



DCV TRAVELLER

DESCENDANTS OF CONFEDERATE VETERANS
A TEXAS BASED ASSOCIATION WITH CHAPTERS IN TEXAS AND SOUTH CAROLINA
www.DCVTX.org

Summer 2019

86th Texas Legislature Heritage Report

Three Bills were introduced during the 86th Texas legislative session related to our Confederate heritage. Two Bills would have strengthened current law. One Bill would have eliminated Confederate Heroes Day as a State of Texas holiday. But first, a look back at how we got here. In 1999, the NAACP imposed a boycott on the state of South Carolina. The boycott requested among other things that entertainers and sporting events avoid the state. That action brought national attention to the debate over the Confederate Battle Flag flying atop the South Carolina State House Capitol.

Not to be outdone by South Carolina the Texas NAACP began identifying targets located on State property. Topping the list were two bronze dedicatory plaques on the wall in the east vestibule of the Texas Supreme Court Building. The building constructed in the 50's and remodeled in 1992 was funded with money freed up by a Constitutional amendment from the Confederate Widows Pension Fund. Because of that, the building was dedicated to Texans who served the Confederacy and a plaque was installed.

86th Texas Legislature Heritage Report cont.

The other plaque contained a quote from Robert E. Lee expressing his admiration for the Texans under his command.



On April 6, 1999 during a meeting of the Texas Public Trust Commission headed by Associate Justice of the Texas Supreme Court Greg Abbott (now Governor of Texas) seeking to improve public confidence in the courts Texas NAACP President Gary Bledsoe raised the issue of the plaques. Ironically, he did not ask that the plaques be removed, just that there be some acknowledgement of the contributions of other Texans, such as soldiers who fought for the Union or the "slaves who helped build the infrastructure of the state."

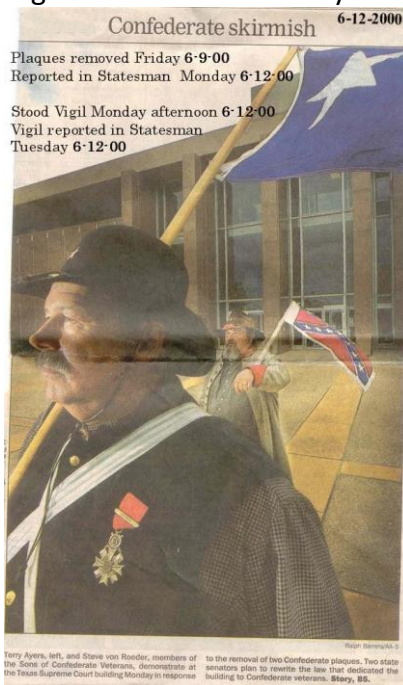
86th Texas Legislature Heritage Report cont.

It didn't take long for the call to totally remove the plaques to reach the office of then Governor of Texas and Presidential hopeful George W. Bush.

Over the weekend of June 10th 2000 Governor George W. Bush ordered the plaques removed. Not only were they removed but "politically correct" replacement plaques offensive to descendants of those Texans had already been cast and were simultaneously installed.



That event nineteen years ago launched the beginning of where we are today Texas.



Continued Top of Page

86th Texas Legislature Heritage Report cont.

Prior to the unprecedented removal of the plaques Texas did not have any laws to protect against removal or relocation of monuments, memorials, plaques, etc. A search of past legislation prior to 2000 this Editor could only come up with this statute added by the 74th Texas Legislature in 1995.

**CHAPTER 2166. BUILDING CONSTRUCTION AND ACQUISITION AND DISPOSITION OF REAL PROPERTY
SUBCHAPTER K**

A monument or memorial for Texas heroes of the Confederate States of America or the Texas War for Independence or to commemorate another event or person of historical significance to Texans and this state may be erected on land owned or acquired by the state or, if a suitable contract can be made for permanent preservation of the monument or memorial, on private property or land owned by the federal government or other states.

- (b) The graves of Texans described by Subsection (a) may be located and marked.*
- (c) The commission shall maintain a monument or memorial erected by this state to commemorate the centenary of Texas' independence.*
- (d) Before the erection of a new monument or memorial, the commission must obtain the approval of the Texas Historical Commission regarding the form, dimensions, and substance of, and inscriptions or illustrations on, the monument or memorial.*

In the fight to have the plaques returned to their rightful place the lack of protection came to light. As a result a year later when the 77th Legislature was in session Representative Carl Isett filed HB 2360. The Bill intended to provide protection language to the existing statute. It passed and became law September 1, 2001.

