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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 2016**

## **PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE:**

**Terry Ayers**

Ladies and Gentlemen of the DCV,

Since 2013 you have known me as Editor of the DCV TRAVELLER. At the 11<sup>th</sup> annual 2016 DCV reunion on February 27<sup>th</sup> elections were held to elect two members to the Board of Directors due to the expiration of terms for President Steve von Roeder and Membership Chairman Carl Hedges Jr. Carl was also serving as the DCV Registrar. He will continue to serve in that position. Registrar is a Special Officer appointed by the DCV Treasurer. Elected to the Board of Directors for three year terms were J.D. Boydston and Terry Ayers.

Following the general membership meeting the Board of Directors with the newly elected members convened to elect Officers for 2016. Yours truly (Terry Ayers) was elected President. Later in this edition of the DCV TRAVELLER all officers, regular board members, and non-elected appointed positions will be identified.

But before I go any further, I want to take this moment to thank each and every one of you for being a member of the Descendants of Confederate Veterans. I am so proud to be a member of this outstanding organization. I'm convinced there is not another group of men, women, and children more dedicated to preserving our history and protecting our heritage than our DCV members.

## **PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE Cont:**

As your newly elected President of the DCV I want to assure every member I will do the job to the very best of my ability. It is my solemn promise to never lose sight of the fact that what we do is not about us or me, but about our Confederate ancestors and the loved ones they left behind when they answered the call to duty and joined their Southern brothers in arms to defend their country against the enemy of their time.

Also as your newly elected President I think it's important that you know a little something about me personally. I was born November 5, 1947 in Austin Texas. The one and only love of my life and I celebrated our 50<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary last year. I am a retired Electric Distribution Construction Manager and my beautiful wife Barbara is a retired Administrative Supervisor, State of Texas Department of MHMR. We have two sons, the oldest is a Software Test Engineer at General Motors IT Innovation Center in Austin. Our youngest son is an Electric Transmission and Distribution Relay Technician at Austin Energy. I am a United States Navy Vietnam Veteran and proud recipient of the UDC Cross of Military Service awarded by the UDC Texas Division, Marshall Chapter 412. I have several Confederate ancestors and proudly joined the DCV in 2005 in the name of the closest ancestor I am descended from, Private Alexander Reed, Co. D, 18<sup>th</sup> Texas Cavalry, CSA. Private Alex Reed is my Great-Grandfather.

## **PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE Cont:**

I am also a member of the Sons of the Republic of Texas and the Texian Legacy Association. As Editor of the DCV TRAVELLER you can find my contact information on the last page of every edition. I ask for your support and I welcome your input. Please do not hesitate to contact me any time for any reason. There's much to be done in the coming year. It is my honor to serve the members of the DCV. Let's go to work!

United in the Cause,

Terry Ayers

p.s. I promise no future President's Message from me will be nearly as lengthy as this one was! Whew!

## **Observance of Robert E. Lee's 209<sup>th</sup> Birthday**

The DCV Capitol Chapter hosted its 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 stone on all sides of the monument.



**Capitol Chapter President Steve von Roeder delivers the opening remarks at the ceremony.**

## **Observance of Robert E. Lee's 209<sup>th</sup> Birthday cont.**

Even though the State Capitol and its grounds are public property the Capitol Chapter must secure a legislative sponsor and obtain approval each year from the State Preservation Board and the Department of Public Safety Capitol Police. Since the very beginning of the DCV, Capitol Chapter President Steve von Roeder established and maintained a solid professional and friendly relationship with all parties who control our ability to have the annual ceremony at the State Capitol. In 2015 the Department of Public Safety Capitol Police had a change in command. Because of Steve's impeccable record, reputation, and solid professional relationship with DPS authorities the transition was flawless and he had no trouble getting this year's event sponsored and approved.



**Capitol Chapter Color Guard prepares to post Colors.**



**Capitol Chapter Chaplain Gillis delivers the Invocation.**



Observance of Robert E. Lee's 209<sup>th</sup> Birthday cont.



United States, Texas. 1<sup>st</sup> National, ANV,  
Bonnie Blue, 17<sup>th</sup> 18<sup>th</sup> Texas Cavalry, DCV



In between posing for pictures with visitors to the Capitol,  
Lyn von Roeder hands out programs to the gathering spectators.

With 2015 being the end of the sesquicentennial  
observance of the WBTS, this year's program was  
Robert E. Lee, Appomattox to Washington College.

