



# DCV TRAVELLER

DESCENDANTS OF CONFEDERATE VETERANS  
A TEXAS BASED ASSOCIATION WITH CHAPTERS IN TEXAS AND SOUTH CAROLINA  
[www.DCVTX.org](http://www.DCVTX.org)

Spring 2020

**PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE:**  
**Steve Lucas**



Ladies and Gentlemen of the DCV,

It is indeed an honor and a privilege to be addressing you as the newly elected President of the DCV Board of Directors. To hold such high office in such a prestigious organization is humbling as well as challenging and I pledge to you my best effort as we continue to make progress in honoring those who have gone before us. Thank you all for your confidence in me.

Thanks also to Immediate Past President Terry Hedrick and his wonderful staff for their great work and leadership. We will try to live up to their fine example of dedication and setting the bar high. For those who were unable to attend the recent reunion in Carthage, we missed you – and you really missed out on a great event. Host Carl Hedges really outdid himself. Carl is a walking encyclopedia of Carthage history and treated us to personal history tours of the Footprints in the Sand monument, the 1891 County Jail, the Veterans Memorial Artifact Display and the Texas Country Music Hall of Fame, not to mention providing us with a wonderful venue for our meeting at Panola College.

**President's Message cont.**

President Hedrick led us through a productive business meeting, our Board of Directors met and it certainly appeared that a great time was had by all who attended. The events were great, the camaraderie was even better, and I hope that we can have an even bigger turn out next time we have a chance to get together. Ladies and gentlemen we are but a small organization but we must continue to do our best. In the relatively short time that the DCV has been in existence we have had some notable successes but we have also seen our share of despicable assaults to our common heritage. While we began in Texas we are not solely a Texas organization. We are proud of our South Carolina DCV brothers and sisters as well as our members who are in other places throughout our great land. We welcome quality membership throughout the Southland and beyond as the hatred of anything Confederate continues and expands. As predicted, the hatred has expanded to the Colonial America period, including the Founding Fathers. As I write this, the news out of Virginia is as follows in a quote from CNN:

*The Virginia House of Representatives and the Senate adopted a bill over the weekend that allows localities to take down Confederate statues and monuments, according to the governor's office and a delegate who supported the bill.*

## President's Message cont.

*The legislation strikes a previous Virginia law that prohibited local governments from taking down or modifying war monuments, Democratic Del. Sally Hudson explained.*

*The bill, as passed by Virginia's House of Representatives, "provides that a locality may remove, relocate, or alter any monument or memorial for war veterans located in its public space, regardless of when erected,"*

In Virginia, of all places. As we have seen all too often once the ball starts rolling it's hard to stop. It won't be long before other States who have monument protection laws begin to think this is a good idea and begin legislation of their own along these lines. For those who haven't seen the magnificence of Monument Avenue in Richmond, VA, now might be the time to plan a trip if you want to beat the bulldozer. Just my opinion. I will not go into the lengthy history of Texas monument and marker legislative protection attempts in this article but they are numerous.

We must stay the course. We must do what we can, when we can. We must never surrender or retreat in our love and respect for our family members who stood up and answered the call. We must defend our family no matter how many generations removed. They broke no law, committed no atrocities and were invaded by a hostile force. They have earned vigorous defense and memorial by all honorable means within our capability to do so. It is our duty, and we all know what General Lee had to say about duty.

I look forward to seeing you all. Please communicate with Terry Ayers, our DCV Communications Officer, as often as you can to let us know what is going on in your "neck of the woods" so that everyone can keep up with the news. I, and the other members of the Board, are always eager to hear from you if you have any comments or suggestions. God bless you all and God bless our Southland.

Steve Lucas  
Board President

## 2020 DCV Annual Reunion Carthage, Texas

The 15<sup>th</sup> annual Descendants of Confederate Veterans Membership Reunion and Board of Directors meeting was held on February 28-29 2020 at Panola College, Q.M. Martin Auditorium Complex, Elizabeth R. Hedges Studio Theater.



The theater is named in honor and memory of DCV member Elizabeth R. "Liz" Hedges who passed away in December 2018. Liz is the wife of DCV member Carl Hedges Jr.



