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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

Fall 2015

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE:

Hard to believe that it is already time for this Fall edition of the "Traveller".

Southern heritage groups are working to stop the surge in anti-Confederate assault that is sweeping the country.

We have had some small successes; we are going to display all our flags in the upcoming Veterans Day parade. The DCV and SCV had excellent representation at the discussions. Terry Ayers and Shelby Little were invited to be part of the parade committee that voted to allow the Battle Flag in our display. Good work, gentlemen.

We are going to the annual event at Pound House in Dripping Springs, and are going to set up our usual camp including all our flags.

The DCV was not part of the failed law suit that was filed by the SCV Texas Division to prevent UT from moving the Jefferson Davis statue to the Dolph Briscoe Center for American History. Terry Ayers prepared a press release which was issued to the media that established our position on the decision to relocate the statue. In addition to the release Steve Lucas drafted an excellent position paper that was posted to the DCV Facebook page and website.

To date there has been no public response to a letter that several Democrats in the Texas House and Senate that was sent Monday to the

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE cont.:

Governor, Lt. Governor, and House Speaker asked requesting a task force be created to consider whether the numerous Confederate monuments, markers and statutes on the Capitol grounds are "historically accurate, whether they are appropriately located on the Capitol grounds, and whether any changes are needed."

In addition, the Austin Independent School District is considering a name change of at least four schools within the district. A DCV resolution was drafted and sent to each member of the board of trustees opposing any name change. After a news clip in which someone described a huge painting of R.E. Lee in full Confederate regalia with a Battle Flag on his sleeve that the students had to pass by every day, I made a trip to Lee Elementary school. The nice folks in the office showed me this 'offensive' painting, which turned out to be an approximately 24"x18" charcoal or pencil sketch of Lee from the chest up, in his civilian frock coat with the three stars on the lapel. No flag and no Confederate symbols were visible anywhere on the drawing.

The City Council of Austin is looking at changing the name of Robert E. Lee Road. Again, the DCV sent a resolution to each council member and the mayor to speak out against changing the name. Councilmember, Ann Kitchen, who oversees her district, has stated that she has no interest in sponsoring this name change; however, residents in the vicinity of the street are circulating a petition to present to the Councilmember.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE cont.:

DCV member Lyn von Roeder, who works at City Hall, is monitoring the council agenda for us, and it is not on any of the agendas through early October.

We have learned that a church in Georgetown, Texas is circulating a petition to present to the County to remove the Confederate soldier statue on the Williamson County Courthouse lawn. The memorial will be 100 years old next year. Another petition being circulated on the internet is seeking signatures of residents of Williamson County, Texas who are in favor of keeping the monument in place on the courthouse lawn. The petition to keep the monument is outpacing the removal petition by a 7 to 1 margin.

I want to thank each of you for the work you do to preserve our Southern Heritage and your continued support of our organization.

Please keep an eye on our web site and Facebook page for updates and action items.

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'



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DCV Mid-Year Board of Directors Meeting

The 2015 DCV mid-year Board meeting was held on August 15 at El Conquistador Restaurant in Bellmead, Texas.

MINUTES OF THE MEETING

Attendees: Steve Lucas, Steve von Roeder, Lyn von Roeder, Jim Templin, Michael Dunagan, Sam Bennett, Terry Ayers and Gil Bartles.

President Steve von Roeder welcomed members and Chaplain Gil Bartles gave the invocation, pledges to the flags were recited.

Treasurer Sam Bennett reported that our current balance is \$3,122.19. The annual fee for the debit card is \$35.00 and the website cost is \$20.99 per month. All agreed that the web-site is worth the cost. There were no additional outstanding checks pending.

OLD BUSINESS:

UT Statues: Terry Ayers and Steve von Roeder reported that University of Texas President Greg Fenves offered a solution that was not a total victory but one that was reasonable and would be supported by the DCV. The Jefferson Davis statue will be relocated from its present location to the Dolph Briscoe Center for America History Studies. The history center is located on the campus and the statue will be displayed in prominent location inside the center. The other Confederate statues, Robert E. Lee, Albert Sidney Johnston and John H. Reagan, will remain in place. The DCV supports this compromise decision. Although we have not yet been able to schedule a meeting with the President of the UT, we continue trying. The Littlefield family has made their feelings known, presented the will and other papers that indicate their wishes, as well the original intention for the sculptor, and the family, were taken into consideration in reaching this decision. The statue of Davis was scheduled to be moved on Saturday, August 15, 2015, however, later that day, we learned that the SCV filed an injunction to prevent UT from moving the statue

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MINUTES OF THE MEETING cont.

until a hearing could be scheduled to "explore the options that might be available". The DCV disagrees with this move, and feel that it may jeopardize the existing plan. The options available are readily accessible if proper discovery has been performed prior to the request for an injunction.



