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DCV TRAVELLER



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**DESCENDANTS OF CONFEDERATE VETERANS
A TEXAS BASED ASSOCIATION WITH CHAPTERS IN TEXAS & SOUTH CAROLINA**

www.DCVTX.org

Summer 2015

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE:

Greetings DCV Compatriots,

I am proud to announce that we **doubled** the number of R.E. LEE awards that we presented this year! We were honored to present swords to four outstanding ROTC cadets in four different schools. In addition to our annual presentations at Seguin and Bastrop High Schools, we also presented awards to Elgin High School and Travis High School in Austin. This is the first year of Elgin's NJROTC class, and we were very impressed with the quality of the cadets in this program. Our organization received a personal hand written thank you note from one of the recipients. Several of the unit commanders have told me that their cadets talk about this award all year and it is always the highlight of the award ceremony. To quote one of the commanders, the Robert E. Lee Leadership Award (the sword) is the most "coveted" award (by the cadets) that is presented. In fact, so much so that last year's awardee from Seguin attended this year's ceremony, brought his sword and asked to have a photo taken with this year's awardee and me. Folks, it doesn't get any better than that! 'Duty Faithfully Performed'

Those who came to the Capitol to speak against the proposed House Bill that would have removed Confederate Heroes Day from the calendar were successful at stalling this attempt to dishonor Texas Confederate Veterans. The HB 1242 did not come out of committee and was never voted on. Congratulations and heartfelt thanks to everyone

who attended the hearing and spoke in opposition to the bill; I am proud to be in the company of such outstanding men and women who fought to preserve the honor and memory of our ancestors. I am sure another attempt will be made and we must remain vigilant.

We have requested a meeting with the new President of the University of Texas to discuss the Confederate Statues located on the South mall of the main building (UT tower) in Austin. So far, no response has been received.

I know that our newsletter editor would love to hear from you if you know of other events that are coming up, or you have photos or articles of interest to our membership.

I want to thank each of you for the work you do to preserve our Southern Heritage. Even if you don't attend meetings or events, the fact that you are proud enough of your Confederate ancestor to join our organization to promote and preserve the values he fought so bravely to save.

Please know that I am truly honored to serve as president and remain at your service.

Steve von Roeder

'May GOD save the Ol' Southland Forever'

Observance of the 150th Anniversary of
The War Between the States



Battle of Palmito Ranch
May 12 and 13, 1865

**"Boys, we have done finely.
We will let well enough alone, and retire"**

Col. John S. (Rip) Ford

The Battle of Palmito Ranch in South Texas was the last land battle of the War Between the States. The battle took place thirty-four days after General Robert E. Lee surrendered at Appomattox. Fort Brown at Brownsville was held by the Confederates commanded by Gen. James E. Slaughter and Col. John S. (Rip) Ford. In February 1865 the Union commander at Brazos Island, Col. Theodore H. Barrett, reported to his superiors that his base was secure from attack and that with permission he could take Brownsville and recapture Fort Brown.



Fort Brown in 1906

The request was rejected. Instead, Maj. Gen. Lewis Wallace sought and received Lt. Gen. Ulysses S. Grant's permission to meet the Confederate commanders of the Brownsville area and Col. John Salmon (Rip) Ford, commander of the southern division of Slaughter's in hopes of arranging a

separate peace. Wallace promised no retaliation against former Confederates so long as they took an oath of allegiance to the United States. Anyone who preferred to leave the country would be given time to gather up property and family before doing so. An informal truce was arranged while Ford and Slaughter sent Wallace's proposals up their chain of command. Wallace was certain the terms would be accepted and informed Grant that the rebels would soon be surrendering. Not so fast; General Slaughter's superior, Maj. Gen. John G. Walker in Houston denounced Wallace's terms and wrote a stinging letter to Slaughter for having listened to them in the first place. The commander of the Confederate Trans-Mississippi Department, Lt. Gen. Edmund Kirby Smith, was not ready to abandon the cause either.

The federals, meanwhile, had received an erroneous report that the southerners were preparing to evacuate Brownsville. In light of this intelligence Colonel Barrett ordered 250 men of the Sixty-second United States Colored Infantry and fifty men of the Second Texas United States Cavalry (dismounted) to cross to the mainland from Brazos Island at Boca Chica Pass to occupy Brownsville. Under the command of Lt. Col. David Branson, this detachment marched all night and reached White's Ranch at daybreak. There Branson's men halted and tried to conceal themselves in a thicket along the Rio Grande. The camp was spotted by "civilians" (probably Confederate soldiers) on the Mexican side of the river. Realizing that any hope of surprising the Confederates was lost, Branson immediately resumed his march toward Brownsville.

