



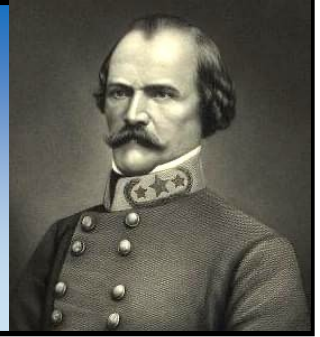
THE PICKET LINE

Albert Sidney Johnston Camp #983

Successor to Ben McCulloch Camp #30
United Confederate Veterans

DECATUR TX

FEBRUARY 2025



Commanders Report



Our camp has gotten off to a rocky start this year with our new venue and weather issues. However, we are now settling in at our new meeting location in the Fellowship Hall of Grace Baptist Church. The Hall provides us with more room and storage space. We will be able to have our Christmas Dinner in this location as well this year.

Our guest speaker this month, Nate Mara, the city manager of Decatur, is a native "Eighter from Decatur", born and raised locally. He began his public service with the city as a firefighter and fire chief and eventually was appointed City Manager in 2023. Nate gave an excellent presentation on City organizations and many projected developments coming into the City. He also discussed the City budget and tax structure and his desire to improve upkeep on the Oak Lawn Cemetery. Nate was very informative and answered any questions by our members in attendance and presented a positive outlook for the future of Decatur.

Great news for our March meeting. Our special guest will be **Sheran Weible, the UDC Texas Division Recorder of Military Service Awards**. She will present information on how we can apply for UDC War Service medals. Please make every effort to attend. I am concerned about regular attendance at our monthly camp meetings. It has been very low even though we continue to provide excellent speakers and programs. If there is anything we as camp officers can do to stimulate participation in the camp, please contact me or any of the other officers.

*Jim Cox, Camp Commander
2nd Lt. Cmdr., Texas Division*

In This Issue

Camp Chaplain installed	Page 2
2004 In Review	Page 3
Adj. Rpt /Notable B/Days	Page 4
Book Review	Page 5
Renaming of Ft. Bragg	Page 6
"Natchez"	Page 7
Upcoming Events	Page 8
Texas Division Reunion	Page 9
National Reunion	Page 10

*Pictured at right
Speaker:
Decatur City
Manager
Nate Mara*





CHECK OUT THE NEW WEBSITE!

www.asjohnstoncamp983.com

Camp Commander/Editor

Jim Cox

Email: jimcox1630@gmail.com

1st Lt. Commander

Bruce Cunningham

2nd Lt. Commander

Ed Harrelson

Adjutant

Keith Hulsey

Chaplain

Allen Glanville

Quartermaster

K.E. Price

Color Guard Sgt.

Scott Harris

2025 CAMP CHAPLAIN

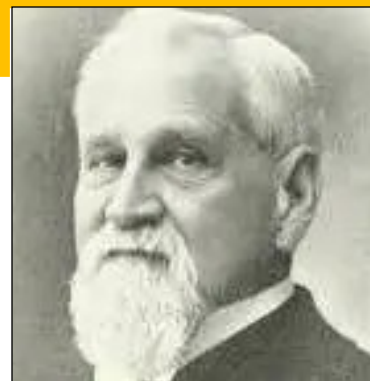


Jim Cox, Camp Commander, installed Camp Chaplain Allen Glanville at our February meeting.

THE CHARGE OF STEPHEN DILL LEE

“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 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*