2166.5011. REMOVAL, RELOCATION, OR ALTERATION OF A MONUMENT OR MEMORIAL
(a) In this section, "monument or memorial" means a permanent monument, memorial, or other designation, including a statue, portrait, plaque, seal, symbol, building name, or street name, that:

Continued Next Page

- (1) is located on state property; and
- (2) honors a citizen of this state for military or war-related service.

(b) Notwithstanding any other provision of this code, a monument or memorial may be removed, relocated, or altered only:

- (1) by the legislature;
- (2) by the Texas Historical Commission;
- (3) by the State Preservation Board; or
- (4) as provided by Subsection (c).

(c) A monument or memorial may be removed, relocated, or altered in a manner otherwise provided by this code as necessary to accommodate construction, repair, or improvements to the monument or memorial or to the surrounding state property on which the monument or memorial is located. Any monument or memorial that is permanently removed under this subsection must be relocated to a prominent location.

Unfortunately the law was flawed, especially the provision that stated "honors a citizen of this state for military or war-related service."

That opened the door for removal of statues of Jefferson Davis and Robert E. Lee, Albert Sidney Johnston, and John H. Reagan.



Randy Jones Barney Hilburn Gillis Bartles Michael Dunagan Steve von Roeder Sam Bennett Jim Templin Terry Ayers

86th Texas Legislature Heritage Report cont.

It would take six more years for a legislator brave enough to bring a stronger Bill before the Legislature. During the 80th Legislative session in 2007 Representative Sid Miller (current Texas Agriculture Commissioner) introduced HB 459. That Bill made it all the way to the House floor where it was pounced on by the opposition offering amendments that directly targeted protection related to anything Confederate.

During heated debate Representative Miller pulled his Bill and it died.

<https://capitol.texas.gov/billlookup/History.aspx?LegSess=80R&Bill=HB459>

The next attempt to strengthen the law came in the 85th Legislative session in 2017. Representative James White filled HB 1359. That Bill made it out of Committee, placed on the Calendar where then Speaker of the House Joe Straus failed to bring it to the House Floor and it died.

<https://capitol.texas.gov/BillLookup/Actions.aspx?LegSess=85R&Bill=HB1359>



Terry Ayers Steve von Roeder



L-R Steve vonRoeder Jim Templin Barney Hilburn Randy Jones Gillis Bartles Michael Dunagan Sam Bennett Terry Ayers



**TO THE MEN AND WOMEN OF THE CONFEDERACY WHO FOUGHT WITH VALOR AND SUFFERED WITH FORTITUDE THAT STATES RIGHTS BE MAINTAINED AND WHO NOT DISMAYED BY DEFEAT NOR DISCOURAGED BY MISRULE BUILDED FROM THE RUINS OF A DEVASTATING WAR A
GREATER SOUTH**

**AND TO THE MEN AND WOMEN OF THE NATION WHO GAVE OF THEIR POSSESSIONS AND OF THEIR LIVES THAT FREE GOVERNMENT BE MADE SECURE TO THE PEOPLES OF THE EARTH
THIS MEMORIAL IS DEDICATED**

**THE GIFT OF GEORGE W. LITTLEFIELD
SOLDIER IN THE CONFEDERATE ARMY LEADER IN TEXAS
INDUSTRY REGENT OF THE UNIVERSITY**

Fast forward to August of 2018. The City of San Antonio city council approved a controversial plan to redesign Alamo Plaza. The most controversial provision of the plan is relocating the Cenotaph 500 feet south of its current location.

This in addition to the tsunami of school names being changed, street names being changed, statues, plaques, and other memorials being removed prompted Texas Senator Brandon Creighton to file SB 1663, a “one size fits all” protection Bill.

These links provide the reader access to the Bills text, history, and much more information. SB 1663 filed by Senator Brandon Creighton <https://capitol.texas.gov/BillLookup/History.aspx?LegSess=86R&Bill=SB1663>

In the House, Representative Joe White who sponsored failed Bill HB 1359 in 2017 filed HB 583 as a companion Bill. <https://capitol.texas.gov/BillLookup/History.aspx?LegSess=86R&Bill=HB583>



Alamo Cenotaph

This Editor followed the process closely. I attended the Senate Committee hearing and testified in favor of Senator Creighton’s Bill. Having been through 19 years of legislative war on the protection of our heritage I was concerned the Bill was rooted in protecting the Alamo Cenotaph with all other historical components thrown into the mix. I agreed with the toughness of the Bill on cities and school districts but was concerned it would suffer the same fate as Sid Miller’s Bill.