Treasurer Samuel Bennett

President Steve von Roeder

The Capitol Chapter reported that we have prepared a resolution and sent to the City of Austin, who is considering renaming Robert E. Lee Road in Austin; a copy of the resolution was also sent to the Austin Independent School District Board, who is considering renaming four schools in Austin. We have also learned that the Bexar County Commissioners have already removed a plaque in San Antonio and also are trying to remove the plaques in Travis Park in San Antonio. Steve Lucas and Jim Templin stated that the beautiful statue of Robert E. Lee in Lee Park in Dallas has been the victim of graffiti, and is also in jeopardy. The Board strongly encourages members to become aware other Confederate icons that may be jeopardy and let us know if we can be of assistance.

Austin Veterans Day Parade: Terry Ayers reported that he, Shelby Little and Marshall Davis of the SCV met with the Travis County Veterans Parade Committee in regard of their consideration of not allowing us to bring the battle flag in the parade. We feel that that we prevailed in spite of

MINUTES OF THE MEETING cont.

objections from one member of the committee. They decided to table the item, without voting, for later discussion. A sub-committee of 7 people will be appointed to revisit the issue and make a decision before the parade. The DCV and SCV reminded the committee of the 1958 Federal code that declared that Confederate soldiers are considered American veterans, and should be afforded the rights and privileges thereof. The DCV and SCV will be represented on the sub-committee.

There will be other heritage violations coming up in the near future, including a letter from four Texas Senators who sent a letter to Gov. Abbott in regard to the Confederate icons in the Capitol Building and on the grounds.

Who Do We Know: A discussion following regard the fact that our contacts are no longer in office, such as Jerry Patterson and Allen Fletcher. We must establish new contacts and solicit their support in defending and preserving our heritage and history against those who would remove all vestiges of anything Confederate. That includes federal, state and locations officer holders and media including radio, TV and newspapers.

Recruiting: We need to recruit some "new blood" to continue our mission. This includes following up with all people who contact us on the website and Facebook, as well anyone in our local areas. We believe that are a large number of people who support our efforts to preserve our history and heritage, and we need to actively recruit them as members of the DCV.

NEW BUSINESS:

A brief discussion followed regarding new board members and the possibility to create some permanent board members and some other positions that will be appointed to some rotating offices.

2016 Annual Meeting: The discussion was cut short due to the fact that the restaurant had

MINUTES OF THE MEETING cont.

another party scheduled at 1:30 and needed to set up the room. The discussion was tabled after a quick suggestion of perhaps of holding the annual meeting somewhere in East Texas. Time and Place committee was not appointed; however, possible dates and locations were solicited from members. Also to be discussed at the annual meeting included election of officers, and who is on and off the board.

Terry Ayers asked for a motion to purchase additional DCV brochures since we are almost out. The motion was made and seconded, motion passed unanimously.

