

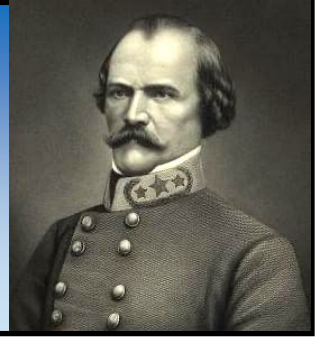


THE PICKET LINE

Albert Sidney Johnston Camp #983

DECATUR TX

JANUARY 2025



FEBRUARY MEETING WILL BE ON TUESDAY, FEB. 11TH.

Camp Meeting location has changed.

We are now meeting at the Fellowship Hall of **Grace Baptist Church**
600 S. Trinity St.
Decatur

Our meeting room is much larger and will allow us much more flexibility to have events there.

January Camp Meeting

...was the first meeting at our new location in Decatur. We finally were able to have our January meeting after a two week postponement due to weather and other extenuating circumstances. Thankfully we were able to have a quorum to install ASJ Camp #983's 2025 officers.

Our February meeting is coming up fast and due to an unforeseen scheduling conflict with the church our camp meeting will be earlier on Tuesday, March 11th. Please mark your calendars and hope to see you all there!



In This Issue

Camp Officers Sworn-In	Page 2
Lee / Jackson	Page 3
Confederate Heroes Day	Page 4
Notable January Birthdays	Page 5
Book Review	Page 6
Paid In Full!	Page 7
The Cassville Dilemma	Page 8
Upcoming Events	Page 9
Texas Division Reunion	Page 10
National Reunion	Page 11
Words of Thought	Page 12



Pictured above 2025 Officers swearing in. See page 2.



2024 CAMP OFFICERS



3rd Brigade Commander Joe Allcock, (L) swore in new 2025 camp officers (l-r) Jim Cox-Camp Commander, Bruce Cunningham-1st Lt. Commander, Ed Harralson-2nd Lt. Commander and Keith Hulsey-Adjutant. (Chaplain Allen Glanville was unable to attend).

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

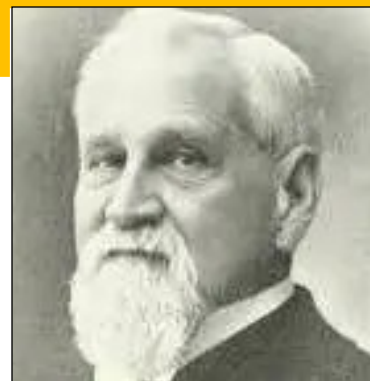
CHECK OUT THE NEW WEBSITE!

