp. As we move forward let us instill in our hearts the legacy and virtues of our beloved Confederate ancestors as we march on into 2019 and beyond!

2019 CAMP OFFICERS

Commander -George P. Foulds
1st Lt. Commander -Mark Riser
2nd Lt. Commander -Raymond B. Reeves
3rd Lt. Commander -Dustin W. Seiler
Adjutant -Rodney W. Seiler
Judge Advocate -Dr. Jeffrey F. Addicott
Chaplain - John McCammon
Genealogist -Sanford Reed
Color Sergeant & Quartermaster -Bobby Moore
Surgeon -Beckwith Steiner
Historian -Darryel Perry
Trans-Mississippi Old Guard Captain -Mike Reynolds



Pictured: Members of the Trans-Mississippi Colorguard at the Veterans Day Parade in Fredricksburg, TX on November 10th, 2018.

HERITAGE MINUTE



THE CROSS OF ST. ANDREW

An Excerpt from the Moral Defense of the Confederate Flag

Published by: Jack E. Marlar

It is important to emphasize the Confederate Flag itself is a Christian symbol. It is based on the St. Andrews Cross familiar in the wake of the movie "Brave heart" as the flag of

Scotland. St. Andrew, the patron saint of Scotland, was crucified on a torturous X-shaped cross after insisting he was unworthy of crucifixion in the same manner as Christ.

General P.G.T. Beauregard simply changed the color scheme from a white cross on a blue field to a blue and cross on a red field and added a white star for each Confederate State. The X-shaped cross on both flags is also the Greek letter *chi*, which has long been a Christian abbreviation for "*Christ*". (The Roman Catholic Church often use the Greek letter *rho* to the *chi* for *Christ*.)



OUR LEGACY

A Brief Bio of a Camp Member's Confederate Ancestor

4TH SERGEANT WILLIAM R. McCULLOUGH CO. B - 2ND TEXAS CAVALRY

William Robert McCullough was a free man of color, born on September 24th, 1839 in Austin Colony #1 - Jackson County, Texas to Samuel James McCullough, Jr. He and the rest of his family moved to the land that was awarded to his father in service to the Republic of Texas, which is now present day Von Ormy, Texas along the banks of the Medina River in early 1851. Three months after Texas citizenry voted to secede from the Union, in May 1861; William mustered into the Confederate States Army at San Antonio - most likely at the Alamo. He was assigned to Company B of the 2nd Texas Cavalry under the command of Colonel John S. "Rip" Ford. During his time in the CSA, William served as part of the garrison at Fort Brown, New Mexico and was present at the Battles of Valverde and Glorieta in early 1862 where the unit was briefly attached to Sibley's Brigade during the Confederate's Invasion of New Mexico. By mid 1862, William and the 2nd Texas Cavalry were reassigned to the Houston & Galveston district and at some point the unit mutinied and was dismounted as a result. In January 1863, the dismounted regiment was now operating the western district of Louisiana under the command of Colonel Xavier B. Derbray. While several companies were captured at Arkansas Post, Arkansas, William's company was part of other forces composed of the 2nd and 4th Texas Infantry and the 26th Texas Cavalry that took part in the recapturing of Galveston.

In the spring of 1863, William and his Company were engaged at Bayou Vermillion, Bayou Beauf, LaFourche Crossing, and campaigns in the Teche Country. By September of 1863, William returned to Texas where he was part of the reorganization of the 2nd Texas Cavalry

where they remained in Texas until the conclusion of the War Between the States under the 7th Texas Cavalry Brigade. In March of 1865, William began to see the unit slowly disband as a number of men abandoned their post and fled across the Rio Grande River into Mexico. William's company was present when the 2nd Texas Cavalry officially surrendered with General Edmund K. Smith at Galveston on June 2nd, 1865. William returned to his family in Von Ormy, Texas where lived out the rest of his life until the lord call him from across the river on April 3rd, 1927. He is at peace, resting in the McCullough Cemetery that was once part his family's ranch on the banks of the Medina River in VonOrmy, Texas.