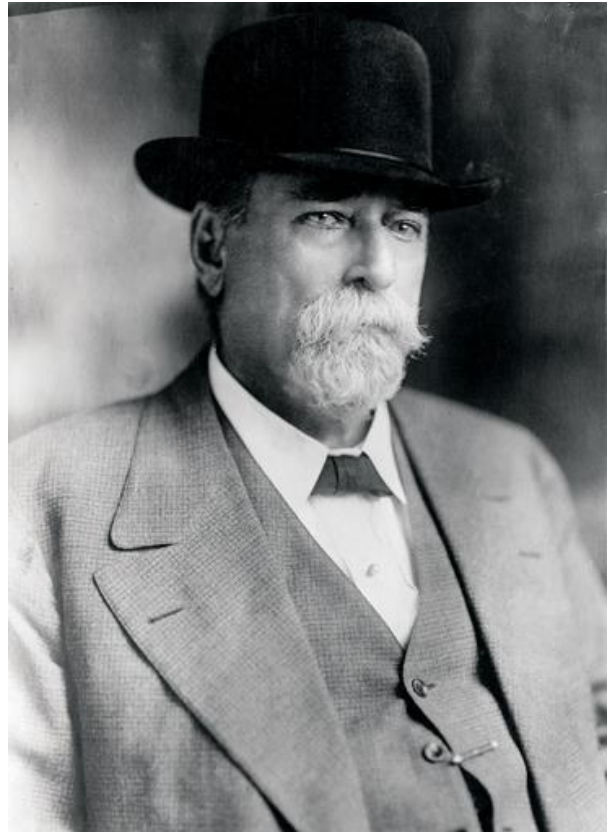


Terry Ayers Sam Bennett Steve von Roeder Steve Lucas
Michael Dunagan Gillis Bartles Jim Templin

Giving the benediction and singing of Dixie was suspended, and the meeting was adjourned at 1:15 p.m.



The Confederate Statuary at the University of Texas at Austin



**Major George Washington Littlefield
1842–1920**

Confederate Soldier, cattleman, banker, and member of the Board of Regents of the University of Texas. The Littlefield family moved to Texas from Mississippi when George was eight years old. With the outbreak of the War Between the States in 1861 George enlisted in Company I, Eighth Texas Cavalry (Terry's Texas Rangers), Army of Tennessee. Before his military career was ended at Mossy Creek, Tennessee, on December 26, 1863, by an exploding cannon shell, George rose to the rank of company commander, the youngest in his regiment. He fought at Shiloh, Perryville, and Chickamauga. At Mossy Creek he was promoted to Major. Back in Texas after being discharged in 1864, he took control of a plantation belonging to himself and his brother, and "went to work to make the best, as he thought, of a miserable life, having to carry his crutches everywhere." Through hard work and smart investments that included several financial risks he was able to say at age 39

The Confederate Statuary cont.

that he had obtained "far more money than he had never expected to have" and thought of retiring at thirty-nine years of age. But he did not retire, as he learned that "The more money a man makes, the more he has to make, that a man's world opens up a little bit wider with each deal, and demands become heavier."

In 1911 Governor Oscar B. Colquitt appointed him to the Board of Regents of the University of Texas. Littlefield gave more than any other single individual to the university during its first fifty years including the funds to build the Littlefield Fountain Memorial that included statues of Jefferson Davis, Robert E. Lee, Albert Sidney Johnston, John H. Reagan and Texas Governor James Stephen Hogg.



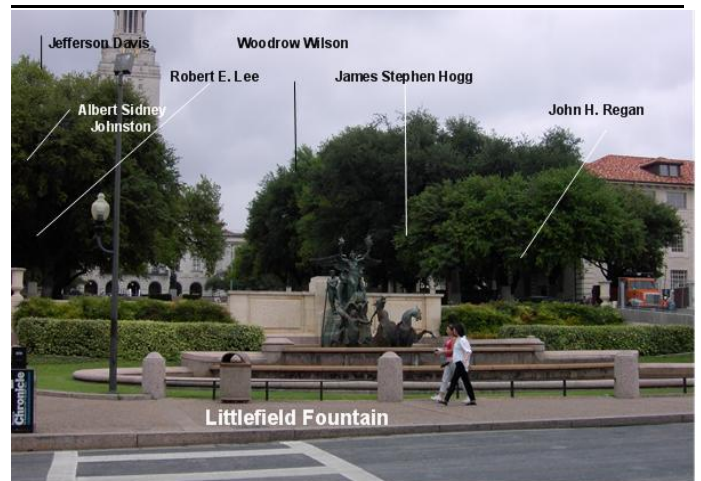
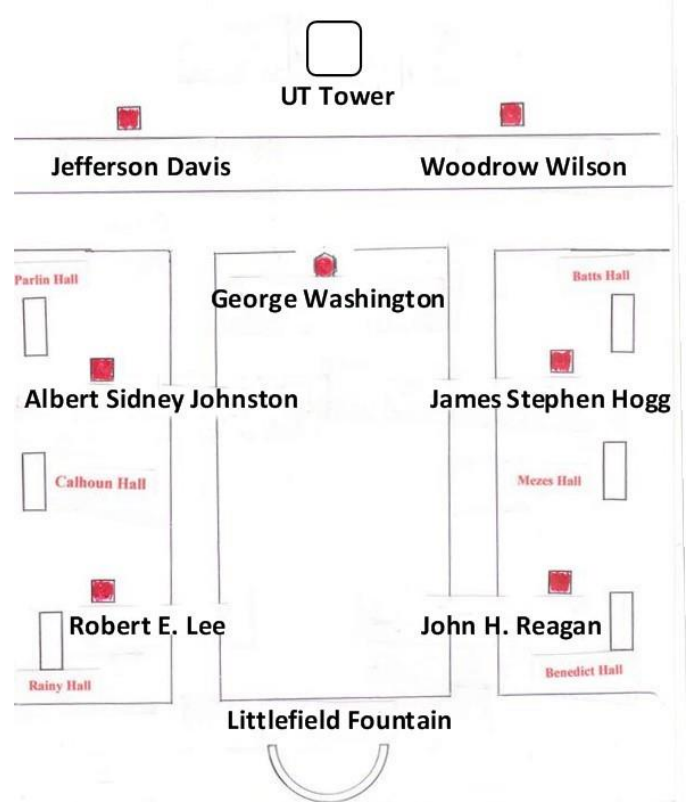
Littlefield Fountain Today



