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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](http://www.DCVTX.org)

**SPRING 2015**

## **PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE:**

Greetings DCV Compatriots,

Spring is upon us. Time to renew our commitment to preserve our unique history, I assure you no one else is going to do it for us. It will soon be time to make the RE LEE award presentations to the outstanding ROTC cadets. This year we are privileged to have three schools to participate.

The annual reunion in San Antonio was great. The Alamo folks were very accommodating; our meeting room in the Gallagher building was just what we needed to conduct our business meeting. We voted to donate 200.00 to the Alamo to show our appreciation. John Potter gave us a special tour of the hallowed ground of the Shrine of Texas. Even those of us that have been there many times learned something new. Terry Ayers got to see his Burleson family bible that is on permanent display in the Long Barracks. The display of weapons was really incredible, although we didn't get to take them out and handle them (dang it). I want to personally thank those who made the trip to join us. Our organization must remain steadfast in fulfilling our mission.

Speaking of which, we discussed a response to the pending House Bill that will remove Confederate Heroes Day from the calendar. The HB 1242 would eliminate Confederate Heroes Day, in Texas. In addition, the bill includes a feeble attempt to replace it with something called *Civil War Remembrance Day*.

We merely request the same consideration as is afforded to all other cultures that are allowed to celebrate their history and heritage.

Texas, voted to secede from the United States by an overwhelming public referendum 154 years ago; then joined the Confederate States of America. This is our history; it cannot be changed by a House Bill. That part of our history has good, bad and ugly elements, but it is the history of Texas. You cannot apply today's values to events that happened in earlier times. Nor can those events be changed. Those who attempt to revise history have not studied it nor understand its importance. As a reminder there are over 2,000 Confederate veterans buried in The Texas State Cemetery.

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 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of  
The War Between the States**



2015 brings to an end the four year observance of the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the War Between the States. As much as it pains me this edition of the DCV TRAVELLER takes a hard look back at Appomattox.

April 2<sup>nd</sup> while attending church President Jefferson Davis receives an urgent message from General Lee telling him to evacuate Richmond immediately because the Confederate troops had been forced to abandon the defense of Petersburg. That evening President Davis and several cabinet members boarded a special train to Danville, Virginia.

The next day, April 3<sup>rd</sup> Confederate soldiers set fire to tobacco warehouses. The fires spread throughout the commercial heart of the city, leaving nine-tenths of the business district in ruins. Although the fires were started by the Confederates the damage was chronicled in dramatic images made by Union photographers eager to capture the devastation, and to give a graphic representation of the punishment being endured by the defeated foe.



Aftermath of the burning of Richmond



The fight was not over. President Davis admitted that the struggle had entered a new phase but the South should not abandon the fight. On April 4<sup>th</sup> Lee's army would clash with the Federals at Tabernacle Church and Amelia Courthouse. It was at Amelia Courthouse where Lee was unable to receive supplies for his army that he was hoping for. With the arrival of Sheridan's Cavalry on the Danville train Lee was trapped. Moving west Lee skirmished with the Federals at Amelia Springs and Paine's Crossroads.

On April 6<sup>th</sup> approaching Farmville, Lee's troops inadvertently diverge into two segments, each heading off in different directions allowing the Federals to strike the divided forces at Saylor's Creek completely overwhelming both wings. At the cost of 1180 men the Federal forces captured close to 8,000 Confederates which amounted to almost one-third of their total number.



DCV TRAVELLER Editor's Motorcycle Trip to Virginia

Following the battle Grant was assured Lee was vulnerable to surrender if pressed. He informed Lincoln of the opportunity and Lincoln replied "Let the thing be pressed." Immediately Grant initiated a series of dispatches carried through the Confederate lines.

The first arrived after midnight requesting the surrender of the Army of Northern Virginia. On the morning of April 8<sup>th</sup> Lee responded with his terms for surrender. As the discussions were taking place the battles continued on. At dawn on April 9<sup>th</sup>, the Confederate Second Corps under Maj. Gen. John B. Gordon attacked Sheridan's Cavalry and quickly forced back the first line. Gordon's troops charged through and took the ridge, but as they reached the crest they saw the entire Union XXIV Corps in the line of battle with the Union V Corps to their right and immediately withdrew. Colonel Charles Venable of Lee's staff rode in at this time and asked for an assessment. Gordon gave him a reply he knew Lee did not want to hear: "Tell General Lee I have fought my corps to a frazzle, and I fear I can do nothing unless I am heavily supported by Longstreet's corps." Upon hearing it Lee finally stated the inevitable: "Then there is nothing left for me to do but to go and see General Grant and I would rather die a thousand deaths."