CAMP COMMANDER'S REPORT—2024 YEAR IN REVIEW

- January began with Past Commander H.L. Ross swearing in newly elected officers for 2024 and the installation of new member Ed Harrelson. Guest speaker was Dennis Partrich from the Texas Civil War Museum with a presentation on "Confederate Chaplains". We participated in Confederate Heroes Day in January 19th at the Weatherford Confederate Memorial.
- At our February camp meeting we watched a video on The Texas Generals featuring General Albert Sidney Johnston. Report was given on flagging at Aurora Cemetery and Keeter Cemetery.
- The March meeting was an opportunity for the camp to hear 1st Lt. Cmdr. Cunningham give a summary on 28th Camp Anniversary history. Chaplain Glanville gave a program on the Life of Maj. Gen. William Mahone of Virginia.
- April was Confederate Heritage Month, and the camp flagged eleven graves at Greenwood Cemetery. At the camp meeting members honored their confederate heroes with brief stories.
- May was the Decatur Celtic Festival and our camp had a booth at the Festival. Our monthly Camp meeting was a business meeting
- The June meeting was cancelled due to the Texas Reunion in San Antonio.
- At the July meeting the Silver Cross was presented to Color Sgt. Kim Price for his faithful dedication to the Camp., 1st. Lt. Cmdr. Bruce Cunningham, 2nd Lt. Cmdr. Brandon Davis, and Camp Adjutant Keith Hulsey all received the Bronze Cross Awards for their service. Report was also given regarding the Texas Reunion and the camp received the 2023 100% Camp Retention Award, the 2024 Four-Star Camp Award, the 2024 Outstanding Camp Award as well as 3rd Place Award for our newsletter "The Pickett Line." The camp also voted to become a 21st Century Confederate Hero by donating \$1,000 to the debt reduction of SCV Museum. 1st Lt. Cmdr. Cunningham gave a presentation on the Sam Davis Christian Youth Camp. Camp Members also participated in the Memorial Service for deceased compatriot John McKee at Fort Belknap.
- At our August meeting Wise County Judge J.D. Clark gave a detailed presentation on the Wise County Courthouse restoration.
- In September our camp installed new member Tucker Schuring and guest speaker was retired Professor, Dr. Richard McCaslin who gave a presentation on the "Gainesville Hanging".
- In October the camp was able to have a recruiting booth at the Bowie Trade Days. Our program was a wonderful presentation from Mrs. Diane Dyess of the UDC on the women spies of the war.
- November meeting was a business meeting in which the camp agreed to move our meeting location to the Grace Baptist Church Fellowship Hall beginning in January.
- We closed the year with an exceptional Christmas Dinner Meeting at the Decatur Conference Center, with 33 in attendance, (including guests from other camps). The Silent Auction (arranged by Helen Cunningham) was a huge success. War Service Medals were presented to six of our camp members. Special Guest Speaker was Army of Trans-Mississippi Commander John McCammon.





THE PICKET LINE

ADJUTANT REPORT



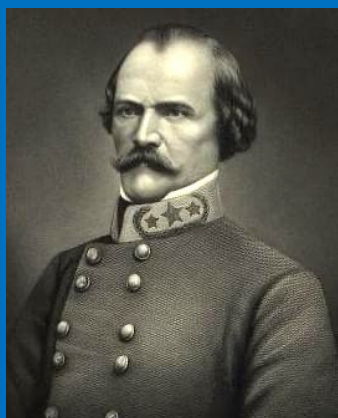
Hello all, thanks to those who attended our monthly meeting. 2025 is off to a slow start, we have a lot of things planned for this year as well as two important reunions in our home state. If you have not registered for either please do as they will be here before you know it. Our Guest speaker for this month was Nate Mara, the Decatur City Manager. He gave us a very informative State of The City presentation which was very eye opening as far as the future growth of our area in the next several years. If our camp numbers aren't growing along with this time we are doing something wrong. Please be diligent in recruiting as well as attending our meetings so we can plan for our future growth and all of the outreach opportunities we would like to partake in this year.

Deo Vindice,
Keith Hulsey, Adjutant

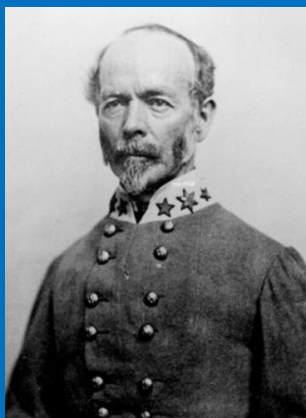


Like us on Facebook: Sons of Confederate Veterans Camp 983 AS Johnston

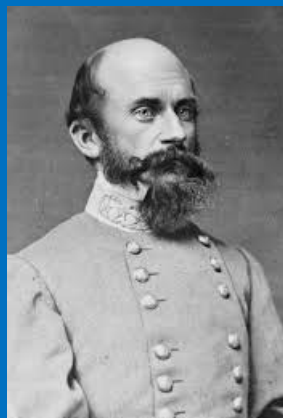
Notable February Birthdays



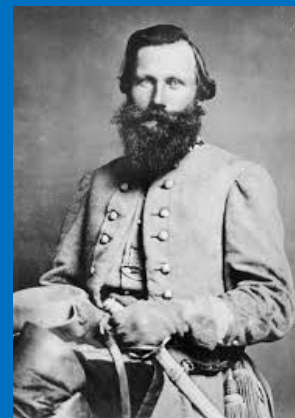
General Albert Sidney Johnston
Feb. 2, 1803 KY