At Panola College Liz served as the Director of theatre, where she retired in 2007. While at Panola, she served as UIL One Act Play Critic Judge and contest manager. She was also Region 3 UIL Academic Director. In 2005, Liz was awarded Educator of the Year by the Texas Educational Theatre Association.



Carl Hedges Jr. Sam Bennett Steve Lucas

**2020 DCV Annual Reunion Carthage, Texas cont.**

The weather was perfect in the piney woods of East Texas Friday evening. For the local members as well as those who travelled some distance all were ready for some good ol' Texas Barbeque.



A few miles up the road in the small town of Tatum Carl Hedges reserved the meeting room inside BODACIOUS BAR-B-Q for the DCV family.



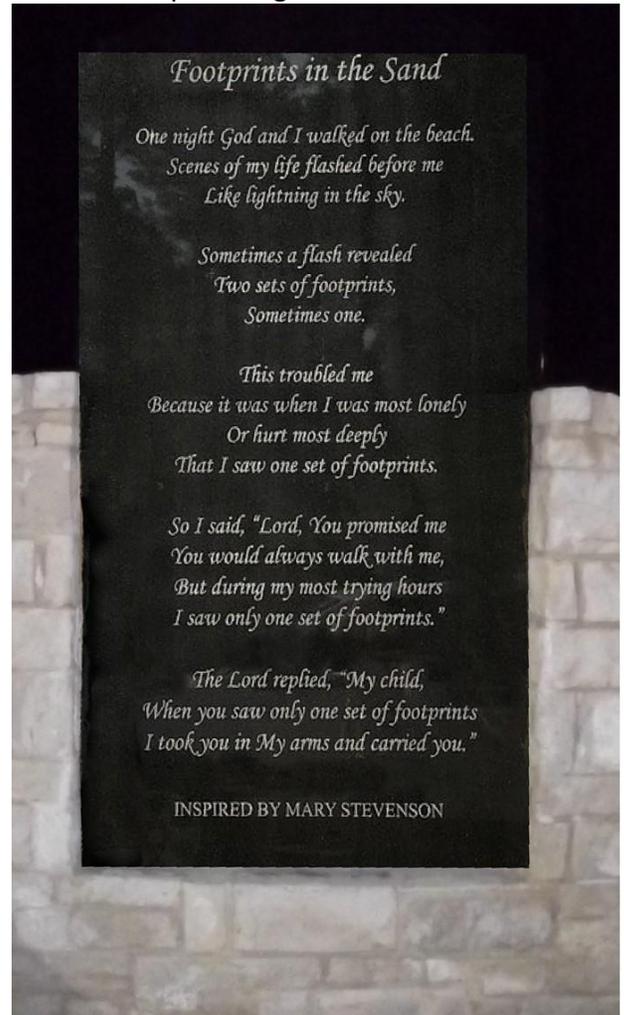
Robbin Hedrick, Terry Hedrick, Kay Hilburn, Amy Hilburn, J.D. Boydston, Debbie Boydston



Front: J.D. Boydston, Debbie Boydston, Laurie Bennett  
Back: J.D. Denton, Rosannah Denton, Sam Bennett, Steve Lucas. Not Pictured is David Routh who had to leave prior to photos being taken.

**2020 DCV Annual Reunion Carthage, Texas cont.**

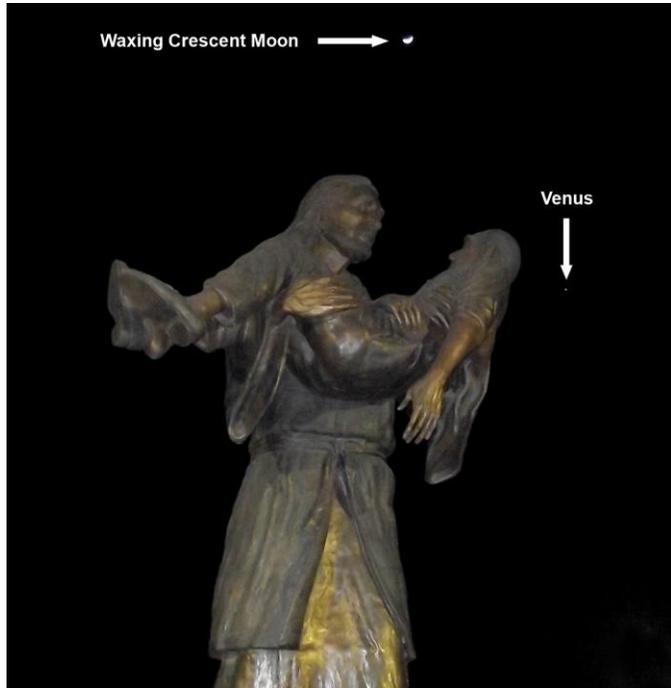
Following the BODACIOUS meal Carthage resident Carl Hedges took a few of us out of towners on a tour of some special sights.