A dispatch was sent to Grant requesting a meeting between the two Generals. Grant's response was remarkable in that it let Lee choose the place of his surrender. Lee dispatched aide Charles Marshall to find a suitable location. Marshall chose the home of Wilber McLean at Appomattox Court House.



Wilber McLean home. DCV TRAVELLER Editor Terry Ayers on right

General Lee arrived first. When Grant arrived he entered the room alone while his staff respectfully waited on the front lawn. After a short period the staff was summoned to the room. General Horace Porter described the scene. "We entered, and found General Grant sitting at a marble-topped table in the center of the room, and Lee sitting

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beside a small oval table near the front window, in the corner opposite to the door by which we entered, and facing General Grant. We walked in softly and ranged ourselves quietly about the sides of the room, very much as people enter a sick-chamber when they expect to find the patient dangerously ill.



The contrast between the two commanders was striking, and could not fail to attract marked attention. General Grant, then nearly forty-three years of age, was five feet eight inches in height, with shoulders slightly stooped. His hair and full beard were a nut-brown, without a trace of gray in them. He had on a single-breasted blouse, made of dark-blue flannel, unbuttoned in front, and showing a waistcoat underneath. He wore an ordinary pair of top-boots, with his trousers inside, and was without spurs. The boots and portions of his clothes were spattered with mud. He had no sword, and a pair of shoulder-straps was all there was about him to designate his rank. In fact, aside from these, his uniform was that of a private soldier. General Lee, on the other hand, was fully six feet in height, and quite erect for one of his age, for he was Grant's senior by sixteen years. His hair and full beard were silver-gray, and quite thick, except that the hair had become a little thin in the front. He wore a new uniform of Confederate gray, buttoned up to the throat, and at his side he carried a long sword of exceedingly fine workmanship, the hilt studded with jewels. His top-boots were comparatively new, and seemed to have on them some ornamental stitching of red silk. Like his uniform, they were singularly clean,

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and but little travel-stained. On the boots were handsome spurs, with large rowels. A felt hat, which in color matched pretty closely that of his uniform, and a pair of long buckskin gauntlets lay beside him on the table. General Grant began the conversation by saying 'I met you once before, General Lee, while we were serving in Mexico, when you came over from General Scott's headquarters to visit Garland's brigade, to which I then belonged. I have always remembered your appearance, and I think I should have recognized you anywhere.' 'Yes,' replied General Lee, 'I know I met you on that occasion, and I have often thought of it and tried to recollect how you looked, but I have never been able to recall a single feature.'

The two generals talked a bit more about Mexico and moved on to a discussion of the terms of the surrender. After some discussion Lee asked Grant to commit the terms to paper:

"'Very well,' replied General Grant, He wrote very rapidly, and did not pause until he had finished the sentence ending with 'officers appointed by me to receive them.' Then he looked toward Lee, and his eyes seemed to be resting on the handsome sword that hung at that officer's side. He said afterward that this set him to thinking that it would be an unnecessary humiliation to require officers to surrender their swords, and a great hardship to deprive them of their personal baggage and horses, and after a short pause he wrote the sentence: 'This will not embrace the side-arms of the officers, nor their private horses or baggage.'

Grant handed the document to Lee. After reviewing it, Lee informed Grant that the Cavalry men and Artillery men in the Confederate Army owned their horses and asked that they keep them. Grant agreed and Lee wrote a letter formally accepting the surrender. Lee then made his exit.

At a little before 4 o'clock General Lee shook hands with General Grant, bowed to the other officers, and with Colonel Marshall left the room. One after another we followed, and passed out to the porch. Lee signaled to his orderly to bring up his horse, and while the animal was being bridled

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the general stood on the lowest step and gazed sadly in the direction of the valley beyond where his army lay - now an army of prisoners. He smote his hands together a number of times in an absent sort of way; seemed not to see the group of Union officers in the yard who rose respectfully at his approach, and appeared unconscious of everything about him. All appreciated the sadness that overwhelmed him, and he had the personal sympathy of every one who beheld him at this supreme moment of trial. The approach of his horse seemed to recall him from his reverie, and he at once mounted.