The 1919 design for the Littlefield Gateway

Steps on either side of the fountain rose to a small plaza, bounded by two pylons, in front of which stood the statues of Jefferson Davis and Woodrow Wilson. The remaining statues of Lee, Reagan, Johnston and Hogg were staged on either side of the fountain, and were Littlefield's choices of important men in the history of Texas and the South.

The Confederate Statuary cont.

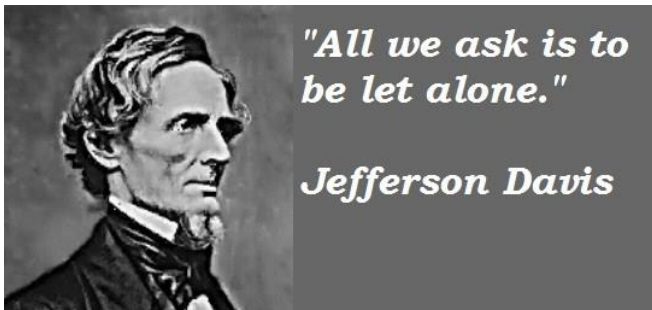


The 1919 design was rejected by Paul Philippe Cret, a Philadelphia architect who specialized in the design of public buildings. He was retained by the University of Texas at Austin as a consulting architect for the development of a master plan for the campus. The sculptor of the statues, Pompeo Coppini vehemently objected to the new design by Cret. There is no question that as time went by without any plaques to explain the original conception for the placement of the statues, especially Jefferson Davis and Woodrow Wilson, questions would arise about the appropriateness of their location.

The Confederate Statuary cont.

August 30, 2105 after standing in place for 82 years the statues of Jefferson Davis and Woodrow Wilson were removed. Jefferson Davis was relocated indoors to the Dolph Briscoe Center for America History Studies. The history center is located on the campus. There the statue of Davis will be refurbished. Following the completion of an eighteen month expansion of the center the statue will be placed prominently on display. The new location on campus for the statue of Woodrow Wilson has yet to be determined.

The DCV opposed the original resolution by the Student Government to remove the statue of Jefferson Davis. The DCV supported the final decision made by UT President Fenves to maintain all of the statues on campus and relocate only the statues of Jefferson Davis and Woodrow Wilson from the South Mall.



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



Mrs. Karen Stokes from Charleston, SC. was the guest speaker at the August meeting of the 1st Lt. W.E. James Chapter of the DCV. Mrs. Stokes is the Author of several books including "The Immortal 600" that tells the horrific story about six hundred Confederate prisoners of war, all officers, that were taken out of prison at Fort Delaware and transported to South Carolina, where most were confined in a Union stockade prison on Morris Island. At the August meeting Mrs. Stokes spoke about another of her books "South Carolina Civilians in Sherman's Path."