At Palmito Ranch the federals encountered Capt. W. N. Robinson's 190-man company of Lt. Col. George H. Giddings's Texas Cavalry, which skirmished with the Union force. Colonel Rip Ford, at Fort Brown, had ordered Captain Robinson to maintain contact with the federals and promised to reinforce him as soon as possible. Under pressure the federals fell back to White's Ranch. It was there Union Colonel Theodore H. Barrett arrived in the early morning of May 13th with 200 men of the Thirty-fourth Indiana Infantry, bringing the Union strength up to 500 officers and men.



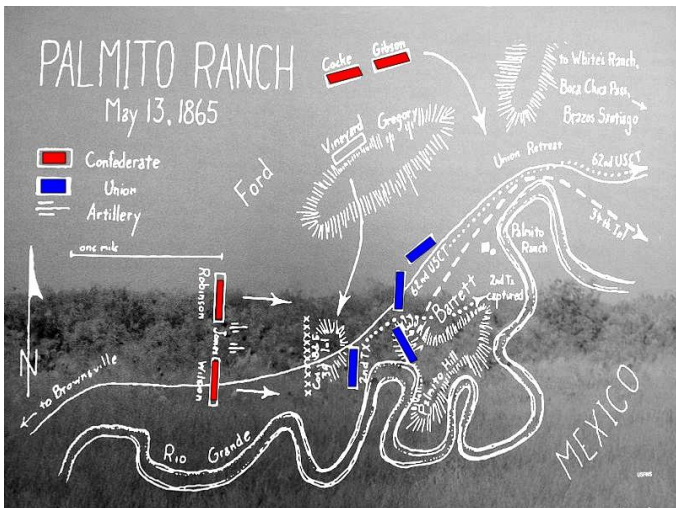
The Confederates chased the federals for seven miles to Brazos Island. There the routed Union troops were met by reinforcements, and Ford's men ceased their attack. The action had lasted a total of four hours. Confederate casualties were a few dozen wounded. The federals lost 111 men and four officers captured, and thirty men wounded or killed. ***"Boys, we have done finely," said Ford. "We will let well enough alone, and retire."***

Under Barrett's command the column moved on Palmito Ranch once more, and a "sharp engagement" took place in a thicket along the riverbank between Barrett's 500 troops and Robinson's 190 Confederates. The outnumbered but persistent southerners were soon pushed back across an open prairie and beyond sight, while the exhausted federals paused on a small hill about a mile west of Palmito Ranch. At three that afternoon, Colonel Ford arrived to reinforce Robinson with 300 men from his own Second Texas Cavalry, Col. Santos Benavides's Texas Cavalry Regiment, and additional companies from Giddings's battalion, as well as a six-gun battery of field artillery under the command of Capt. O. G. Jones.

There are two dioramas depicting the Battle of Palmito Ranch on permanent display in Texas Museums.



**Texas Civil War Museum
760 Jim Wright Freeway North,
Fort Worth, TX 76108**



Ford wrote in his memoirs that Barrett "seemed to have lost his presence of mind" and the battle from its beginning had been "a run," and demonstrated "how fast demoralized men could get over ground."



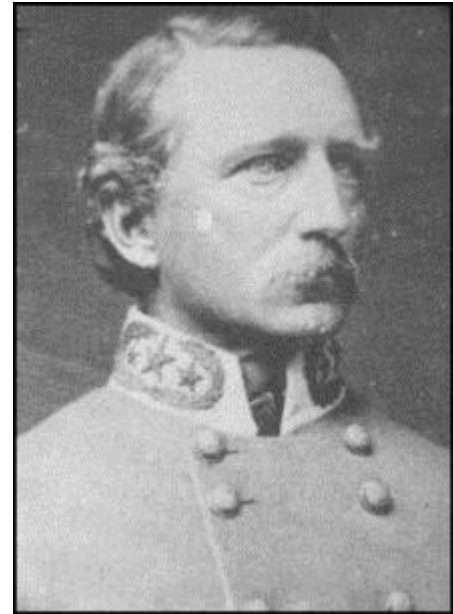
**Brigadier General John C. L. Scribner
Texas Military Forces Museum
Camp Mabry Austin, Texas**