General Grant now stepped down from the porch, and, moving toward him, saluted him by raising his hat. He was followed in this act of courtesy by all our officers present; Lee raised his hat respectfully.



As General Lee left the house and rode away to break the sad news to the brave fellows whom he had so long commanded Grant's men began cheering in celebration, but Grant ordered an immediate stop. Grant stated "The Confederates were now our countrymen, and we do not want to exult over their downfall,"

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**Observance of Robert E. Lee's 208<sup>th</sup> Birthday cont.**

**Observance of the 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of  
The War Between the States Continued**

Although the surrender at Appomattox essentially marked the end of the war, fighting continued in some remote areas. It would take more than a month for the news of Appomattox to reach the southernmost tip of Texas. The next edition of the DCV TRAVELLER will feature the Battle of Palmetto Ranch, the last land battle of the war.



Prepare to Post Colors

**Observance of Robert E. Lee's 208<sup>th</sup> Birthday**

The Capitol Chapter hosted the DCV's annual ceremony commemorating the birthday of Robert E. Lee on the grounds of the Texas State Capitol at the monument to Hood's Texas Brigade. Several quotes from Robert E. Lee and other leaders of the Confederate States of America are etched in the face of the monument.



Jim Price, Terry Ayers, Samuel Bennett, Shelby Little



DCV President Steve von Roeder and Capitol Chapter Chaplain Gillis Bartles prepare to open the ceremony.



The Southern Belles were the media and crowd favorites



Chaplain Bartles prepares to give the invocation  
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**Observance of Robert E. Lee's 208<sup>th</sup> Birthday cont.**



Pictures with visitors to the Capitol



Hood's Texas Brigade Monument

*"I rely on them in all our tight places and fear I have to call upon them too often. They have fought grandly and nobly and we must have more of them."  
Robert E. Lee*

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



I grew up attending public schools in Texas. The amount of classroom time spent on both the American and Texas Revolution didn't leave much time for any in-depth learning about the War Between the States. The only thing I remember about the Naval component of the war was the Battle of the Monitor and Merrimack, aka CSS VIRGINIA. It was much later in my adult life after I became a reborn student of the war that I learned of the significant role each Navy played. Recently our South Carolina compatriots took to the waterways of NC. Figuratively speaking!



Bob Jones presented a program on the Confederate Ironclad Ram the CSS STONEWALL.



CSS NEUSE II in Kinston NC. 158 Foot full size replica

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



CSS RAM NEUSE IRONCLAD – Serving breakfast on the boat!

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



Chapter Member Bob Jones sizing up "The Ram"



Enjoying a SOS breakfast on the CSS NEUSE. Surely NOT!



Members of the DCV 1st Lt. W. E. James Chapter and others in Kinston, NC

To avoid capture the CSS NEUSE was burned and scuttled in the Neuse River at Kinston, NC by its crew the night of March 10, 1865. Almost 100 years later the hull was raised and in 1963 placed on display. In 2012 it was moved to the new CSS NEUSE Interpretive Center in Kinston, NC.



Hatch to the Mess Deck



Along with the hull nearly 15,000 artifacts were recovered from the site and are on display in the Interpretive Center

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## 2015 DCV Convention

The 9<sup>th</sup> annual DCV Convention/Reunion was held the weekend of February 21<sup>st</sup> in San Antonio Texas. Attendance was disappointingly light but the important business matters before the body were successfully addressed.

Kicking off the two day event was dinner at Mi Tierra Mexican Café and Bakery in the Historic Market Square. Members from across the state gathered to be reunited in friendship and celebrate the common regard for our Southern heritage.



Barbara Ayers, Barney Hilburn, Amy Hilburn, Kay Hilburn, Samuel Bennett, Lyn von Roeder, Steve von Roeder, Steve Lucas

The business meeting was held Saturday morning in the historic Gallagher House across from the Alamo on Houston Street. The building houses the Executive Offices of the Alamo and the meeting room was ideal for the business meeting.



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## 2015 DCV Convention cont.