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



Chapter President Joyce Digges presents the DCV Certificate of Appreciation to Karen Stokes

1st Lt. W. E. James Chapter September Meeting

Herbert "Bing" Chambers, Author of the series of books "And Were the Glory of Their Times: Men Who Died for South Carolina in the War for Southern Independence" was a special guest at the meeting. The series is the culmination of 20 years of research into many and various archival records in archives and libraries throughout South Carolina, North Carolina and Georgia. Its most significant highlight is its introduction of more than 4,000 South Carolinians, who died as a result of their service as a Confederate soldier.



Karen Stokes speaks on "SC Civilians in Sherman's Path"



Excellent turnout at the August meeting.



Bing Chambers seated talking with Patrick Coxe about the two volumes Bing has written on the SC Confederate dead.

1st Lt. W. E. James Chapter Sept. Meeting cont:

1st Lt. W.E. James Chapter member Joseph Matheson presented an excellent program on Sgt. Richard Roland Kirkland, "The Humane Hero of Fredericksburg." Joseph showed a BBC TV video from 1993 covering the military life of Sgt. Kirkland.



Joseph Matheson, on right, is being congratulated for an excellent program on Sgt. Richard Roland Kirkland.

The event for which Sgt. Richard Roland Kirkland is remembered occurred in December of 1862. I think it is fitting that the story be told in the Winter issue of the DCV TRAVELLER that will be published December 22nd.

HERITAGE UNDER ASSAULT

The horrific event that occurred last June 17th in Charleston S.C. sparked a renewed nationwide fervor to remove from the public anything and everything connected to the Confederate States of America. Like a wildfire out of control flags were banned at public venues, monuments that have stood for a hundred years were targeted for removal or relocation. Street and public schools named for Confederate heroes were being changed. Confederate Heritage groups such as the DCV are always vigilant and prepared to act in defense of the attacks but this was on a scale that is unprecedented.

The Confederate statutory issue at the University of Texas at Austin appears to have quietened the foes at least for now. We know from experience that peace will not last. The DCV will remain vigilant

HERITAGE UNDER ASSAULT cont:

and prepared to respond when the next attack comes, and it will come.



Representing the DCV, Terry Ayers defends the Confederate statuary at a public forum at the University of Texas at Austin.



Representing the DCV Terry Ayers exchanges thoughts about removing Confederate statues with Dr. Gregory J. Vincent, vice president for diversity and community engagement at The University of Texas at Austin.

Every Winter issue of the DCV TRAVELLER features photos of the Capitol Chapter participating in the annual Austin/Travis County Veterans Day Parade in downtown Austin. The DCV has participated in the parade every year since the organization was founded. The DCV was notified in August a member of the parade committee had brought before the committee a motion to not allow the displaying of any Confederate Flag other than the 1st National. The DCV and the SCV, who also participates in the parade was invited to send a representative from our organizations to the meeting when the motion would be voted on. President von Roeder appointed Terry Ayers to speak on behalf of the DCV.

HERITAGE UNDER ASSAULT cont.

The DCV and the SCV was allowed to participate in the discussion. Both representatives were prepared and presented several documents that contained verifiable historical facts. One document provided by the DCV that was well received was U.S. Public Law 85-425: Sec. 410 of 1958 that placed Confederate Veterans on the same legal footing as Union Veterans. The DCV also provided facts about the Battle Flag of the Army of Northern Virginia as well as facts about other flags of the Confederacy. A photo of the 17th & 18th Texas Cavalry flag was shown to the committee with documentation that although a Hardee pattern with no physical resemblance to the ANV Battle Flag it was approved by the Army of Tennessee to not be replaced with the ANV flag. The point being, in pure historical context the two flags represented the exact same thing. A vote was taken and the motion FAILED. The flags will be allowed. There is no question the effort by the DCV to inform the parade committee about the true history of the flags and their significance to the Confederate Veterans convinced them to do the right thing

The 2015 Austin/Travis County Veterans Day Parade will be held on Wednesday, November 11th. The parade stages between 0745 and 0830 on the Congress Avenue Bridge over Ladybird Lake in downtown Austin. Parade steps off at 0930. All members are encouraged to participate. As always, period clothing is recommended but not mandatory. Contact the Editor of the TRAVELLER for additional information.