The Bill made it out of Committee and sent to the Calendar Committee where it died without being placed on the calendar. No explanation.....

Texas again is essentially without any monument, memorial protection. Sadly the State of Texas has made zero progress since 2001.

86th Texas Legislature Heritage Report cont.

Recall this Editor said there were three Bills filed. The other Bill to abolish Confederate Heroes Day as a State of Texas holiday failed in Committee. There is no question it will be filled again in the next legislative session. As a footnote, this Editor waited 16 hours in the House Committee Room to testify against the Bill. I arrived at 10:00 a.m. and the Bill wasn't heard until approximately 2:00 a.m.

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

At the April Chapter meeting the James Chapter presented five members with certificates of appreciation for participating in the cleaning effort at Garner Cemetery in Darlington County. Several Confederate Veterans are buried in Garner Cemetery. Congratulations for a job well done.



L/R; Patrick Coxe, Teresa Reed, Tom Reed, Ernie Hales, Bob Jones

June Meeting

Brian Gandy was sworn in at the June monthly meeting to the James Chapter and the DCV by Chapter President Bob Jones. Brian also did a power point presentation on David Rogerson Williams, South Carolina Governor 1814-1816. Excellent presentation as always from Brian.



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

May Meeting



Chapter President Bob Jones administers the oath to new DCV 1st Lt. W. E. James Chapter member Billy Cox. Welcome to the DCV Mr. Cox!



1st Lt. W. E. James Chapter member Tom Reed gave an excellent presentation on Stonewall Jackson's life from birth until his death.

Capitol Chapter

The Capitol Chapter is an active supporter of the high school Navy Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps program. It is a four year co-educational course of military study designed to benefit the student, the community, and the nation. In addition to a wide variety of academic subjects, students are introduced to military procedures including grooming, terminology, and concepts presented at such levels that understanding and enjoyment are achieved.

Capitol Chapter cont.

At the end of the school year the NJROTC program conducts a military style award ceremony. Organizations such as the Sons of the American Revolution, Daughters of the American Revolution, American Legion, Descendants of Confederate Veterans and many others present various named awards to the cadet(s).



President of the Capitol Chapter Steve von Roeder presents to the cadet chosen by the program administrator the Robert E. Lee Leadership Award. The award consists of a certificate and a fine replica of the sword carried by General Joseph Orville "Jo" Shelby

Elgin High School, Elgin, Texas
NJROTC Cadet LCDR Audree Hernandez



Capitol Chapter cont.



Elgin High School, Elgin Texas
NJROTC Cadet LCDR Audree Hernandez
Capitol Chapter President Steve von Roeder



Congratulations Cadet LCDR Audree Hernandez



Capitol Chapter cont.

Vista Ridge High School, Cedar Park, Texas
NJROTC Cadet LTJG Hayden Olsen.