14-Foot-Tall Carry-Me Jesus  
Carthage, Texas

Sculptor Bob Harness was at a funeral in 2008 when on the back of the church program he saw the poem "Footprints in the Sand." It describes a walk along the beach with Jesus, who occasionally carries the narrator. The story is not found in the Bible (it was written in the 1930s), but Harness liked it and wished he could sculpt it. Word got around town, money and volunteer labor poured in. Six years later **Footprints in the Sand Memorial Park** was dedicated on August 19, 2014. Bronze Jesus stands 14 feet tall atop a five-foot pedestal; big footprints lead from the parking lot to the statue. The man being carried by Jesus may be familiar, and he is; he's Willie George, who gave Harness \$25,000 to kick start the project.

2020 DCV Annual Reunion Carthage, Texas cont.



A beautiful clear crisp winter evening with Venus and a waxing crescent Moon added to the spiritual experience of this magnificent monument.



Carl Hedges, Sam Bennett, Laurie Bennett, Steve Lucas



2020 DCV Annual Reunion Carthage, Texas cont.

From there Carl led the group one block off the town square to the Historic 1891 Jail Museum.



Sam Bennett, Laurie Bennett, Carl Hedges, Steve Lucas

Being one of the leading and most trusted citizens of Carthage, Carl had the keys to both the Jail Museum and the Veterans Memorial Artifact Display in an adjacent building. We had exclusive access to both.



Laurie and Sam Bennett reading from among thousands of books, photos, and documents available to the public for viewing.



Carl Hedges giving Steve Lucas and me a history lesson

**2020 DCV Annual Reunion Carthage, Texas cont.**



Bonnie and Clyde Bennett, AKA Sam and Laurie



Terry Ayers thinking if he just had the rest of the cannon he could blast his way out of the 1891 jail

**2020 DCV Annual Reunion Business Meeting**



President Terry Hedrick and J.D. Boydstun preparing to kick off the meeting as Carl Hedges takes a break from setting up the facility.

**2020 DCV Annual Reunion Business Meeting cont.**



Arriving for the meeting are Sam Bennett, Laurie Bennett, and J.D. Denton.



L-R: Amy Hilburn, Rosannah Denton, J.D. Denton  
Back: Robbin Hedrick, Laurie Bennett, Debbie Boydston J.D. Boydston, David Routh

The meeting was brought to order by President Terry Hedrick. East Texas Chapter member J.D. Denton gave the invocation followed by East Texas Chapter member Amy Hilburn leading the group in the pledge to the American flag, the Texas flag, and the salute to the Confederate flag.

Chapter reports followed with J.D. Boydstun announcing the East Texas Chapter's Hallsville Cemetery Marker project reached its funding goal and the marker was in their possession. The dedication ceremony was set for March 21, 2020. The ceremony was later canceled due to an executive order issued by Texas Governor Greg Abbott that affected gatherings of groups due to the COVID 19 virus. The ceremony will be rescheduled and members will be notified.

**2020 DCV Annual Reunion Business Meeting cont.**

Terry Ayers was called on to report on Capitol Chapter activities during the last quarter. One of the mainstays during the winter months is the chapter's annual commemoration ceremony of Robert E. Lee's birthday at Hood's Texas Brigade Monument on the east lawn of the Capitol. Regrettably the chapter was unable to have the ceremony this year due to two factors. The first factor was a change in the policy to obtain a permit to have a ceremony/event at the Capitol. The second was the chapter's lack of success in obtaining a last minute legislative sponsor. The chapter essentially missed the new policy timeline to get approved. The chapter is certain it will be able to continue the tradition next January. In fact, this will give the chapter time to reevaluate how best to conduct the ceremony in the future and to ensure what is done serves the memory and honor of our Confederate ancestors.