www.asjohnstoncamp983.com

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*





THE PICKET LINE

CONFEDERATE HEROES DAY



ROBERT E. LEE

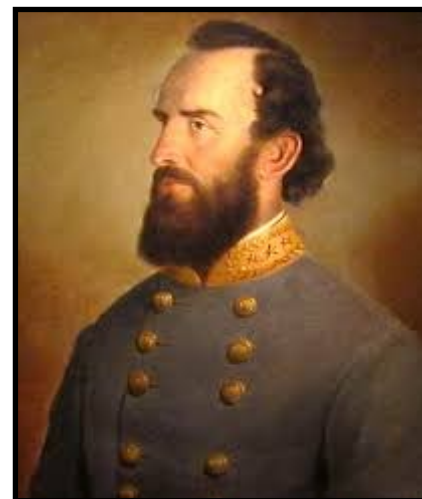
JANUARY 19, 1807 –

OCTOBER 12, 1870

THOMAS J. JACKSON

JANUARY 21, 1824 –

MAY 10, 1863



The Last Meeting of Lee and Jackson

Stonewall Jackson once said that he would "follow blind-folded" his commanding officer General Robert E. Lee. The deep admiration which these two soldiers bore for each other was shared mutually. They were the greatest military leaders to serve the cause of the Confederacy. According to legend, they met for the last time at Chancellorsville, Virginia, the night of May 1, 1863. General Hooker was pressing down the Rappahannock with great speed, and the Confederate generals decided to divide their forces, leaving Lee to meet the enemy head-on while Jackson was to make a wide arc and attack from the rear. Before daylight on May 2 Jackson began his last march. He struck the rear of Hooker's right flank, routing the eleventh corps and forcing it to retreat across the river. Returning to camp from the front that night, Jackson rode between Confederate lines and was accidentally shot three times in the arm by a North Carolina picket. When he subsequently heard that Jackson's arm had to be amputated, Lee remarked, "Jackson has lost his left arm, but I have lost my right arm." Jackson never recuperated. He contracted pneumonia and deteriorated rapidly. He died at Guiney's Station on May 10.



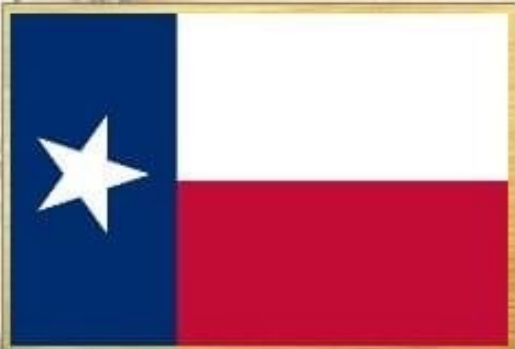
CONFEDERATE HEROES DAY ORIGINS

In the spring of 1866 the Ladies Memorial Association of Columbus, Georgia, passed a resolution to set aside one day annually to memorialize the Confederate war dead. Mary Ann Williams, the association secretary, was directed to pen a letter inviting ladies associations in every former Confederate state to join them in the observance. Their invitation was written in March 1866 and sent to all of the principal cities in the former Confederacy, including San Antonio & Houston, TX. The actual date for the holiday was selected by Mrs. Elizabeth Rutherford Ellis. She chose April 26, the first anniversary of Confederate General Johnston's surrender to Union Major General Sherman at Bennett Place. For many in the Confederacy, that date in 1865 marked the end of the Civil War.

For many Texans however, weeks after the victory at Palmito Ranch on May 13th, 1865; the war ended on the last cease-fire was signed at Fort Towson, Oklahoma, on June 23, 1865, although the naval forces on the C.S.S. Shenandoah did not surrender until November 4, 1865, in Liverpool, Great Britain. It is estimated that more than 600,000 soldiers died during the American Civil War and about 260,000 of these were Confederates. In addition, an unknown number of civilians died in the hostilities.

Those who died fighting for the Confederate States during the Civil War are remembered on other dates in some states. In Texas, there are joint celebrations of the birthday of General Robert E. Lee, and for President Jefferson F. Davis on January 19th. Originally known as "Lee Day", General Lee's birthday was made a state holiday in 1931. In 1973, "Lee Day" was renamed "Confederate Heroes Day". The official state description of the holiday states it is held "in honor of Jefferson Davis, Robert E. Lee, and other Confederate heroes." Across the Texas Division, many Sons of Confederate Veterans camps and United Daughters of the Confederacy chapters, along with the Texas Societies Order of Confederate Rose, & The Military Order of the Stars & Bars all celebrate this day with dedication ceremonies at local confederate cemeteries during the day, with a gala or dinner in the evening. Because it is a holiday, State offices remain open but employees may have an optional day off.

However, since 2015, there have been numerous attempts in the Texas Legislature to have this holiday amended or abolished - all with no success. To this day, Confederate Heroes Day remains a celebrated holiday by Texans, for our Confederate heroes.



When Texas delegates voted to secede from the Union in February 1861, the star of the Texas Flag was tilted off axis by 20 degrees as way of "giving the bird" to the Union and by extension - "Honost Ab" Linlcon.