NJROTC Cadet LTJG Hayden Olsen
Capitol Chapter President Steve von Roeder



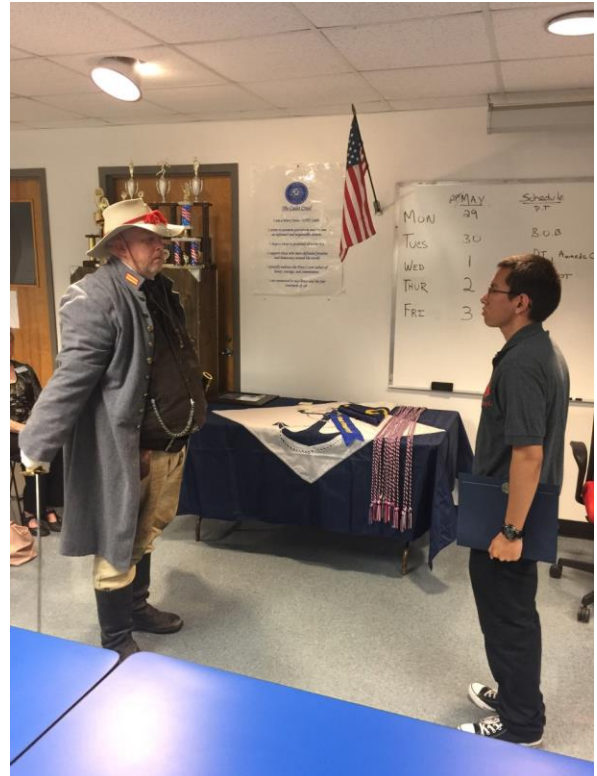
Congratulations Cadet LTJG Hayden Olsen



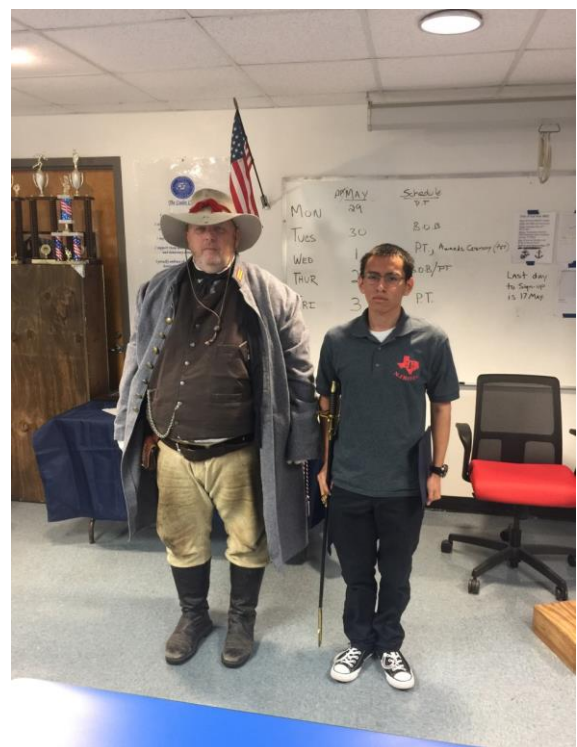
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Capitol Chapter cont.

William B. Travis High School, Austin, Texas
JNROTC Cadet LCDR Joseph Rico.



Presenting the Robert E. Lee Leadership Award is Capitol Chapter member Jim Price. Jim was the long time Athletic Trainer at William B. Travis prior to retiring at the end of the 2018 school year.



Congratulations Cadet LCDR Joseph Rico

Continued Next Page

Capitol Chapter cont.

**Bastrop High School, Bastrop Texas
JNROTC Cadet LCDR Rena Richard**



Congratulations Cadet LCDR Rena Richard



Capitol Chapter cont.

**Seguin High School, Seguin. Texas
Cadet LCDR Caliese Lopez**

Seguin High School was the first JNROTC program the Capitol Chapter presented the Robert E. Lee Leadership Award to a cadet. During the presentation to the Cadet recipients they are honored with a brisk sword salute and presented with the sword. In all the years there has never been a glitch.....UNTIL... *this year*. Following the salute to Seguin High School Cadet LCDR Caliese Lopez, Colonel Steve von Roeder thrust the sword into its scabbard. As it was driven to the hilt the brass tip of the scabbard became dislodged dropping to the floor in the totally quite facility. Immediately coming to the rescue was a United States Marine Corps Gunnery Sergeant in attendance.



Smiling Seguin High School Cadet LCDR Caliese Lopez patiently waits as the brass tip was reattached to the scabbard.

Capitol Chapter cont.



Mission accomplished tip restored

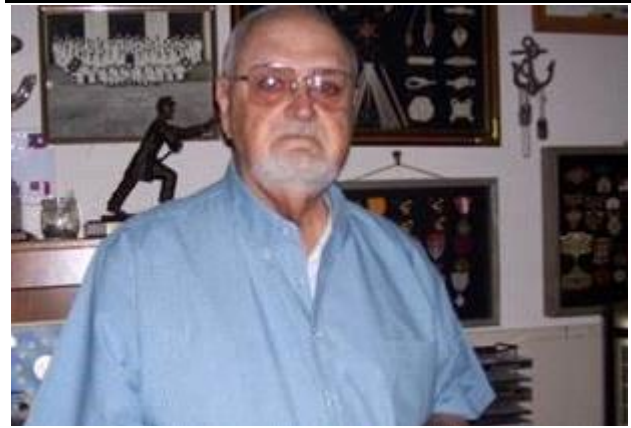


Congratulations to Seguin High School Cadet LCDR Caliese Lopez and all of the 2019 NJROTC Robert E. Lee Leadership Award recipients.