In this 1910 photo the monument can be seen to the right of the Capitol. It is without the nine foot bronze statue of a private in Hood's Texas Brigade. Originally planned to be dedicated May 7, 1910 the dedication was postponed. The 35 feet tall Georgia granite monument with a base that measures 16 feet square was perfect and had arrived on time from the McNeel Marble Company of Marietta Georgia. However, the nine feet tall bronze soldier was discovered to have a defect when it was first placed on top of the granite shaft and was rejected. It took several months to procure another statue. The unveiling and dedication took place on October 27, 1910.

**2020 DCV Annual Reunion Business Meeting cont.**



Shelby Little 1-19-2018 Steve von Roeder



October 15, 2010 near the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, Hood's Texas Brigade Association rededicate the monument. At the invitation of Association President Martha Hartzog, the DCV provided the armed honor guard. Under the command of Captain Barney Hilburn the DCV fired a three round musket volley in honor of Hood's Texas Brigade.

**2020 DCV Annual Reunion Business Meeting cont.**

Carl Hedges took the floor to praise the success the **1<sup>st</sup> Lt. W. E. James Chapter in Darlington, South Carolina** continues to enjoy. The chapter was very active during the past year including the last quarter.



Tim Lord was the speaker for the chapter's 18 January 2020 meeting. Chapter President Bob Jones said of Tim, "What a program he had for us."

Mr. Lord is a longtime relic hunter and collector. He brought a small portion of his artifacts to show the members and guest. Most of the relics were from Gen. Edward Potter's Federal Army blowing up a Confederate train near Sumter, S.C. in April 1865. This was the Wilmington and Manchester Railroad. The train consisted of 18 engines and two hundred boxcars loaded with munitions and much needed supplies for the Confederate Army. The photos are actual relics of that raid.



Collection of gun parts



Bent Musket Barrels from the Explosion



Relief of a S.C. Palmetto was attached to one of the engines

**2020 DCV Annual Reunion Business Meeting cont.**



Assorted Baggage Tags



Items in this assortment were from the button factory that was burned down when Sherman's Army came to Columbia, SC. The factory was making South Carolina and North Carolina buttons for the Army.



Various Artifacts

Continued Top of Page

**2020 DCV Annual Reunion Business Meeting cont.**



Over 800 pikes were found buried under the railroad bed



Tim Lord in a teaching moment with Chapter member Noah Brafford.



Chapter member Richard Hubbard also spoke on his service in Vietnam as a Marine. He also passed around a list of all the Marine's killed during the war. Thank you Richard for your honorable service in Vietnam and sharing your story.

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**2020 DCV Annual Reunion Business Meeting cont.**

Since the founding of the DCV in 2005 attacks on us, our heritage, our Confederate ancestors, and even the wives and families of those who fought for the South during that Great War have greatly increased from every corner of the nation. If our cause is to survive we must stand united with other legitimate Confederate heritage organizations that share the same goals and objectives as the DCV. It did not take long for the DCV through actions and deeds to gain the attention and respect of other larger Confederate Heritage organizations. In Austin, the capital city of Texas it has proved absolutely essential during the legislative session that the **Capitol Chapter** and others unite in solidarity to fight the ever increasing opposition. The **East Texas Chapter** has also been at the forefront of cooperation with other Confederate heritage groups. Participating in the Millville Cemetery DCV plaque dedication with the **East Texas Chapter** was the Val Verde Battery from the SCV Camp in Palestine, Texas. The Val Verde Battery was also invited to participate in the military portion of the Hallsville Cemetery Marker dedication by firing a salute with their Mountain Howitzer. That dedication was cancelled due to the state wide restrictions placed on gatherings meant to minimize the spread the COVID-19 virus. It is within that spirit the **1<sup>st</sup> Lt. W. E. James Chapter** is to be recognized for its effort in that regard.



DCV 1<sup>st</sup> Lt. W.E James Chapter members Noah Brafford and Zachary Brafford with SCV Commander-in-Chief Paul Gramling at the Lee/Jackson Banquet in Latta, S.C.

As illustrated in the photo below, cooperation, solidarity, and friendship among Confederate Heritage organizations whose proven goals and objectives are aligned with the DCV works well in both directions



DCV Chapter member, Teresa Reed, was the guest speaker at the Pee Dee Rifles Camp 1419 SCV in Florence, SC. Her excellent power point program on "Women in The Confederacy" was well received.