DCV President Steve von Roeder opened the meeting with the invocation and DCV East Texas Chapter member Amy Hilburn led the attendees in the pledges to the flags. On the agenda needing member approval were a number of amendments to the DCV Constitution. At the 2014 Convention newly elected DCV President von Roeder asked Parliamentarian Steve Lucas to do a review of the Constitution and Bylaws to identify redundancies and bring before the board at the mid-year meeting recommendations to better clarify the documents. Those recommendations were presented and accepted by the board and placed on the agenda for the 2015 Convention. All of the recommendations were voted on and passed by the members attending the 2015 Convention. You will find the amendments attached to a special mailing sent to the DCV membership on 12-30-14.

The DCV gained a new member just prior to the convention. Jacob Smith, age 17, son of Capitol Chapter member Todd Smith was to be presented his Membership Certificate and Pin as part of the meeting, but due to last minute unforeseen difficulties neither were able to attend. Todd will be presented his Certificate and Pin at the next meeting of the Capitol Chapter. Jacob's ancestor is Major General Arthur Pendleton Bagby Jr.

*WELCOME JACOB!*

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## 2015 DCV Convention cont.

The next item for discussion was a review of the DCV Website and DCV Facebook Page. It was agreed that both sites should continue to be maintained on the internet. They are both informative and useful. There was also agreement that both sites need to be monitored often by the member administrators to ensure information is current, accurate, and any messages posted are being read and responded to.

The next item discussed was Texas Bill HB 1242. The Bill was filed before the Texas Legislature this session by Representative Donna Howard (D) of Austin. It calls for "Confederate Heroes Day," that is celebrated on January 19<sup>th</sup> to be replaced with "Civil War Remembrance Day" and moved to the second Monday in the month of May. A motion was passed to allow Parliamentarian Steve Lucas to draft a letter to be placed on the record with the Texas Legislature and public news media stating the DCV's opposition to HB 1242. The Bill has co-sponsors and has been referred to Committee. To date no action has been taken on the Bill. The opposition letter has been drafted and is currently being reviewed by the Board of Directors and a final version will be ready to submit no later than March 25<sup>th</sup>. The progress of the bill can be monitored at by clicking the following link.  
<http://www.legis.state.tx.us/billlookup/text.aspx?LegSess=84R&Bill=HB1242>



Samuel Bennett and Barney Hilburn take a break as Steve and Lyn von Roeder investigate a temporary problem with the computer.

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## 2015 DCV Convention cont.

The final item to be voted on by the general membership was the election of two Board members to fill the seats of J.D. Boydston and Stephen Parton whose terms expired. The seats were filled by East Texas Chapter member Barney Hilburn and Capitol Chapter member Todd Smith. The meeting was adjourned and the newly seated Board was called to order by President von Roeder and Board Officers were elected.

President  
Steve von Roeder

Vice President  
Todd Smith

Secretary /Treasurer  
Samuel Bennett

Membership Chair/Registrar  
Carl Hedges Jr.

Parliamentarian  
Steve Lucas

General Board Member  
Bob Jones  
Barney Hilburn



Outgoing board member J.D. Boydston and 2015 Board members Barney Hilburn, Samuel Bennett, Steve Lucas, Steve von Roeder

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## 2015 DCV Convention cont



Back: J.D. Boydstun, Barney Hilburn, Samuel Bennett, Terry Ayers  
Front: Kay Hilburn, Lyn von Roeder, Debbie Boydstun

## The Alamo Tour

Meetings adjourned it was time to move across the street to the entrance of the Alamo to be greeted by Alamo Historian John Potter for a VIP tour both outside and inside the shrine.



Samuel Bennett, Steve Lucas, Alamo Historian John Potter

## **Firearms of the Texas Frontier Flintlock to Cartridge Exhibit 1836-1876**

Currently on display inside the Shrine until April 15<sup>th</sup> is the Firearms of the Texas Frontier - Flintlock to Cartridge Exhibit. John Potter's knowledge of both the firearms and the history of the Alamo is unsurpassed.

In addition to the under glass exhibit there was a table set up with many replica firearms of the period in open display. Firearms experts were on hand to answer questions and allow members to handle the weapons.

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## The Alamo Tour cont.

Taking pictures inside the Shrine is prohibited. Mr. Potter took the members on a tour of the grounds.