1st Lt. W. E. James Chapter, Darlington, SC



Members of the 1st Lt. W.E. James Chapter

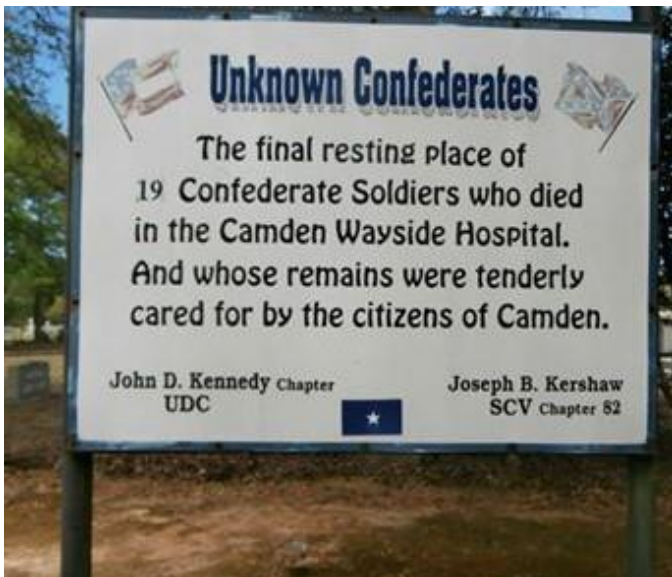
Confederate Generals in Old Quaker Cemetery



Joseph Brevard Kershaw
Major General, CSA

January 5, 1822 – April 13, 1894

Old Quaker Cemetery is a cemetery located in Camden, South Carolina in Kershaw County. It dates back to the earliest days of Camden, which was first settled in 1730, and is the oldest inland city in South Carolina.



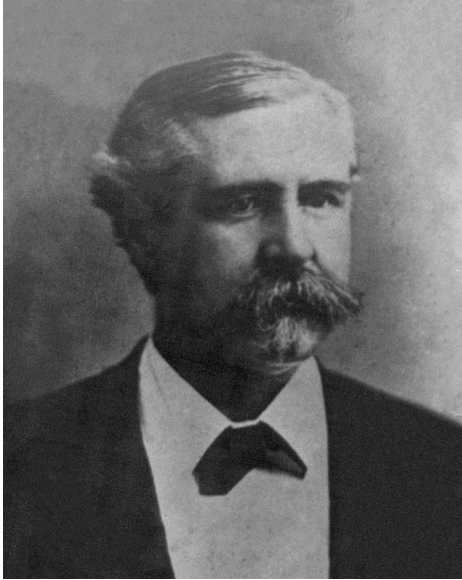
The Unknown Plot of Camden

The cemetery is notable in that it maintains the gravesites of more than 200 Confederate soldiers including three Generals and 19 in the unknown plot of Camden.

At the start of the war Kershaw commanded the 2nd South Carolina Volunteer Infantry regiment and fought at First Manassas. After being commissioned Brigadier General he commanded a brigade in Robert E. Lee's Army of Northern Virginia during the Peninsula Campaign, the Northern Virginia Campaign, and the Maryland Campaign. Towards the end of the Battle of Fredericksburg he succeeded Brig. Gen. T.R.R. Cobb, upon the latter's death, and repulsed the last two attacks made by the Federals on Marye's Heights. After being engaged in the Battle of Gettysburg he was transferred with Lt. General James Longstreet's Corps to the West where he took part in the charge that destroyed the Federal right wing at Chickamauga.

Following the battle of Knoxville Kershaw was given the command of the division. When Longstreet returned to Virginia, he commanded a division in the battles of the Wilderness, Spotsylvania Court House and Cold Harbor. He was also engaged in the Shenandoah Campaign of 1864 against Major General Phillip Sheridan. After the evacuation of Richmond his troops formed part of Lt. Gen. Richard S. Ewell's Corps, which was captured at the battle of Sayler's Creek, April 6, 1865.

**Confederate Generals in Old Quake Cemetery
cont.**



**John Doby Kennedy
Brigadier General, CSA
January 5, 1840 – April 14, 1896**

John Kennedy became Captain of Company E, 2nd South Carolina Infantry, under fellow Camden resident Col. Joseph Brevard Kershaw. At the First Battle of Manassas, he was struck by a Minie ball and badly wounded. Recovering, he was promoted to colonel when Kershaw was promoted to Brigadier General.