Members of the Capitol Chapter took to the  
podium and spoke to the audience about the  
significant events that took place in the life of  
Robert E. Lee from the day he left Appomattox to  
his arrival at Washington College.

Observance of Robert E. Lee's 209<sup>th</sup> Birthday cont.



Terry Ayers



Dr. Samuel Bennett



Observance of Robert E. Lee's 209<sup>th</sup> Birthday cont.



Capitol Chapter Chaplain Gillis Bartles



Jim Price

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Observance of Robert E. Lee's 209<sup>th</sup> Birthday cont.



Capitol Chapter President Steve von Roeder



Gil Bartles, Terry Ayers, Sam Bennett, Jim Price, Steve von Roeder



Gil Bartles. Steve von Roeder, Jim Price, Terry Ayers, Sam Bennett

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## Observance of Robert E. Lee's 209<sup>th</sup> Birthday cont.



The ceremony ends with the traditional singing of "DIXIE" and waving the Confederate Battle Flag.  
YEEEEEE-HAWWWWWW

Special thanks to Jean Price for the pictures. Not only for these but for the dozens she took of visitors using their cameras while posing with us.

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



Our South Carolina chapter continues to thrive and keep the history and heritage alive and well. They meet on a regular basis and always have outstanding programs. Keep up the good work!

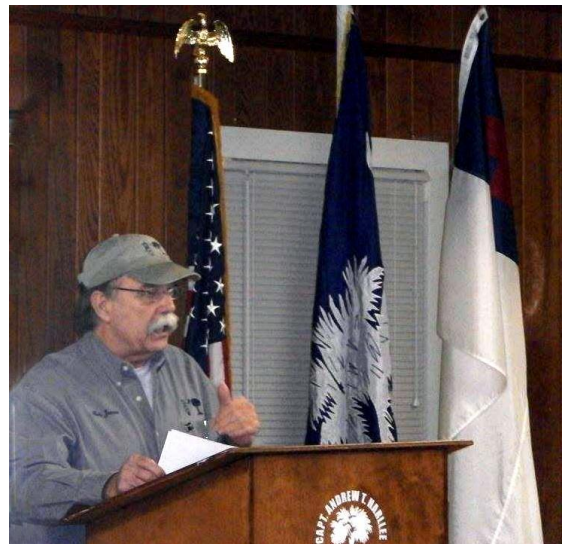
January 19<sup>th</sup> the 1<sup>st</sup> Lt. W.E. James Chapter had their first meeting of 2016 in Dillon S.C. Guest Speaker was Wade Sokolosky, Col (Ret) U.S. Army and author of the book Battle of Wise's Forks.



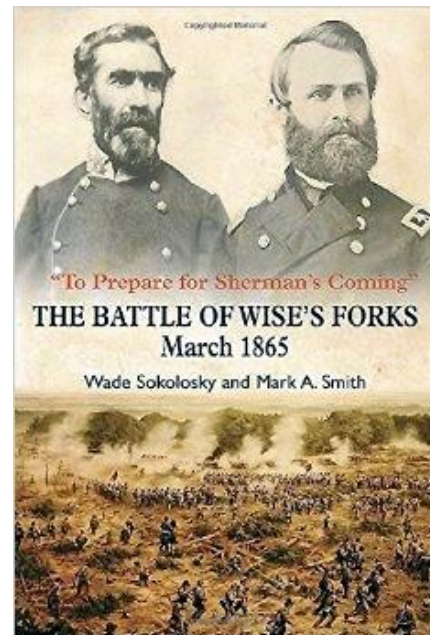
Wade Sokolosky

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



1<sup>st</sup> Lt. W.E. James Chapter member Bob Jones introduces guest speaker Wade Sokolosky.



"The March 8-10, 1865 Battle of Wise's Forks has been neglected by Civil War historians for too long—even though it was one of the largest battles in North Carolina's history. Fought near Kinston, it was the Confederates' first major attempt to defeat General Sherman's forces in the Tar Heel State. Authors Wade Sokolosky and Mark A. Smith have crafted a deeply researched and engagingly written study that at last places the Wise's Forks in its proper strategic and operational context. 'To Prepare for Sherman's Coming' will remain the definitive work on the battle for many years to come."

— Mark L. Bradley, author of Last Stand in the Carolinas: The Battle of Bentonville.