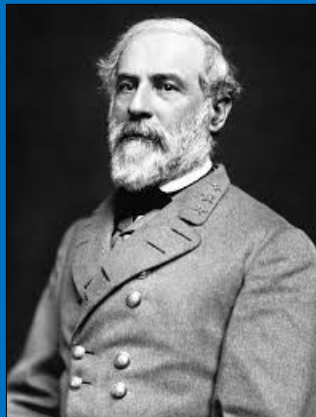
A "Committee of Safety" was organized to seize all federal property in the state, especially the Federal Arsenal in San Antonio, and the Alamo. When the Texas Brigade first organized, they adopted this flag for their unit.



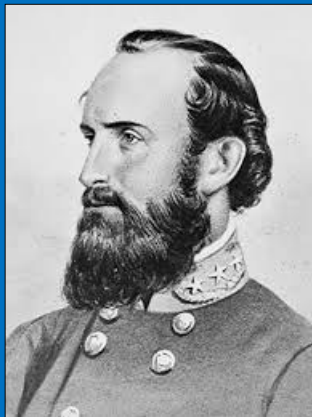


THE PICKET LINE

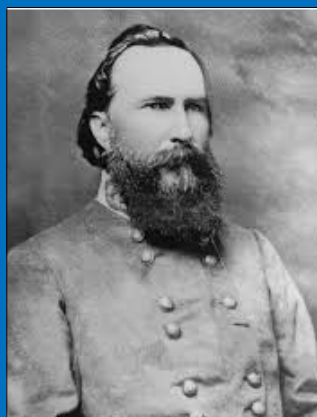
Notable January Birthdays



General Robert E. Lee
Jan. 19, 1807 VA



Lt. Gen. Thomas J. Jackson
Jan. 21, 1824 VA



Lt. Gen. James Longstreet
Jan. 8, 1821 SC



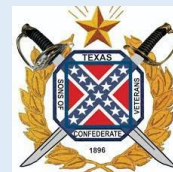
Maj. Gen. John Breckenridge
Jan. 15, 1821 KY

ADJUTANT REPORT



New Year, 2025 is up and going quickly, our January meeting was exciting in our new facility at Grace Baptist Church. 3rd Brigade Commander Joe (Festus) Allcock installed our 2025 officers as well as gave reports on the Ft Worth Stock Show Parade and Confederate Heroes day at The Weatherford Courthouse. We are excited for all the upcoming events this year and look forward to what this year has to bring.

Deo Vindice,
Keith Hulsey, Adjutant



AFGHAN RAFFLE

1st National Flag
"Stars and Bars" Hand-crocheted
Afghan (3ft. By 5 ft.)



\$5 per ticket or 6 tickets for \$25

Raffle Fundraiser DRAWING will be APRIL 10th.