Gen. Joseph Johnston
Feb. 3, 1807 VA



Lt. Gen. Richard Ewell
Feb. 8, 1817 DC



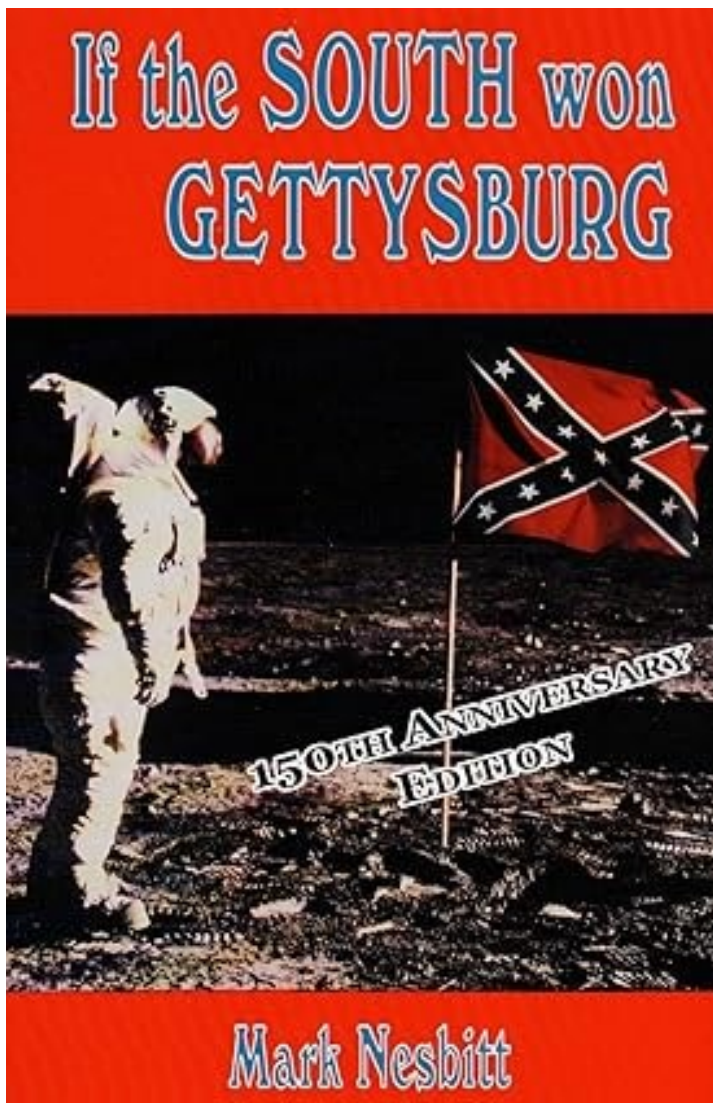
Maj. Gen. James "JEB" Stuart
Feb 6, 1833 VA

**March Camp Meeting at Grace Baptist Church Fellowship Hall,
600 S. Trinity, Decatur on Thursday, March 13th, at 6:30 PM. Special guest speaker
will be Sheran Weible, UDC Texas Division Recorder of Military Service Awards.**



Book Review

by Camp Cmdr. Jim Cox



Mark Nesbitt gets straight to the point in *If the South Won Gettysburg* (1980). After sweeping the Union I and XI Corps through town on July 1, Lee the next day is prepared to attack the enemy line formed along Cemetery Ridge down to Little Round Top. But General James Longstreet, his trusted old war horse, argues that instead of attacking, the army should swing around and take a defensive position along Rock Creek, interposing between Meade's army and Washington. Lee agrees and so orders. Sure enough, Meade has no choice but to assault the entrenched Rebel lines July 3-4 and is bloodily repulsed.

Meanwhile Stuart's cavalry swoops down on Washington and shells the city. Congress flees, the White House is on fire, and Lincoln slips away to safety. Meade, unable to break or outflank Lee's strong position and with his army wrecked from attacking, calls his senior officers together. "His Corps Commanders (those that were not killed or wounded)," Nesbitt narrates, "voted unanimously to send a request for terms of surrender under a flag of truce." Meade reluctantly agrees to see General Lee, although he tells an aide "he would rather die a thousand deaths than do that." Within two weeks of Meade's surrender, the two sides sign a peace agreement. Confederate independence is recognized, Federal troops will withdraw from Southern territory, and Confederates will end their occupation of Washington, allowing the United States government to re-establish itself in its historic capital.

Civil War buffs will recognize that the key to Lee's victory in this scenario is his decision to take Pete Longstreet's advice not to attack Meade's army, but to maneuver south of Gettysburg and force the Yankees to attack. That much we know from history. Nesbitt's Document of Peace, signed at Fredericksburg, naturally involves the novelist's flight of imagination—a venture as lofty as the very front cover photograph of his paperback. Beneath the title, *If the South Won Gettysburg*, a moon-suited astronaut stands on the lunar surface beside the Confederate battle flag planted in the dust.