Historian John Potter standing where a perimeter wall stood during the siege of the Alamo. The parallel lines in the stone indicate the exact location of the wall.



Parallel lines in the stone mark the location where a perimeter wall leading to the long barracks stood during the siege of the Alamo.



Lyn von Roeder, Steve von Roeder, J.D. Boydstun, Debbie Boydstun  
Samuel Bennett, Steve Lucas, Alamo Historian John Potter

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## The Alamo Tour cont.



At the completion of the tour by Alamo Historian John Potter members gathered under the shade of a massive oak where DCV President Steve von Roeder on behalf of the DCV presented him with a \$200 cash donation to the Order of the Alamo to be used for educational purposes.



## EDITORIAL

In addition to my role as Editor of the DCV TRAVELLER I serve as Treasurer for the Capitol Chapter. When the Capitol Chapter was established in 2005 Association dues were \$16 annually. The Capitol Chapter set chapter dues at \$10 annually. The same dues structure is in place today. The Capitol Chapter has sixteen dues paying members. Do the math and that's \$160 a year. In 2014 the Chapter spent over \$500 supporting various causes like the Robert E. Lee Leadership award at the Navy Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps programs at Seguin and Bastrop ISD. The Cadet recipient of the award is presented with a fine replica Confederate Officers Sword paid for by the Chapter. Operation Blue Santa received a \$250 donation from the Chapter last year.

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## EDITORIAL cont.

And without fail the Capitol Chapter participates in the annual City of Austin Veterans Day Parade dressed in the uniforms and flying the flags of our Confederate ancestors. Okay, hold on....I know what you're thinking but this is not an appeal to increase dues. The dues are fine. Keeping the dues at a reasonable level the DCV is able to attract and maintain a healthy membership.

Again, do the math. How do we do it year after year? Simply stated, it's donations from our members, UNSOLICITED donations. When a motion goes out to fund a particular event or program, without fail donations from the membership come in. Most of the time the donating members will ask to remain anonymous. Does the saying "Quality Members not Quantity ring a bell? The DCV was founded on that principal.

Okay Terry, cut to the chase... This is not an appeal for donations. It is an appeal for everyone to get current with their dues. Dues are payable January 1<sup>st</sup> of each year. Dues are considered late after March 1<sup>st</sup> and are subject to a \$5 late fee. Bad news, there are some late dues out there. Good news, the Board has waived the late fee for a limited time. If you are among the few that have not submitted your dues please take a minute and drop a check in the mail. Your money does GOOD WORK !

Editor

There are only two ways to pay your dues. If you are a member of a chapter you pay both Association dues and Chapter dues to your Chapter Treasurer. Association dues are \$16 annually. Chapter dues may vary.

If you are not a member of a chapter you are an "At-Large" member and you must send your dues directly to the Association Treasurer. Association dues are \$16 annually. Life members pay \$0 Make your payment payable to:

**Descendants of Confederate Veterans**

**Mail to:**

**Samuel Bennett**

**P.O. BOX 160773**

**Austin, TX 78716**

**MEMBERSHIP DUES Cont.**

A final word about membership dues. If you are unsure about how your membership is classified, i.e. at-large vs chapter, please contact DCV Registrar Carl Hedges Jr. [cfhedges@sbcglobal.net](mailto:cfhedges@sbcglobal.net) If you do not have access to Email contact DCV Treasurer Sam Bennett at the postal address above. Association Life Memberships are available.

**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](mailto: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](http://tiny.cc/Capitol_Chapter)

1<sup>st</sup> Lt. W.E. James Chapter, South Carolina

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

**IN THEIR OWN WORDS**

At the Battle of Seven Pines General Robert C. Hatton's Tennessee Brigade was held in reserve until the late hour when the fortunes of the day were most doubtful. Ordered to the front by President Davis who was at General Lee's side Hatton led the Tennessee boys into battle. After crossing a small field the enemy was engaged and Hatton fell. In a letter H. Manson, 7th Regiment, Tennessee Inf. wrote. "He (Hatton) received his baptism of fire. His horse "Old Ball" was first to fall, and in a few minutes his master went down to rise no more."

**THE BACK PAGE**

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

**-IMPORTANT-**

If you change your email address or USPS mailing address PLEASE inform the Editor of the change to ensure that you will continue to receive the DCV TRAVELLER and all other important DCV correspondence.

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