Kennedy's first action in command of a regiment occurred at a skirmish on the Nine-Mile Road near Richmond, Virginia, in June 1862. During Stonewall Jackson's investment of Harpers Ferry, Kennedy was with Kershaw's brigade in the capture of the important Maryland Heights. He led his regiment in Kershaw's counterattack during the Battle of Sharpsburg. However, he fell painfully wounded in the first charge, struck in the instep and Achilles tendon. Recovering in time for a major battle, Kennedy led the 2nd and 8th South Carolina to the support of Gen. Howell Cobb at Marye's Heights, the focus of the hottest fighting.

In 1863, Kennedy efficiently led his regiment during the battles of Chancellorsville and Gettysburg. During 1864, when not disabled, he was either in command of his regiment or of Kershaw's old brigade during the Richmond and Shenandoah Valley campaigns. In December, he was promoted

Brigadier General John Doby Kennedy, CSA cont.

to the temporary rank of Brigadier General and assigned command of a brigade in Lafayette McLaws' Division of Hardee's corps. He took part in the Carolinas Campaign against William T. Sherman.

Kennedy survived six wounds during his service to the Confederacy, and was hit fifteen times by spent balls.



**John Bordenave Villepigue
Brigadier General, CSA
July 2, 1830 – November 9, 1862**

John Villepigue was initially commissioned as a Captain of artillery but was quickly promoted to the rank of colonel in the provisional army and assigned to the 36th Georgia Infantry Regiment. His first notable action was to command the defense of Fort McRee, guarding Pensacola harbor, during the bombardment of November 22, 1861. At the time, his commanding officer, General Braxton Bragg, suggested that for the number and caliber of guns involved, this would surely rank as the heaviest bombardment in the world to date. Bragg praised Villepigue's coolness under fire, even while grievously wounded, and noted that his example caused the troops he was leading—for the most part raw volunteers from Georgia and Mississippi—to fight with the courage of veterans.

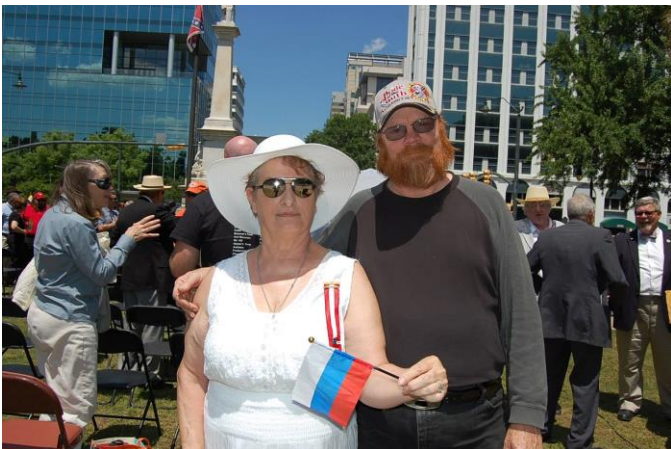
1st Lt. W. E. James Chapter, Darlington, SC



Joseph Matheson from Camden showing his Chapter Membership Certificate. Joseph also gave a presentation on the Confederate Telegraph Service, a subject many know little about



Author David Lucas speaks to the members of the Chapter on the history of rice production in the early years of South Carolina



Chapter President Joyce Digges with Compatriot Chuck Horton at the Confederate Memorial Day Service in Columbia, SC on 2 May 2015

**East Texas Chapter Marker Dedication
Pirtle Methodist Cemetery
Rusk County, Texas**



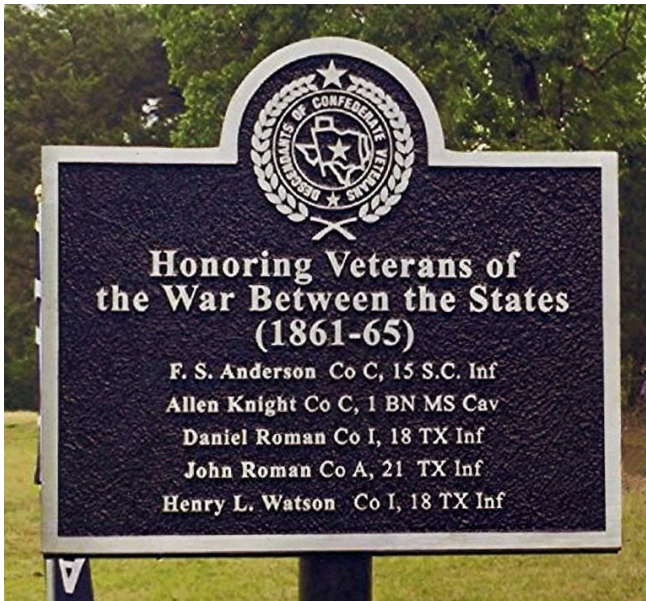
East Texas Chapter members Mark Appleton, Kay Hilburn and Amy Hilburn.