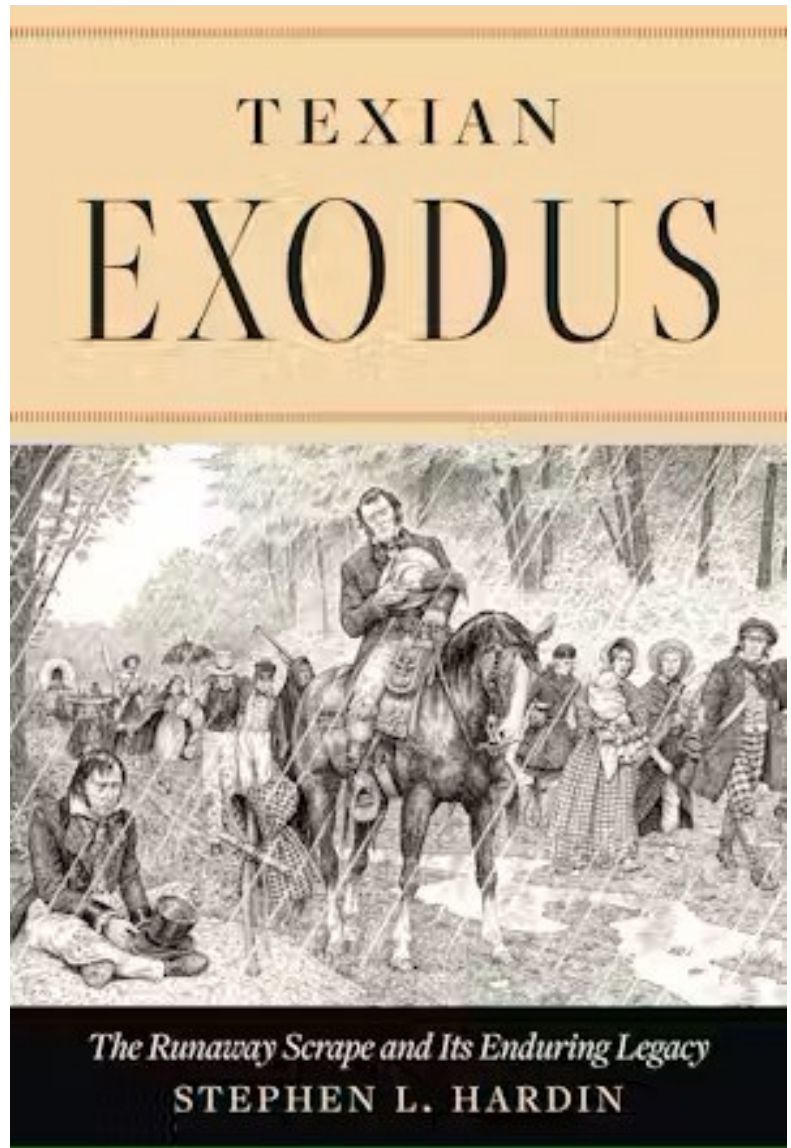
Book Review

by 1st Lt. Cmdr. Bruce Cunningham

TEXIAN EXODUS

by Stephen L. Hardin

Two events in Texas history shine so brightly that they can be almost blinding: the Stand at the Alamo and the Redemption at San Jacinto, where General Sam Houston's volunteers won the decisive battle of the Texas Revolution. But these milestones came amid a less obviously rhetoric episode now studiously forgotten--the refugee crisis known as the Runaway Scrape. Propulsive, lyrical and evocatively illustrated, *Texian Exodus* transports us to the frigid, sodden spring of 1836, when thousands of Texians--Anglo-American settlers--fled eastward for the United States in fear of Antonio Lopez de Santa Anna's advancing Mexican Army. Leading Texas historian Stephen L. Hardin draws on the accounts of the Runaways themselves to relate a tale of high stakes and great sorrow. While Houston tried to build a force that could defeat Santa Anna, the evacuees suffered incalculable pain and suffering. Yet dignity and community were not among the losses. If many of the stories are indeed tragic, the experience as a whole was no tragedy: survivors regarded the Runaway Scrape as their finest hour, an ordeal met with cooperation and courage. For the author, Hardin, such a qualities still define the Texas character. That it was forged in retreat as well as in battle makes the Runaway Scrape essential Texas history. (University of Texas Press, 2024: utexaspress.com \$39.99).



as a whole was no tragedy: survivors regarded the Runaway Scrape as their finest hour, an ordeal met with cooperation and courage. For the author, Hardin, such a qualities still define the Texas character. That it was forged in retreat as well as in battle makes the Runaway Scrape essential Texas history. (University of Texas Press, 2024: utexaspress.com \$39.99).

Note from 1LT CDR Cunningham: What legacy did this time of suffering leave with the Texians that would face the risk of an invading army 25 years later? Did our Texas forebearers fight harder? Volunteer more resoundingly? Sacrifice greater depths to ensure that no Union or foreign army was again allowed to deface the homes and firesides of the people of Texas. I am quite sure that they did.



Bank Debt: Paid in Full

Gentlemen,

I am pleased to announce to the Sons of Confederate Veterans membership that the outstanding balance on the museum banknote is now fully paid! As of December 27, 2024, Heritage Bank of Columbia, TN, was paid \$885,516.54 to liquidate our obligation for this loan. This payment was made possible due to the generosity of anonymous benefactors.