The Great-grandfather of this Editor was a Confederate Soldier with the 18th Texas Cavalry. His son, my Grandfather was the last of 17 children born to my Confederate ancestor. He was only four years old when his Father died. I have all of his available muster reports obtained from Government archives but nothing written by his own hand. In a bio written by my uncle he quotes my ancestor as "being next to his best friend when he was killed on Missionary Ridge." I have always been envious of others who have a wealth of information about their ancestors.

This section of the DCV TRAVELLER contains stories by DCV Founding member Dr. Gary M. Loudermilk and DCV Board Member Kay Hilburn. Kay is the widow of DCV founding member Barney Hilburn.

Major John Loudermilk, by Gary M. Loudermilk



Gary M. Loudermilk

June 9th was the 155th anniversary of the death of Gary's Great-grandfather Major John Loudermilk from a wound he sustained during the Battle of New Hope Church, Georgia.

This Editor is pleased to share this brief history with the readers of the DCV TRAVELLER.

**Major John Loudermilk, CSA
1829-1864**

KIA New Hope Church, Georgia

John Loudermilk was born in Knox County, Tennessee in 1829. His family moved to Union County (now Bartow County) Georgia ca. 1840. On April 30, 1854, John married Susan Smith and they settled in Cassville, GA.



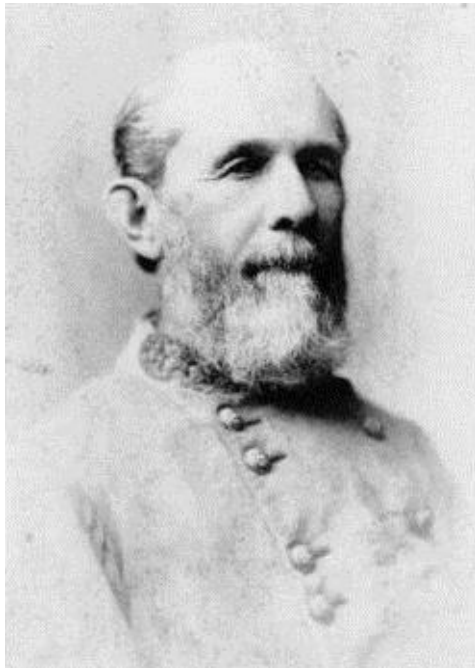
Cassville at the time was one of the thriving trading centers in northwest Georgia. The town boasted 2 colleges and numerous other enterprises. In 1861 John, now 32 years old, and Susan had settled down to a pleasant and satisfying life. Their family had grown and they now had two young sons, William Tate and George Hardy. John had become a successful local businessman. Records indicate he owned and operated a hotel, livery stable and other related establishments. He is also known to have speculated in land.

Major John Loudermilk, CSA

He owned no slaves but would sometimes hire them during the off season, giving them their only chance to earn money.



On June 14, 1861, John enlisted as a private in Company K, 18th Regiment, Georgia Volunteer Infantry, Army of Tennessee. He enlisted at Etowah, Ga. and his enlisting Officer was a Colonel Wofford.



Brigadier General William T Wofford
Colonel Georgia State Militia
Captain 18th Georgia Infantry promoted to Colonel
Assigned to Brigadier General John Bell Hood's
Texas Brigade

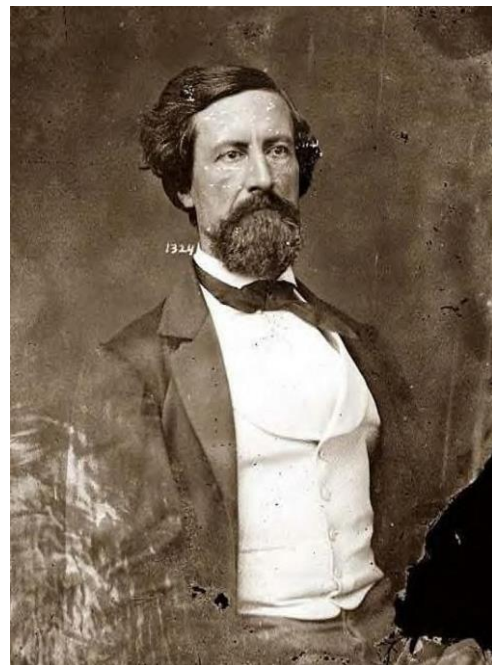
Major John Loudermilk, CSA cont.