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## The DCV Fights to Preserve our History and Protect our Heritage

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

In February it was back to 1<sup>st</sup> Lt. W.E. James Chapter's home turf at Takis Restaurant in Darlington. The guest speaker was Retta Tindal.



**Retta Tindal**

Ms. Tindal is a member and officer in the United Daughters of the Confederacy. She presented her outstanding new program on the "Women and Children of Roswell, Georgia in 1864".



**Retta Tindal**



**Chapter Member Joseph Matheson presents Retta Tindal a book in appreciation for her program.**

2015 was another challenging year in the never ending war being waged across the country to remove, relocate and even totally eliminate everything from Confederate Heroes Day on the calendar in Texas to the removal of statues of Jefferson Davis, Robert E. Lee, P.G.T. Beauregard and the obelisk dedicated to the Battle of Liberty in the city of New Orleans. In Austin the DCV fought back and won an attempt by the County Judge to ban the Battle Flag from being flown during the annual Austin/Travis County Veterans Day Parade. Armed with facts and a ten year record of not a single negative incident involving the DCV's entry in the parade the Veterans Day Parade Committee rejected the County Judge's demand that the flag not be allowed. 2016 will no doubt bring more challenges.

At the 2015 mid-year DCV Board of Directors meeting (all members welcome) DCV founding member and past President Steve Lucas spoke of the importance of becoming involved civically. Instead of just working from the outside, think about working from the inside as well. Steve encourages all of us to consider serving on committees, boards, commissions and any other political bodies that have a voice in determining the placement, replacement, and preservation of historical monuments, statues, markers, plaques and landmarks that are part of our precious southern heritage and history. Steve lives in Denton County, Texas where the Confederate Monument on the Denton County Courthouse Square has become a favorite target for vandals. There is a constant cry for its removal by a local group of citizens. When a seat became vacant on the Denton County Historical Commission Steve applied to fill that vacancy. With his vast knowledge of Texas History going back to the revolution his credentials were undeniable and he was selected to serve on the Denton County Historical Commission. His voice will be a positive influence in our struggle to preserve what rightfully belongs to all citizens of this nation, both descendants of Confederate and Union Veterans. All historical monuments, statues, etc. should never be considered for removal.



**The DCV Fights to Preserve our  
History and Protect our Heritage cont.**



**Steve Lucas, Member  
Denton County, Texas Historical Commission**

**CONGRATULATIONS STEVE!!**

The DCV is also currently involved in the effort to save three public schools in Austin, Texas from undergoing name changes by the Austin Independent School District Board of Trustees. Robert E. Lee Elementary, Sidney C. Lanier High School, John H. Reagan High School and Eastside Memorial High School, at the Johnston Campus (formerly Albert Sidney Johnston High School) have all been targeted for possibly changing the names. Currently only Robert E. Lee Elementary is actively being considered for changing the name.

In July of 2015 when the issue first came before the School Board DCV President Steve von Roeder issued a Resolution to the Trustees opposing renaming the four schools in question. When Robert E. Lee Elementary became the primary focus of a possible name change Steve and fellow DCV Capitol Chapter member Terry Ayers attended a public forum hosted by the Robert E. Lee Elementary Campus Advisory Committee and spoke against a name change. Steve and Terry have also spoke publically against a name change before the Superintendent and Board of Trustees for the Austin Independent School District.

**The DCV Fights to Preserve our  
History and Protect our Heritage cont.**

The DCV Capitol Chapter became aware of an online petition started by a citizen who resides in the Lee School district opposing the possible name change. Terry was able to contact her and offered the assistance of the DCV to garner signatures to the petition. In one week we were successful in increasing the number of signatures by 300%. In fact, during one of our conversations the petition sponsor asked the DCV to deliver the petition to the Superintendent's Office on her behalf, which we did. She has also been before the Austin Historic Landmark Commission with a proposal that the school receive Historic Landmark status to prevent the removal of the original lettering still in place since the building was constructed in 1939. The Chapter also submitted a letter to the Historic landmark Commission supporting the possible nomination for Historic Landmark status.

The DCV is fighting hard but at the same time we are under no illusion regarding the odds we face. We are not optimistic the name Robert E. Lee will be retained. The neighborhood is very well organized and every member of the Campus Advisory Committee voted to recommend to the Trustees that the name be changed. The name change will be on the Board of Trustees agenda for consideration at their next regular Board meeting on March 28, 2016. Both Steve and Terry will speak against the name change. If nothing else, perhaps they will be so sick of us they will forget about renaming the other three!



