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Gen. Felix H. Robertson Camp 129
Waco, TX



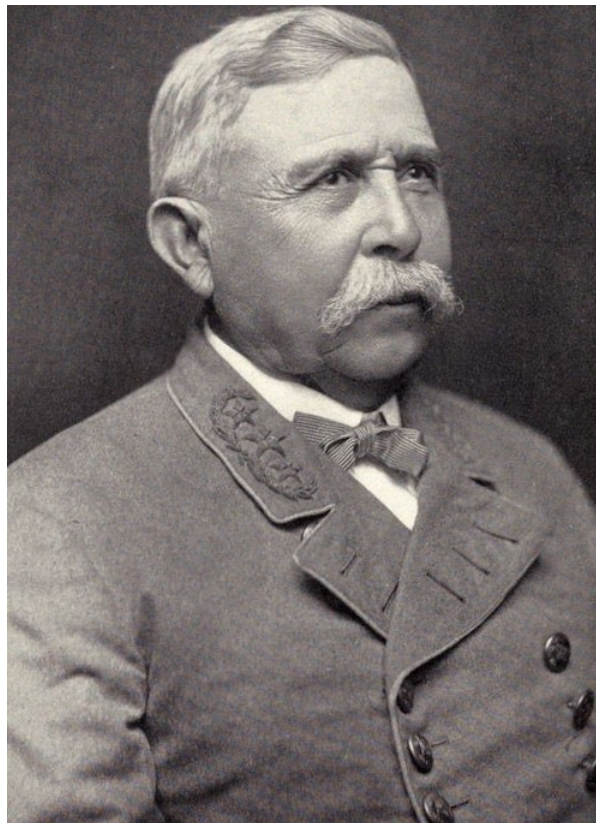
September 2024 Newsletter



John Dickey, Pat Moseley, and Bobby Fears at the Pearce Museum at Navarro College in Corsicana. Not pictured, but also attended Cary Bogan and Ann Westbrook

"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

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.



Commander's Comments

by Bobby Fears

Greetings, salutations, and howdy to one and all!

Alrighty good folks, right on the verge of double digit months! You know what that means? Hurricanes! No, but yes! Seriously, cooler weather coming though sweat may still be part of life!

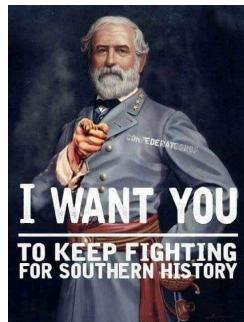
We have some events coming up in October from the 24th-27th at old Ft. Parker. Temple camp is having a reenactment there and a school day, similar to what was going on at the CRG. Folks needed to participate in various capacities, many don't require a uniform! In November there is the Veteran's Day on the 11th. Also, the Tejano Confederate statue presentation in SA on the 10th.

On a not so happy note, the Texas Civil War Museum is definitely closing at the end of October. If you love it, this will probably be your last chance to see their collection.

Mr. Markham Dossett will be presenting us with some Confedrate knowledge.

Look forward to that and seeing yall!

DEO VINDICE!!!



How I imagined
Evil as a kid



How it actually
looks



Lt. Commander's Comments

by Markham Dossett

As we enter the fall of 2024, we should all thank the Lord for our wonderful Southern heritage and the conservative State where we live. Our mission as stated by GEN Stephen D. Lee is education. As we encounter the many transplants who have arrived in our city and state it is important that we teach 2 things. FIRST, our state is great because of conservative values and laws that cherish freedom, self-reliance and free enterprise. And we want to keep it that way. SECOND, We are proud of our southern heritage INCLUDING the CONFEDERACY.

Our ancestors fought for STATES RIGHTS, the same issue our politicians are fighting for in Congress today. Yes, some southerners had slaves but so did many northerners. Slavery was not an issue for Abraham Lincoln until he realized abolition was a way to weaken the Confederate Army. Why did the Emancipation Proclamation exempt the 5 states under Union control? It is our job to tell the truth about the bravery and sacrifice of our Confederate ancestors, the truth that the schools do not teach today.

2nd Lt. Commander's Comments

by John Dickey
CIVIL WAR RECREATION

I have often wondered what those brave soldiers, fighting for their armies,

foot and ball.

Turns out, it was the most popular game of the time played by both the North and the South!

At Cooperstown, New York there hangs The lithograph – published just months before the 1860 election – it depicts Abraham Lincoln playing baseball against his rival candidates – John Bell, Stephen A. Douglas, and John C. Breckinridge. Lincoln has hit a home run using a bat representing his party's platform, while the others have all been called out using much weaker bats.

As the Baseball Hall of Fame's Chief Curator for 28 years, Ted Spencer experienced history every day. But one day in the early 1990s, he was amazed to discover just how strong the tie is between baseball and America's history. As the lithograph's depiction suggests, baseball was not unknown to Americans in 1860. Bat-and-ball games in America came with the earliest European settlers, and the popularity of more modern versions of baseball began to spread across the country in the 1840s and 1850s. Throughout the 1850s, multiple variations of the sport coexisted, with the rules of New York Game and the Massachusetts Game winning the most favor.

Civil War soldiers faced many hardships, including the possibility of death in battle or from disease. They also struggled with the tedious monotony of camp life. While not actively campaigning, soldiers on both sides sought diversions to pass the time. Many soldiers read newspapers and books, wrote letters home or enjoyed music. They also participated in sports and games. Commanders and army doctors encouraged these physical activities, believing that they kept the soldiers fit and healthy, while also keeping them out of trouble. While soldiers frequently took part in foot races, wrestling and boxing matches, and occasionally even cricket or football, Civil War historian Bell Irvin Wiley has stated that baseball "appears to have been the most popular of all competitive sports" in the camps of both armies.