General Wofford and the 18th Georgia Infantry fought at Second Bull Run and Antietam where he commanded the Texas Brigade.

One of John Loudermilk's brothers, Henry Clay Loudermilk, enlisted with him in Company K and Henry remained with that unit until he lost a leg at Cold Harbor and sat out the rest of the war. Many more of John's brothers and other relatives served in the War, primarily in Georgia and North Carolina regiments.

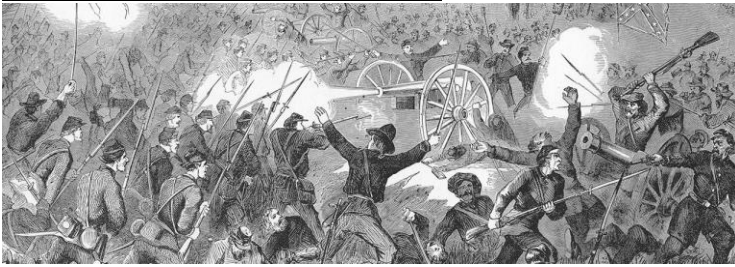
John was appointed Regimental Sergeant of the 18th Regiment on October 2, 1861. Then, on March 11, 1862, he was elected Captain and formed Company D, 36th Regiment, Cummings Brigade, Army of Tennessee. John was Company Commander and his chain of command consisted of Major Broyles, Regimental Commander; Brigadier General Cummings, Brigade Commander and Major General Stevenson, Division Commander. In John's Company were 3 of his brothers, 3 nephews and 3 cousins.

On May 16, 1863, John and one of his brothers' William (Doc) Loudermilk, were captured during the battle at Champion Hill (Baker's Creek,) Mississippi. Their division was under the command of Lieutenant General John Clifford Pemberton at the time.



John Clifford Pemberton

Major John Loudermilk, CSA cont



Battle of Champion Hill May 1863

Doc spent the rest of the War in five different prisons, including Johnson Island. However, John escaped shortly after his capture and reported to General Joe Johnston in Jackson MS. He was assigned to the staff of Colonel Wilson. During his absence from Company D, Lt. W. A. Deweese was in command of the Company and they remained and fought in and around Vicksburg from May through July of 1863.

John rejoined his Company and records show they were stationed back in Atlanta by August of 1863. On July 29, 1863, John requested and received a 20-day leave to be with his wife Susan when she gave birth to their third child. Their son, Walter Henry, was born on August 10, 1863.

John reported back to his Company and there is no record that he ever saw his family again.



Susan Smith Loudermilk

Continued Top of Page

Major John Loudermilk, CSA cont

In the war John participated in many battles including; Cumberland Gap, Perryville, Dog Walk, Baker's Creek, Missionary Ridge, Chattanooga, Lookout Mountain, Pea Vine Creek, Rome, Resaca, Tunnel Hill, Buzzard Roost, Dalton, Adairsville, Dug Gap, Cassville and finally New Hope Church.

During the period from March 17, 1864 through April 29, 1864, John and Lieutenant J.W. Gray, Adjutant of the 8th Georgia Battalion attempted to form a company or battalion of Cavalry to operate behind enemy lines. They submitted their request to General S. Cooper and the Georgia archives contain an interesting series of letters supporting the request.

They received letters of support and praise from Major C. E. Broyles, Lt. Colonel Z. W. Walters, Brig. General Wofford, Brig. General S. R. Gist, Brig. General A. Cummings, Brig. General C. Stevens, Major General W. W. Smith and the Honorable Warren Akin, Member 2nd Congress, CSA. In the end their request was approved but for infantry instead of cavalry due to the shortage of personnel at that time.

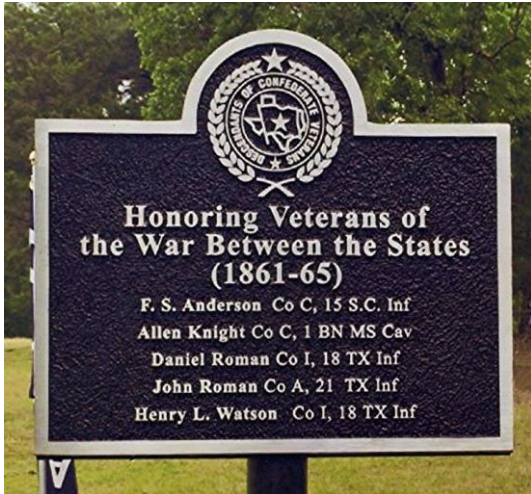
On April 28, 1864, John was appointed to Major. His appointment was made official on July 6, 1864 and final confirmation of rank was dated January 5, 1865. However, John did not survive to formally accept his promotion. Fighting just a few miles from his Cassville home, he was shot in the head during the Battle of New Hope Church on June 2, 1864. He was taken by train via Marietta to Field Hospital Number 2 on the Fair Grounds in Atlanta where he "crossed over the river" on June 9, 1864. Major John Loudermilk sleeps with his comrades in the Confederate Section of Oakland Cemetery in Atlanta, Georgia; Row 2, Grave 46.