The author does a great job detailing the "Seeds of Sectionalism" and the basis for the WBTS. It is also interesting to read how he describes Lincoln's flee to escape capture and abandon the United States upon Stuart's move to force surrender by the North. A very good read.





Renaming of Fort Bragg

Compatriots and Friends,

By now, most of you know that the new Secretary of Defense, Pete Hegseth, has renamed Ft. Liberty back to Ft. Bragg. In addition, you probably know that it was not renamed after General Braxton Bragg CSA but for PFC Roland L. Bragg. While we all wished for our Confederate-named bases to remain as they had, let us first not forget the hero that Ft. Bragg is currently named after.



Roland L. Bragg enlisted in the U.S. Army in July 1943 and was stationed at Fort Bragg. Bragg was a paratrooper in the Army, serving with the 17th Airborne Division during the Battle of the Bulge. In 1945, Bragg was awarded the Silver Star, the Purple Heart, the Army Good Conduct Medal, the European African Middle Eastern Campaign Medal with three bronze stars, a Parachute Badge, and a Combat Infantry Badge.

The attack upon our Confederate heroes began in the Woke Congress's "Naming Commission." In 2020, President Trump Vetoed the Legislation to rename these bases, but the woke Congress overrode his veto. President Trump has long stated his disapproval of eradicating our history. Vice President JD Vance has also defended our efforts to preserve our heritage; he also has Confederate ancestry. Secretary of Defense Pete Hegseth is a Veteran of Ft. Bragg, NC, as is our SCV Chaplain in Chief Tom Hiter, our ANV Commander Jamie Graham, as well as many other SCV compatriots. While at Ft. Bragg they were all Soldiers of Ft. Bragg - Home of the Airborne. Pete Hegseth has called the renaming of bases "a sham," "garbage," and urged officials to "change it back." Let us consider this as a "first step" in the right direction. More must be done.

We need to keep President Trump, VP Vance, and Secretary of Defense Hegseth on our side. Degregatory remarks about this "first step" will not aid our effort. Here is what you can do to help.

As much as we want the names of the bases changed back to their original names that will take an Act of Congress because Congress passed Legislation in 2021 to change the names. Correcting these tragedies will require Congressional Legislation. The new administration in Washington is rejecting the Woke ideology. This provides us an opportunity to launch a counterattack against the Woke ideologues who attacked our Southern Heritage. If we act decisively, we can restore Military Base names, once again allow Southern National Guard Units to display unit battle honors won during the "Civil War," and restore the Arlington Reconciliation Monument.

Your assistance is needed to push this effort forward. Below is a link to the SCV's One Click Politics system.

Follow the below link

<https://oneclickpolitics.global.ssl.fastly.net/promo/65s>

This system allows you to inform your U.S. Senators and Congressmen about the necessity of correcting the anti-American Woke agenda.

I appreciate your willingness to help vindicate the Cause.

Deo Vindice,

Walter Donald Kennedy
Commander-in-Chief, SCV 2024-26



Yankee Sentiment in a Southern Town

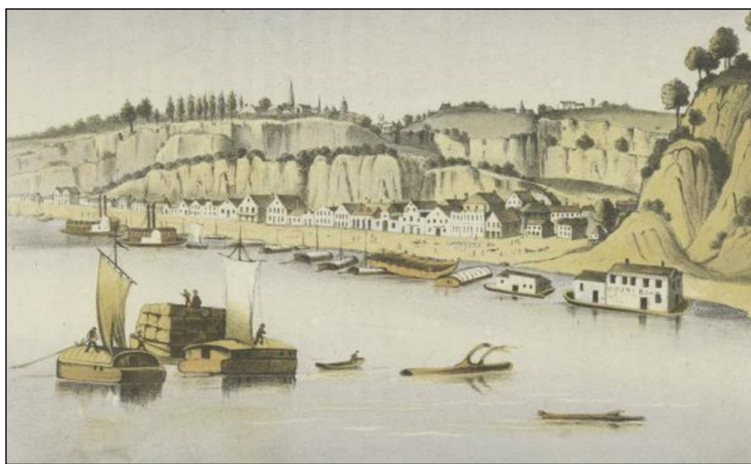


Illustration of Natchez in the 1850s.

In a May 15, 2023, article for the *Mississippi Free Press*, Virginia Sciolino wrote, “Union troops burned some southern cities, including Atlanta and Richmond, to destroy supplies and property that could benefit the Confederate Army... However, Natchez was never burned.”