William is survived in spirit by his descendants, Rodney and Dustin Seiler. To this day, they place Confederate battle flags at his grave commemorating his spirit.



THE CONCEPT OF HONOR

By: Unknown Author

Submitted by: Frank Bussey, 7th Brigade Commander – SCV TX. Division

"Sign these pardons," the yankee First Sergeant. Growled roughly;
"Sign 'em and yeez can all go home," he added gruffly.
Not a movement was made in the grey clad ranks;
The silence was tense between the Rebs and the yanks.
The Southern soldiers stood straight in a line unmoving;
And now the yankee sergeant's tone was more soothing.
"Just sign the pardons and to your homes you can go,
You have fields to plow and crops to sow.
The war is over, we're no longer your foe,
Now sign the pardons and off you go."
The grey line stood irritatingly straight;

Not one would move and the day was getting late.
Their actions were beginning to frustrate;
For he had other duties to delegate.
"Sign these pardons you low down tramps!
Or your next stop will be POW camps!"
Other yankee soldiers grabbed their weapons;
They would be ready for whatever happens.
Finally, one lone voice from the grey line was heard;
A Southern sergeant spoke word after word.
"We will not sign your pardon!" his voice a roar;
"We have done nothing to be pardoned for!
Four years ago we went off to war,
To fight for our rights and nothing more.
To defend our home, our families and our land
From a government that would not understand
That our destiny was ours to choose,
And for that our lives we were willing to lose.
You stand here now and claim victory on our soil
And that, Sir, makes our blood boil
For you see, Sir, you have not won at all
For I and these men would still heed the call
If Marse Robert would fight on yet
To you, Sir, I would give the bayonet!
So pardon is a word that only cuts to the core
For we have done nothing to be pardoned for!"
The Southern sergeant's words sent an ominous chill;
The yankee sergeant realized they had not broken that will.
The grey line stood straight and resolute;
The yankee sergeant shifted nervously from boot to boot.
All of a sudden he didn't feel so bold;
The Southerner's words made the air seem cold.
He thought of home and felt tired and old;
He looked up and asked, "Would you accept a parole?"
The grey line left-faced with battlefield precision;
In unison, as always, they had made their decision.
The yankee sergeant looked on in astonishment;
He thought to himself in total bewilderment,
"What makes these people risk everything for a point so minor?"
He would never understand the Concept of Honor.

GOOD NEWS EVERYONE!

Our Camp has it's own newsletter!

By: Dustin W. Seiler

By order of Camp Commander George Foulds; the camp's official newsletter has been established under the name of the "The Ragged Old First". The Ragged Old First will be a

monthly newsletter with heritage minuets, camp news and activities, upcoming info and more!

The name "Ragged Old First" was the nickname of the 1st Texas Infantry Regiment in the Texas Brigade, while under the command of then, Lt. General John Bell Hood. The original "Ragged Old First" saw numerous engagements during the war, such as the Battles of Gettysburg, Fredricksburg, Antietam and of the Wilderness just to name a few. During it's initial formation in Richmond, Virginia on August of 1861, the 1st Texas Infantry Regiment accepted volunteers from Anderson, Cass, Cherokee, Harrison, Houston, Marion, Newton, Polk, Sabine, San Augustine, Tyler and later Trinity & Galveston counties, Texas. Commander of the Army of Northern Virginia, General Robert E. Lee valued them as his shock troops and calmed if had more men like the Texas Brigade, he would have won the war. Unlike most other regiments in the Texas Brigade which were eventually armed with Enfield rifles, 1st Texas Infantry where armed with smoothbore muskets until 1864.

By April 9th, 1865 the 1st Texas Infantry and the remaining troops of the Texas Brigade had served in every major battle with the Army of Northern Virginia, with the exception of the Battle of Chancellorsville. Out of the estimated 5,353 officers and men...only 617 remained to surrender at Appomattox Court House to then- yankee General Ulysses S. Grant.