Continued Next Page

East Texas Chapter

A few years ago the East Texas Chapter adopted an outstanding program to place historical markers in East Texas cemeteries where known Confederate soldiers, sailors and CSA government officials are buried. On each marker are the names, regiment, and if know the company.



DCV Marker Pirtle Methodist Cemetery

To date the East Texas Chapter has installed four markers. The Chapter is currently raising funds to place a 5th DCV marker in the Hallsville Cemetery.

Hallsville is a small community close to Marshall and Longview Texas. Research is ongoing to identify what is thought to be 18 Confederate Veterans buried in the Hallsville Cemetery. At the June meeting of the East Texas Chapter Thomas Richardson, Hallsville native and friend of Hallsville residents Kay and Barney Hilburn gave a program on the history of his Confederate ancestor Dr. William Alexander Smith.



Kay Hilburn

Dr. William Alexander Smith, CSA

Kay took notes and spoke with Mr. Richardson after the meeting about his ancestor. This is his story written by Kay Hilburn.

In 1985 we moved to a small bedroom community for Longview and Marshall, Texas. Barney immediately met a man who enjoyed history as much as he did.

Thomas Richardson grew up in Hallsville, his family as far back as 1869 watched Hallsville grow into a community of 4,153 people today. Thomas' ancestors farmed here, became business owners, teachers, church leaders and active patriotic citizens.

One outstanding ancestor of his was Dr. William Alexander Smith. He was born in Buckingham Co. Virginia on July 10, 1819. He was the son of Benjamine Thomas and Lucy Phelps Smith. In 1829, his family moved to Nashville, Tenn. where William finished his education. He went on to receive his medical degree to practice his profession in Nashville and surrounding counties. Sept. 12, 1844, he married Louisa Rucks Jackson, a first cousin of Gen. Thomas Jonathan (Stonewall) Jackson.

In 1849 he came to Texas by covered wagon. He settled on a farm 2 1/2 miles NE of what is now known as the city of Hallsville. At that time Ash Springs was the only evidence of a civilized community. William Smith bought slaves to work the farm, house servants and assistants to work with him with his patients.

When the WBTS broke out he joined the Confederate Army, attained the rank of sergeant, and was assigned the duty of guarding the Texas coast under the command of a Captain Culberson. Later he was transferred to General Stonewall Jackson's troops, and was in the Battle of Chancellorsville at Chancellorsville, Virginia, where ***he attended the dying general** who was accidentally shot by his own men in May, 1863. Dr. Smith also doctored the Confederate soldiers in Arkansas, gratuitously, before returning to Texas.

Dr. Smith died December 12, 1892 at the age of 73.

Dr. William Alexander Smith, CSA cont.
Southern Historical Society Papers
Vol. XIV. Richmond, Va., January-December. 1886.
DEATH OF STONEWALL JACKSON
BY DR. HUNTER MCGUIRE,
MEDICAL DIRECTOR JACKSON'S CORPS

***EXCERPT**

“Friday General Jackson’s wounds were again dressed, and although the quantity of the discharge from them had diminished, the process of healing was still going on. The pain in his side had disappeared, but he breathed with difficulty, and complained of a feeling of great exhaustion. When Dr. Breckenridge **(who, with Dr. Smith, had been sent for in consultation)** said he hoped that a blister which had been applied would afford him great relief.”

Dr. William Alexander Smith is buried in the Hallsville Cemetery and his name will be on the DCV Marker to be placed there.

He was one of 2 great-grandfathers of Thomas Richardson who fought in the WBTS. If you search around you may find a confederate's relative living among you. Barney did.

Thomas Richardson would be interested in talking to anyone who might find additional information on Dr. William Alexander Smith. Please contact Kay Hilburn at (903) 660-0200.



DCV Website
www.DCVTX.org

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