While we all are very impressed and thankful for the generosity of our anonymous benefactors, their donations would not have been possible if not for the hard work and sacrifice of our members and friends. You, the members, have worked hard and sacrificed much to reduce a two-and-a-half million-dollar debt to less than one million dollars. Your willingness to do so much to reduce this debt assured our benefactors that their generosity would not be a wasted effort. Our benefactors in essence matched the many donations made by our members and friends. The ongoing 21st Century Campaign is now opening the door for to the possibility for other donors to match your donations.

For several years, the SCV has been paying for two museum loans: a bank loan and a loan from our Brooks Medical Fund. The loan from the bank was the most troubling. The bank loan was due for renewal in July of this year. That renewal would have been at a substantially higher interest rate. This potential increase in cost would have hampered our efforts to protect our heritage and, therefore, was an issue that had to be dealt with. Paying off this loan became one of the GEC's highest priorities. The SCV can now use the ten to thirteen thousand dollars spent monthly on bank payments to initiate a robust campaign to promote the truth about the SCV and our honorable Confederate heritage. We now look forward to keeping our museum open on more weekends.

We still have a loan borrowed from "ourselves" via the Brooks Medical Fund. The payment on that loan is a fully budgeted item. The SCV will continue repaying that loan. Any increase in interest on that loan will be paid directly to the Brooks Medical Fund.

We are continuing the 21st Century Confederate Heroes Campaign and will use the additional funds to restore the Forrest Plaza, pay down the loan to the Brooks Fund, and assist in special projects to promote Southern heritage.

We are on the verge of a new and more robust defense of Southern heritage and, most importantly, VINDICATING the Cause for which our Confederate ancestors fought.

Deo Vindice,

Walter Donald Kennedy





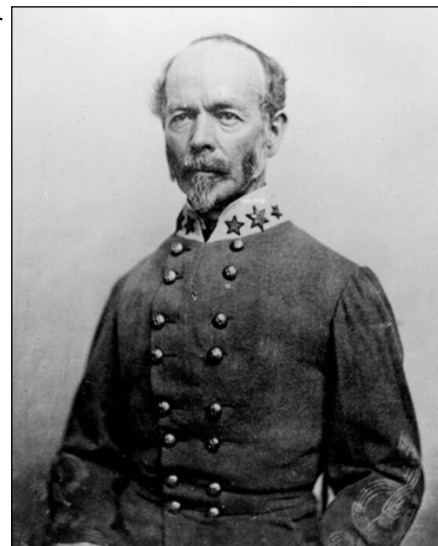
Was Cassville the Turning Point Sherman Never Planned?

Robert D. (Bob) Jenkins, Sr., December 30, 2024, blueandgrayeducation.org

For more than 150 years, Civil War historians have remained baffled over the Cassville controversies. There are two conflicting versions of events: one from Confederate commanding Gen. Joseph E. Johnston and the other from Lt. Gen. John Bell Hood. But Union Maj. Gen. William T. Sherman pursued his own plans, leaving the Confederates "surprised" in the woods and fields of Bartow County, near Cartersville, Georgia.

At the heart of the Cassville affair were two Confederate dilemmas: first, whether to attack a portion of the Federal army in the morning; and second, once the morning attack was deemed unfeasible, whether to stay and fight the following day. Both decisions were the responsibility of Johnston, and both decisions involved advice and assistance by Hood.

On the morning of May 19, 1864, Johnston issued a General Order declaring the army's retreat had ended, and the time had come to turn and face the enemy. Yet, after a series of unforeseen developments, the Southern commander chose to withdraw from Cassville without engaging in a major fight.



General Joseph Johnston 1862

Several factors played a hand in the decision to retreat from Cassville. Chief among them was the "fog of war," a term coined by military theorist Carl von Clausewitz to describe the uncertainty and chaos of battle that can disrupt even the best laid plans. As fate would have it, both accidental mishaps and enemy actions compounded to derail Confederate strategies at Cassville.