Like many 19th-century river trade towns, Natchez, Mississippi, was home to a diverse population. Often compared to the “Wild West,” the town’s residents ranged from devout Christians to hardened criminals and all points in between. The Natchez City Cemetery—once named the South’s most interesting cemetery by Turner South Network—reflects

this diversity, with sections designated for Whites, Blacks, Jews, Catholics, Confederates, Unionists, and more. Over its long and complex history, Natchez was governed by the French, Spanish, English, and, eventually, Americans.

As a thriving commercial hub, Natchez was not particularly dependent on state or federal support. As a result, enthusiasm for secession was lukewarm. Many wealthy slaveholders echoed Alexander Stephens’ belief that slavery was more secure within the Union than outside it.

In a 2004 article for *Prologue* titled “Not Quite Southern: The Precarious Allegiance of the Natchez Nabobs in the Sectional Crisis,” historian William K. Scarborough summarized: “The Natchez nabobs never quite became Southerners, and they elected to remain loyal to the land of their heritage when the long-smoldering sectional conflict erupted into open warfare in 1860s.”

The National Park Service supports this view, stating, “For the most part, the wealthy Natchez planters did not support secession from the Union in 1861... but their sons joined the Confederate Army nonetheless.” In addition, at the outset of the war, many Northern laborers who had been building plantations left immediately to return home, with some likely joining the Union Army.

Today, this divided allegiance is evident to the thousands of tourists who visit the area’s grand historic houses. Brandon Hall was owned by New Yorker William Bolling; Homewood Plantation belonged to Pennsylvanian John Hardeman; and Glenfield Plantation was owned by New Yorker William S. Balfour. In addition, slave ownership in Natchez was not limited to white Southerners—Blacks and Native Americans also owned enslaved people. For example, William Johnson, a mixed-race man known as “The Barber of Natchez,” owned at least fifteen slaves, and his contributions to the town remain a tourist attraction.

The Mississippi River divides Natchez, Mississippi, from Vidalia, Louisiana, with what is now known as Giles Island lying between them. This island was the site of the famous 1827 “Sandbar Fight,” which popularized the Bowie knife, the large blade used by Jim Bowie during the conflict. The region is steeped in history, and both sides of the river have capitalized on its past.

Unlike some other Southern cities, Natchez emerged from the Civil War relatively unscathed. Why? Perhaps because many of the area’s largest slaveholders were Northerners. Today, Natchez boasts one of the greatest collections of antebellum architecture in the country.

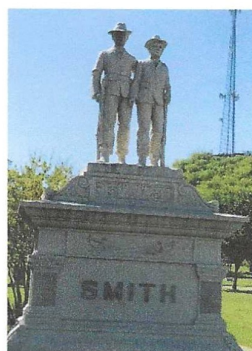


Upcoming Events

ASJ Camp Meeting	March 13, 2025
TX Div. DEC Meeting (<i>Waco</i>)	March 29, 2025
ASJ Camp Meeting (Confederate History Month)	April 10, 2025
TX Div-Wide Confederate Heritage Picnic (<i>Mexia</i>)	April 19, 2025
Decatur Celtic Festival	May 2-3, 2025
ASJ Camp Meeting	May 8, 2025
Texas Division Reunion (<i>Mineral Wells</i>)	June 6-8, 2025
ASJ Camp Meeting	June 12, 2025
ASJ Camp Meeting	July 10, 2025
130th National Reunion (<i>Houston</i>)	July 16-20, 2025
Old Settlers Reunion (<i>Decatur</i>)	July 21-26, 2025
ASJ Meeting	August 14, 2025
ASJ Meeting	September 11, 2025
ASJ Meeting	October 9, 2025
ASJ Meeting	November 14, 2025
ASJ Meeting (Christmas Dinner)	December ??, 2025



The Significance of Membership In The Sons of Confederate Veterans Cannot Be Overstated. The Veterans Themselves Entrusted Their Legacy To The Sons... A Responsibility Not To Be Taken Lightly. Ours Is Truly A Heritage Of Honor. Deo Vindice.



128th TEXAS DIVISION REUNION **SONS OF CONFEDERATE VETERANS** **MINERAL WELLS JUNE 6-8, 2025**

hosted by: SCV Camps:

34th Texas Cavalry #2283-Palo Pinto County

2nd Texas Frontier #1904-DeLeon

With the support of

Texas Society Order of Confederate Rose™, INC.

CACTUS ROSE #23 (DeLeon)

PAINTED ROSE #66 (Mineral Wells)



Details are available at scv130.com.

This is a rare opportunity for all Texas SCV compatriots to attend a National Reunion close to home.

Mark your calendar and get your registration and hotel reservations in early.