**Robert E. Lee Elementary opened 1939  
3308 Hampton Rd, Austin, TX 78705**



## February 12, 2016 in Austin

DCV East Texas Chapter members Carl and Liz Hedges made a trip to Austin from their home in Carthage, Texas so Liz could attend a meeting of the Daughters of the Republic of Texas Board of Management. Liz is a member of the DRT Board of Management.



**East Texas Member & DCV Registrar Carl Hedges Jr.**

With Liz hard at work fulfilling her duties with the DRT it left time for Carl to hook up with Capitol Chapter members Steve von Roeder and Terry Ayers. After a pork rib lunch at the Green Mesquite Barbeque Restaurant poor ol Steve had to go back to work. Carl and Terry visited the Texas State Cemetery and paid respects at the grave of Albert Sidney Johnson and the more than 2,200 graves in the Confederate Field of Honor. Following that was a slow drive by the Confederate Woman's Home to have a look at the Historical Marker the DCV and CofC placed there in 2014.

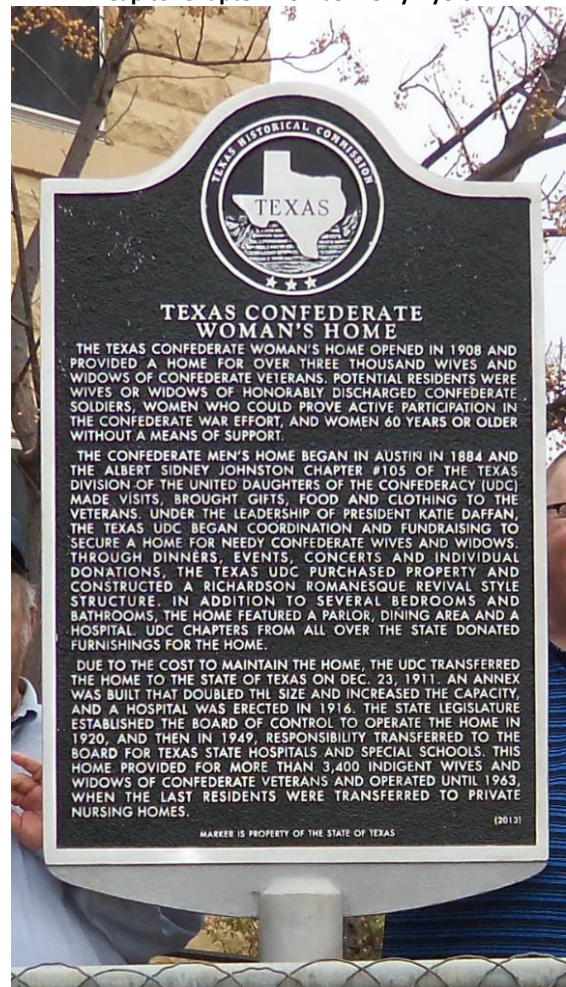


**Texas State Cemetery Confederate Field of Honor**

## February 12, 2016 in Austin cont.



**East Texas member Carl Hedges Jr.  
Capitol Chapter Member Terry Ayers**



**Confederate Woman's Home Historical Marker**



## 2016 DCV Annual Reunion, Hillsboro Texas.

The 11<sup>th</sup> annual DCV Reunion was well attended by members from across the State. The meeting agenda was shortened so attendees could attend funeral services for DCV founding member and Blackland Prairie Chapter member Jim Templin. The majority of old business discussed addressed the tsunami of heritage attacks since the tragic shooting in Charleston S.C. and what the DCV is contributing to defend against the attacks. Most of that discussion has been reported in the previous sections of this edition of the DCV TRAVELLER.



Steve Lucas, President Steve von Roeder, Lyn von Roeder

New Business: Steve Lucas moved to name Jim Templin as a board member emeritus. The motion passed unanimously. Steve stated that Jim opened his home to the founders of the DCV during its formation and has been dutifully dedicated to the organization from its inception until his recent passing. As with the founders that have passed before him it is only fitting Jim become a DCV board member emeritus. The DCV will present the surviving family a DCV flag and a Texas flag that has flown over the Capitol.



David Routh, Gillis Bartles, Michael Dunnagan, Steve Lucas

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## 2016 DCV Annual Reunion, Hillsboro Texas cont.