The James Chapter's table at the Lee/Jackson Banquet in Latta, SC. Hosted by the Pee Dee Rifles Camp 1419 SCV from Florence, SC. Chapter members in attendance were Patrick Coxe, Richard Hubbard, Ernie Hales, Zachary Brafford, Noah Brafford, Bob Jones, Elaine Frye and friend Jeff Dudley in green shirt.



Zachary Brafford, the future of the DCV

**DUES WERE PAYABLE JANUARY 1<sup>ST</sup>**  
**PLEASE BECOME CURRENT WITH YOUR DUES**

DCV Website  
[www.DCVTX.org](http://www.DCVTX.org)

If you are a member of a Chapter you submit both Association dues and Chapter dues to your Chapter Treasurer. Contact your chapter if you're in doubt.

If you are not a member of a Chapter you are an "At-Large" member and must send your dues directly to the Association Treasurer. Association dues are \$16 annually.

At Large Members submit your check payable to:  
**Descendants of Confederate Veterans**

Mail to:

Samuel Bennett  
P.O. BOX 160773  
Austin, TX 78716

Life Members do not pay Association annual dues  
Age 18-59 years \$ 300.00  
Age 60-69 years \$ 200.00  
Age 70-79 years \$ 100.00  
Age 80 + years \$ 50.00

Contact Registrar Carl Hedges for more info  
[cfhedges@sbcglobal.net](mailto:cfhedges@sbcglobal.net)

#### 2020 DCV BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Steve Lucas

Vice President  
Jerry Don Boydston

Secretary/Treasurer  
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##### Board Members

J.D. Denton  
Michael Dunagan  
Kay Hilburn  
David Routh

##### Special Officers

Steve von Roeder: Chaplain  
Carl Hedges: Registrar  
Terry Ayers: PIO/Communications  
Caren Lee: Web Site Administrator

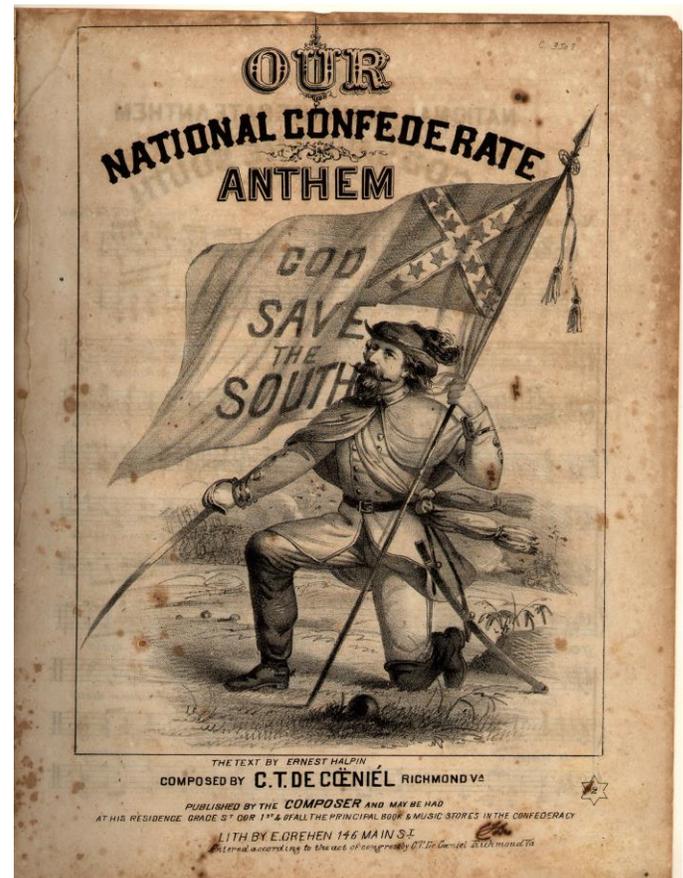
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<https://www.facebook.com/pages/Descendants-of-Confederate-Veterans/149137755127037>

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

The DCV TRAVELLER is published quarterly. Members are encouraged to contribute items of interest to the Editor for publication. The Summer edition will be published June 20, 2020

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