2014 Veterans Day Parade. Flying our Confederate Flags alongside properly displayed 'Ol Glory.

HERITAGE UNDER ASSAULT cont.

The TRAVELLER has highlighted only a few of the many assaults on our proud Southern Heritage that is occurring daily across the Southland. As members of the DCV whose Mission Statement reads ***"To establish & maintain an honorable, non-racist Southern heritage and history organization dedicated to perpetuation of the memory and spirit of the Confederate Soldiers & Sailors who served their country during the War Between the States, 1861-1865"*** we have a responsibility to the DCV organization and to our Confederate ancestors to stand firm in the communities where we live and be united in the cause to protect and preserve our Southern culture and heritage. Doing nothing guarantees defeat.

IN THEIR OWN WORDS

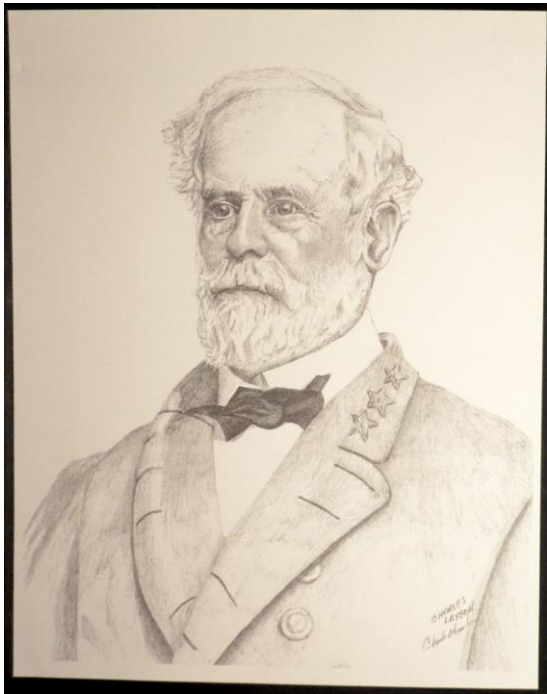
General Humphreys was a West Pointer. For the rank he held and as a Commander of Infantry, I do not think he had a superior in either Army. At midnight on the 7th of May 1864 during the Battle of the Wilderness we arrived on the ground about sunrise. As we came up at double quick marching order on the plank road, there were in a group sitting on their horses, the following Generals, Lee, Longstreet, Rhodes, Scales, Magown, and I think A.P. Hill. It was a critical moment. Hill's men had been engaged in fighting the evening before and into the night and were exhausted, outnumbered, and were falling back. Something had to be done and done quickly. General Lee turned to Longstreet and said "General you had better form your line back a half mile and bring it up." Longstreet said, "I think we can form here." Turning to General Humphreys he said 'Form you line, General.' We had just halted and were panting like lizards when General Humphreys straightened himself in the stirrups and said, "Battalion front. By company, right half wheel double quick march!" Wounded men and Minnie balls were coming through our ranks before we got loaded. The enemy got within a few steps of us in the dense thicket, but we stood it until they begin to back and then it was our time to press. Our brigade had done good fighting before, but I thought it reached the climax on that occasion.

W. Gart Johnson
Company "C," 18th Mississippi

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From the President's Message:

"In addition, the Austin Independent School District is considering a name change of at least four schools within the district. A DCV resolution was drafted and sent to each member of the board of trustees opposing any name change. After a news clip in which someone described a huge painting of R.E. Lee in full Confederate regalia with a Battle Flag on his sleeve that the students had to pass by every day, I made a trip to Lee Elementary school. The nice folks in the office showed me this 'offensive' painting, which turned out to be an approximately 24"x18" charcoal or pencil sketch of Lee from the chest up, in his civilian frock coat with the three stars on the lapel. No flag and no Confederate symbols were visible anywhere on the drawing."



This is not the exact sketch on display in the hallway of Robert E. Lee elementary school in Austin, Texas but very similar. The school was named for Robert E. Lee in the mid 1930's at the request of the United Daughters of the Confederacy. The current Austin Independent School Board has indicated it will need time to discuss the matter and the public input process won't begin until next year.

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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>



The next issue of the DCV TRAVELLER will be published on December 22, 2015

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

-IMPORTANT-

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