CHAPLAIN'S SERMON

Sanford Reed -SCV Texas Division Chaplain

"Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest."

(Matthew 11:28)

This passage provides refreshment when we get overwhelmed by life's journey. This is a reminder that we are not alone in whatever the day holds for us. It is also a good reminder of how important it is to take care of yourself each day. Whatever brings refreshment to you, be sure to take time to do it. Spending time with our family or friends within our organization may bring refreshment to you. Whatever it is, be sure to take time for yourself, and you will find tremendous rewards in your spiritual and worldly life.

CAMP DEPLOYMENT'S (EVENTS CALENDAR)

February 4th, 2019 -Adopt a Highway Clean Up Day! 9:00 AM

Meeting spot is at the Target on Blanco Rd. outside Loop 1604

Safety vests will be provided.

February 19th, 2019 -Monthly Camp Meeting 7:00 PM

Chester's Hamburger Company 16609 San Pedro Ave. San Antonio, TX. 78232

Program: Mary Todd Lincoln and Varina Davis: Two First Ladies caught in Tragic Times

Speaker: Mr. William Blackman

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April 28th, 2019 –Confederate Decoration Day 2:00 PM
The Confederate Cemetery S. New Braunfels Ave and Commerce

May 31st-June 2nd 2019
Sons of Confederate Veterans: Texas Division Convention
Hosted by the Major Robert M. White, Camp #1250 –Temple, TX.

WELCOME TO THE SCV HOOD'S TEXAS BRIGADE, CAMP #153

New Members

James Polk Palmer, Jr.
Calvin W. Elton

New Friends of the Camp

Mrs. Phyllis Tausch
Mrs. Joyce Manuel

EDITORIAL

Dustin W. Seiler

The Charge of the Sons of Confederate Veterans is quite possibly one of the cornerstones of our historic organization's guiding principles (other than scripture). For some members of the SCV Texas Division - like myself and my father - this is something that we take to heart as it shows us how our ancestors valued the ideals our brave men and women in uniform continue to fight for to this day. The one phrase that always gets tucked in my head is *"...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."*

We have to remember that we are expected as their living descendants to behave as they would. Which brings up the question: What would your ancestors do?

In three years as a member of the SCV, one could get the impression that some members do not believe in the charge handed to us by General Stephen Dill Lee. This is possibly the reason why a few have acted in a manner, and on occasions use language, unbecoming of southern gentlemen that would cause a lady to faint in a state of shock. As the Lady Violet Crawly so famously said, *"Vulgarity in no substitute for wit,"* this is something about which we as members of the SCV Texas Division have to stop and think. Those in leadership roles, regardless of rank, should express ourselves with the aplomb and dignity of southern

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gentlemen, especially when working with other important heritage organizations that continue to love and support us, like the Texas Society Order of Confederate Rose™, Inc. and The United Daughters of the Confederacy,

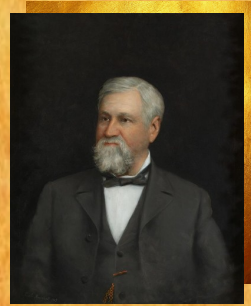
If we really believe in the charge and remember our mission and purpose to make that our priority when we are in our meetings/conventions and events, then we become something of which our ancestors would be proud, and to be wary of by the opposition.

Charge to the Sons of Confederate Veterans

“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. General Stephen Dill Lee,

Commander General - United Confederate Veterans,
New Orleans, Louisiana, April 25, 1906.



<http://www.hoodstexasbrigade.net> Find us on Facebook: @HoodsTexasBrigade153

All friends & members of the Son's of Confederate Veterans are welcome to submit articles, heritage minutes and ancestor's bios for this newsletter. Articles and events that endorse political figures are not allowed and will immediately not be considered for publication. To submit articles for this newsletter, contact 3rd Lt. Commander, Dustin Seiler: dw.seiler85@gmail.com

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