East Texas Chapter Color Guard, Terry Hedrick, J.D. Boydstun, Van Matthews, Mark Appleton



**East Texas Chapter Marker Dedication
Pirtle Methodist Cemetery**



Permanent marker sponsored and funded by the East Texas Chapter, Descendants of Confederate Veterans



Mark Appleton addressing attendees of the Marker Dedication honoring five Confederate Veterans



**Navy Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps
Robert E. Lee Leadership Award**

The Capitol Chapter is the official sponsor of the NJROTC Robert E. Lee Leadership Award at Seguin High School, Seguin, Texas, Bastrop High School, Bastrop, Texas, Elgin High School, Elgin, Texas, and William B. Travis High School, Austin, Texas.

The recipient of the award receives a Certificate from the Descendants of Confederate Veterans and a replica of Confederate General Jo Shelby's Staff Sword.

DCV President Steve von Roeder and wife Lyn von Roeder, both members of the Capitol Chapter attended the award ceremonies at all four participating high schools. President von Roeder salutes the recipients and presents them with the award. Capitol Chapter member Jim Price, a faculty member at Travis High School also participated in the Travis ceremony.

BASTROP H. S.



**DCV President Steve von Roeder salutes
Cadet Senior Chief Petty Officer Noah Diaz**

**Robert E. Lee Leadership Award cont.
ELGIN H.S.**



**Cadet Lieutenant Commander Jonathon D. Nixon
WILLIAM B. TRAVIS H.S. Austin, TX**



**(L) DCV President Steve von Roeder
(C) Cadet Lieutenant Commander Ofelio Martinez
(R) Chapter Member and Travis High School Faculty
Jim Price**

Continued Top of Page

**Robert E. Lee Leadership Award cont.
SEGUIN H. S.**



Cadet Master Chief Petty Officer Alejandro Hernandez



**(L) Class of 2014 Robert E. Lee Leadership
Award Recipient
Cadet Lieutenant Junior Grade Tyler Schenck**

(C) President von Roeder

**(R) Class of 2015 Robert E. Lee
Leadership Award Recipient, Cadet
Master Chief Petty Officer Alejandro Hernandez**

Continued Next Page

Robert E. Lee Leadership Award cont



Letter to DCV President Steve von Roeder

5-7-15

Steve,

I thank you and your organization for contributing to the success of last night and enriching the confidence of my cadets. They are the future leaders of our country and you and organizations like yours are doing their part to secure our future as a nation. I look forward to a continued partnership and if I or my cadets can ever assist you and your organization please do not hesitate to ask.

I am also going to do more research into my ancestor his name was Leonard Phillips he was stationed at Fort Ringgold and Married Julia Trevino. He hailed from Kentucky

Again Thank You for all that you do.

Sincerely,

Chief David R. Canales USN Ret.
Naval Science Instructor Bastrop High School

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JOB WELL DONE

Continued Top of Page

THIS IS YOUR NEWSLETTER

I invite and encourage each of you to contribute to the DCV Traveller. Please send descriptions and photos of meetings, activities, and events. Large or small, every contribution we make to preserve and protect our Confederate history and heritage is worthy of being noted in our newsletter. Send to Terry Ayers > mototerry@texreb.com

THE DCV ON THE WEB

DCV Home > <http://www.dcvtx.org/>

Visit the DCV on Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/pages/Descendants-of-Confederate-Veterans/149137755127037>

Capitol Chapter > http://tiny.cc/Capitol_Chapter

1st Lt. W.E. James Chapter, South Carolina

<https://www.facebook.com/pages/1st-Lt-WE-James-Chapter/283117918488368>

IN THEIR OWN WORDS



"Boys, we have done finely. We will let well enough alone, and retire."

Col. John S. (Rip) Ford

THE BACK PAGE

The DCV TRAVELLER is published quarterly. Members are encouraged to contribute items of interest to the Editor for publication.

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END