East Texas Chapter member J.D. Boydston announced the Chapter will place a plaque at the Millville Cemetery and will have a dedication ceremony on May 7, 2016. Complete details of the ceremony can be found on the last page of this edition of the DCV TRAVELLER.



Left-Debbie Boydston, J.D. Boydston, Barney Hilburn, server Jason  
Right-Carl Hedges Jr. Liz hedges, Kay Hilburn, Amy Hilburn



Back-David Routh, Steve Lucas, Steve von Roeder  
Seated-Amy Hilburn, Kay Hilburn, Liz Hedges. Carl Hedges Jr.



Dr. Samuel Bennett

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## **2016 DCV Annual Reunion, Hillsboro Texas cont.**

The final order of business for the day was a meeting of the newly elected Board of Directors for the purpose of electing Officers for the current year.

### **2016 Board of Directors**

#### **Officers**

President: Terry Ayers  
Vice President: Todd Smith  
Secretary/Treasurer: Steve Lucas  
Membership: J.D. Boudstun

#### **General Board Members**

Bob Jones, South Carolina  
Dr. Samuel Bennett  
Barney Hilburn

#### **Special Officers**

Steve von Roeder: Chaplain  
Terry Ayers: PIO/Newsletter/Communications  
Steve Lucas: Parliamentarian  
Dr. Samuel Bennett: Comptroller  
Carl Hedges Jr.: Registrar  
DCV Webmaster: Caren Lee

### **DCV Board of Directors Emeritus**



Pete Orlebeck 2005



Ron Aldis 2008



Ralph Green 2011



Jim Templin 2016

## **UPCOMING IMPORTANT EVENT MAY 7<sup>TH</sup>**

### **MILLVILLE CEMETERY**

The DCV East Texas Chapter in conjunction with a cannon and crew from the Val Verde Battery will unveil a commemorative marker to honor nine Confederate soldiers who are interred in the Millville Cemetery.



Millville Cemetery

### **Millville Cemetery**

**May 7<sup>th</sup> 2016**

**2:00 p.m.**

**Located NE of Henderson on FM 782  
8 miles from the intersection at US 259**

**Google Map Clickable Link**

<https://goo.gl/maps/TewFMb7j8UE2>

The ceremony will take place at the Millville Church and adjoining cemetery after the annual meeting of the Millville Church and Cemetery Association and after their annual picnic on the church grounds. Talk about some good eating!

East Texas Chapter member Mark Appleton will preside over the ceremony complete with a color guard and rifle salute in addition to the cannonade. Period dress is encouraged for all DCV attendees.



Look for this sign and possibly others



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>

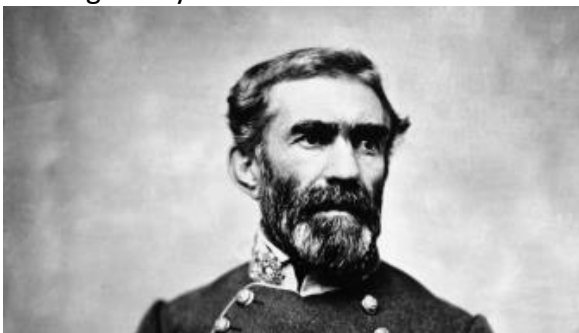
Capitol Chapter > [http://tiny.cc/Capitol\\_Chapter](http://tiny.cc/Capitol_Chapter)

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**

In his personal memoirs Gen. Grant wrote of General Bragg. "Bragg was a remarkably intelligent and well-informed man, professionally and otherwise. He was thoroughly upright. A man of the highest moral character and the most correct habits." Yet in the old army Bragg was in frequent trouble. Grant illustrated with this funny story. "In the old army Bragg was in command of his company and made a requisition of the quartermaster—and he was himself that official also. As quartermaster he declined to fill the requisition, and in his dilemma he referred the whole matter to the commanding officer, who ' exclaimed, "My God Bragg, you have quarreled with every officer in the army, and now you are quarrelling with yourself!"



After the war Braxton Bragg moved to Texas in 1871. He remained in Texas as Inspector of Railroads until his death in Galveston in 1876 at the age of 59. He is buried in Mobile Alabama.

#### **THE BACK PAGE**

The DCV TRAVELLER is published quarterly. Members are encouraged to contribute items of interest to the Editor for publication. The Summer 2016 edition will be published June 20, 2016

#### **-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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