The armies frequently held competitive games that attracted crowds of soldier-spectators and generated a great deal of interest in the camps. Often the ballplayers of one company, regiment or brigade would challenge the ballplayers from another. The rules for these games varied from regiment to regiment, and frequently the competing teams would have to iron out rule variations prior to the start of each match.

Baseball also served as a popular diversion for soldiers held in prison camps, particularly early in the war. Otto Boetticher, a soldier in the 68th New York, preserved for history one of the more famous depictions of baseball during the Civil War when he sketched Union soldiers playing ball at Salisbury Prison in North Carolina as he awaited exchange in 1862. Others imprisoned at Salisbury also left accounts of baseball there. A doctor named Charles Gray recorded in his diary that prisoners played ball nearly every day that the weather allowed.

Baseball continued, and indeed flourished in the north during the war, as many players did not volunteer and were not drafted. Ballgames featuring top competition continued to draw large crowds, and newspaper accounts of these matches appeared alongside reports from the front. The game itself continued to evolve during the war as well.

The National Association of Base Ball Players (NABBP) – the first organized governing body for the sport founded in 1857 – continued to meet annually, though attendance at NABBP conventions dropped significantly. Those participating in these conventions frequently debated rule changes, and several important rules were altered during the war. In 1863 the NABBP altered several pitching regulations. In 1864, a new fly rule passed – a batter was no longer out if a fair ball was caught on one bounce, a fielder had to catch the ball on the fly (though the bounce rule remained for foul balls).

So baseball became the most popular form of recreational pastime during the War for both sides would evolve into America's game, "They played baseball continually throughout the war," Spencer points out, "there was something every week."

Respectfully,

John Dickey

2ndLtCmdr/Adjutant

Gen. Felix H. Robertson Camp #129



Book Reviews

by Cary Bogan

"The Early Morning of War: Bull Run, 1861", by Edward Longacre, published by the University of Oklahoma Press. This book is a long over due very detailed study of the First Battle of Manassas (Bull Run) on July 21 1861. It is 502 pages of text, not counting the appendix, endnotes, bibliography, and index. It has thirty illustrations and twelve maps. It could have used a few more maps, but I used my West Point Atlas as well as "The Maps of First Bull Run: An Atlas of the First Bull Run (Manassas Campaign)", published by Savas Beatie. This is a very solid and detailed work that is recommended for anyone interested in this opening battle of the WBTS. I would recommend a shorter account first, before diving into this one. I would recommend the NPS booklet on First Manassas published by Eastern Acorn Press as a starter.

"Walker's Texas Division C.S.A.: Greyhounds of the Trans-Mississippi", by Richard Lowe, published by the Louisiana State University Press. This book is an excellent, recent history of the biggest all Texas unit in the entire Confederate Army. It served the entire period of the war west of the Mississippi River, and was not formed until relatively late in the war, in the first half of 1862. Their first engagement with the enemy was not until the Vicksburg Campaign, a full year later. They were significantly involved in the Red River Campaign, and did so much sometimes meaningless marching in Arkansas and Louisiana that they earned the nickname "Greyhounds". For most of the war this division had extremely high morale. However, at the end of the war, when news reached the division at their camps around Hempstead and Navasota of the surrenders of Lee, Johnston, Taylor, and the capture of Jefferson Davis, the unit disbanded on it's own initiative and went home. The author spends some time discussing

spontaneously went home. This is one of the best anti histories I have ever read.

"Never Such a Campaign: The Battle of Second Manassas, August 28-30, 1862", by Dan Welch and Kevin R. Pawlek, published by Savas Beatie. This book is another volume in the excellent "Emerging Civil War Series". This book, like the others in the series, is a combination historical narrative and travel guide to the battlefield. In this series this is an excellent combination. This book has numerous illustrations, as well as the excellent maps for which this series is noted. This book is highly recommended.

"Unforgettables: Winners, Losers, Strong Women, and Eccentric Men of the Civil War Era", by John C. Waugh, published by Savas Beatie. John C. Waugh is a long established WBTS author of many books including the excellent book, "The Class of 1846", about the West Point class that contributed some many generals to both armies. This book is a look at prominent and not so prominent people of the Civil War era. Despite it's seemingly unfocused thesis this is a worthy read because it shows how people were during this momentous period.

"Bloody Okinawa: The Last Great Battle of World War II", by Joseph Wheelan, Published by Hachette Books. I have been on an Okinawa reading binge for a while. This is another excellent book on the prolonged and costly battle to seize islands close to the Japanese mainland for the invasion of the southernmost island of Kyushu.

"Hitler and Stalin: The Tyrants and the Second World War", by Lawrence Rees, published by Public Affairs of the Hachette Book Group. This is a dual World War II biography of the two dictators. It does not attempt anything other than a cursory look at their lives prior to the war. The book uses many points of comparison between the two men, both similarities and differences.

"With Our Backs To The Wall: Victory and Defeat in 1918", by David Stevenson, published by The Belknap Press of Harvard University Press. This book is a very detailed look at the last season of fighting on the Western Front in 1918, which began with smashing German successes against the British and French initially, then sputtered to a halt, then German morale rapidly collapsed. How the excellent German army fell apart inn the space of 3-4 months forms a major part of this book.

"Kursk 1943: The Northern Front", by Robert Forczyk, illustrated by Steve Noon, published by Osprey Publishing. This volume in the Osprey Campaign Series covers the northern half of the Kursk battlefield, the area of operations of General Walter Model's 9th Army, which was supposed to break through the Soviet lines in Operation Citadel. The book also covers the Red Army counteroffensive during Operation Kutusov.

Upcoming Events!



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