Due to an oversight in Confederate map-making, a key road was not properly identified, leaving the Confederate cavalry screen unable to protect Hood's column of infantry, which was marching to execute a flanking surprise attack on a vulnerable portion of the Federal army. This lapse allowed Brig. Gen. Edward McCook and his Federal cavalrymen to penetrate the rear and flank of Hood's forces, unraveling the Confederate plan.

Additionally, Sherman had his eyes set on Kingston as the target of his army, not Cassville. Like spokes of a wagon wheel pointing toward the center, Sherman ordered his six infantry corps to converge on Kingston, with each column supporting the others as the widely scattered corps converged. As a result, Hood's intended target, Maj. Gen. John Schofield's XXIII Corps, did not march into the intended trap. Even if McCook's cavalry had not frustrated Hood's plan, the Confederate attackers would have been striking at air, for Schofield was not where they expected and when they had anticipated. In fact, Schofield and his corps would not arrive in the vicinity of Cassville until after 4 p.m., long after Hood's attacking force had abandoned the plan.

Cassville was supposed to be the site of a bold Southern counterattack, where Johnston and Hood would turn the tide on Sherman and reverse Confederate fortunes in Georgia, and with it the wider war. Instead, Sherman's decisions in the "fog of war" served to both successfully (and accidentally) prevent Schofield's force from being struck in a surprise ambush, and to successfully (and intentionally) thrust McCook's cavalry into the unsuspecting underbelly of Hood's marching column.

For 160 years, Johnston successfully deflected blame for the failure at Cassville, shifting the narrative to suit his legacy. But, as this new study has revealed, there was plenty of blame to go around.

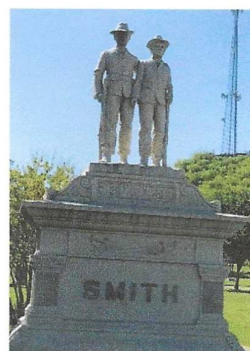


Upcoming Events

ASJ Camp Meeting	February 11, 2025
ASJ Camp Meeting	March 13, 2025
ASJ Camp Meeting (Confederate History Month)	April 10, 2025
TX Div-Wide Confederate Heritage Picnic (Mexia)	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 (Decatur)	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.





“Words of Thought”

January 18, 2025



And beginning at Moses and all the prophets, he expounded unto them in all the scriptures the things concerning himself. Luke 24:27 KJV

Charles H. Spurgeon wrote:

The two disciples on the road to Emmaus had a most profitable journey. Their companion and teacher was the best of tutors; the interpreter one of a thousand, in whom are hid all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge. The Lord Jesus condescended to become a preacher of the gospel, and He was not ashamed to exercise His calling before an audience of two persons, neither does He now refuse to become the teacher of even one. Let us court the company of so excellent an Instructor, for till He is made unto us wisdom we shall never be wise unto salvation.

This unrivalled tutor used as His class-book the best of books. Although able to reveal fresh truth, He preferred to expound the old. He knew by His omniscience what was the most instructive way of teaching, and by turning at once to Moses and the prophets, He showed us that the surest road to wisdom is not speculation, reasoning, or reading human books, but meditation upon the Word of God. The readiest way to be spiritually rich in heavenly knowledge is to dig in this mine of diamonds, to gather pearls from the heavenly sea. When Jesus Himself sought to enrich others, He wrought in the quarry of Holy Scripture.

The favoured pair were led to consider the best of subjects, for Jesus spake of Jesus, and expounded the things concerning Himself. Here the diamond cut the diamond, and what could be more admirable? The Master of the House unlocked His own doors, conducted the guests to His table, and placed His own dainties upon it. He who hid the treasure in the field Himself guided the searchers to it. Our Lord would naturally discourse upon the sweetest of topics, and He could find none sweeter than his own person and work: with an eye to these we should always search the Word. O for grace to study the Bible with Jesus as both our teacher and our lesson!

May these “Words of Thought” be a blessing unto you.

Troy Chandler

Chaplain, Army of Trans-Mississippi