



DCV TRAVELLER

DESCENDANTS OF CONFEDERATE VETERANS
A TEXAS BASED ASSOCIATION WITH CHAPTERS IN TEXAS AND SOUTH CAROLINA

www.DCVTX.org

Fall 2019

Mid-Year Board of Director's Meeting

The DCV Board of Directors, led by President Terry Hedrick held their mid-year meeting at El Conquistador restaurant in Hillsboro, Texas.



I-R Terry, Ayers, Glenn Toal, Susie Toal, Laurie Bennett, Sam Bennett, Steve von Roeder, Michael Dunagan, Amy Hilburn, Steve Lucas, Kay Hilburn, Robbin Hedrick, President Terry Hedrick, Carl Hedges Jr.



R-L President Terry Hedrick, Robbin Hedrick, Laurie Bennett, Michael Dunagan, Steve Lucas

Mid-Year Board of Director's Meeting cont.



Carl Hedges, Kay Hilburn, Amy Hilburn, Susie Toal, Glenn Toal, Steve von Roeder



Descendants of Confederate Veterans

Mid-Year Board Meeting

El Conquistador Restaurant

Hillsboro, Texas

August 24, 2019

Board Meeting Agenda

1. Call to order- President
2. Invocation- Steve von Roeder
3. Pledges to United States, Texas and Confederate Flags- Amy Hilburn
4. Introduction of Guests and New Members - President
5. Approve Minutes of February 16, 2019 Annual Reunion in Waco
6. Reports (a) Treasurer - Sam Bennett (b) Membership - Carl Hedges (c) Chapters - Capitol Chapter /East Texas - JD Boydston /1st Lt. W. E. James Chapter-Bob Jones (written report) (d) Other Chapters
7. Old Business (?)
8. New Business (a) Discuss Venue for All Member Reunion and Board Meeting 2020. (b) Ascertain Expiring Terms (C) Other New Business
9. President's Award
10. Benediction- Steve von Roeder
11. Adjournment

Much was accomplished due to the desire and commitment of the current board members to ensure the DCV continues to be a premiere Confederate heritage organization.

Mid-Year Board of Director's Meeting cont.

Following the approval of the minutes from the annual meeting in February President Hedrick asked for reports from Board officers.



L-R Michael Dunagan, Sam Bennett, Laurie Bennett, Robbin Hedrick, Terry Hedrick, Carl Hedges, Kay Hilburn, Amy Hilburn, Susie Toal, Glenn Toal, Steve von Roeder

Sam Bennett gave the Treasurers report. Sam reported there is no outstanding debt and a healthy balance of funds. Members may inquire about the balance of funds in the DCV treasury by contacting Terry Ayers, DCV Communications Officer at mototerry@sbcglobal.net

President Terry Hedrick, representing the East Texas Chapter reported on the progress of the chapter's current cemetery marker program. The chapter is currently raising funds to place a DCV marker at the Hallsville Cemetery in Hallsville, Texas. Research of cemetery records has identified seventeen Confederate veterans in the cemetery. The chapter anticipates reaching their fundraising goal by the end of the year with placement and a dedication ceremony at a date to be determined in 2020.

During the cemetery marker discussion DCV member Glenn Toal reported his wife Susie has been working to identify the number of Confederate Veterans buried in Ellis County where they reside. To date she has identified 1,565 Confederate veterans.

DCV Registrar Carl Hedges Jr. gave a report on membership including recent additions to the Lt. W. E. James Chapter, Darlington SC.

Mid-Year Board of Director's Meeting cont.

Capitol Chapter President Steve von Roeder gave an update on the chapters highly successful Robert E. Lee Leadership Award the chapter sponsors at five of the area High School's Junior Naval ROTC program. The last award ceremony was covered in the Summer 2019 edition of the DCV TRAVELLER. Since then President von Roeder learned one school, William B. Travis in Austin discontinued the JNROTC program due to low enrollment in the program. He is hopeful another area high school will acquire the program and include the Robert E. Lee Leadership Award.



Old Business, agenda Item # 7 did not include any tabled item that required discussion. It did present the opportunity to continue previous discussions on the continuing attack on Confederate monuments, memorials, plaques, etc.

Board Member Steve Lucas who resides in Denton County gave a positive update on the Confederate Monument located on the grounds of the county courthouse. The monument was erected in 1918 by the Katie Daffin Chapter of the United Daughters of the Confederacy in memory of the Confederate soldiers of Denton County who died in the War Between the States.

Denton County being the ninth most populated county in Texas has experienced its share of protests and calls for removal over many years. The monument was vandalized in 2015.

Mid-Year Board of Director's Meeting cont.

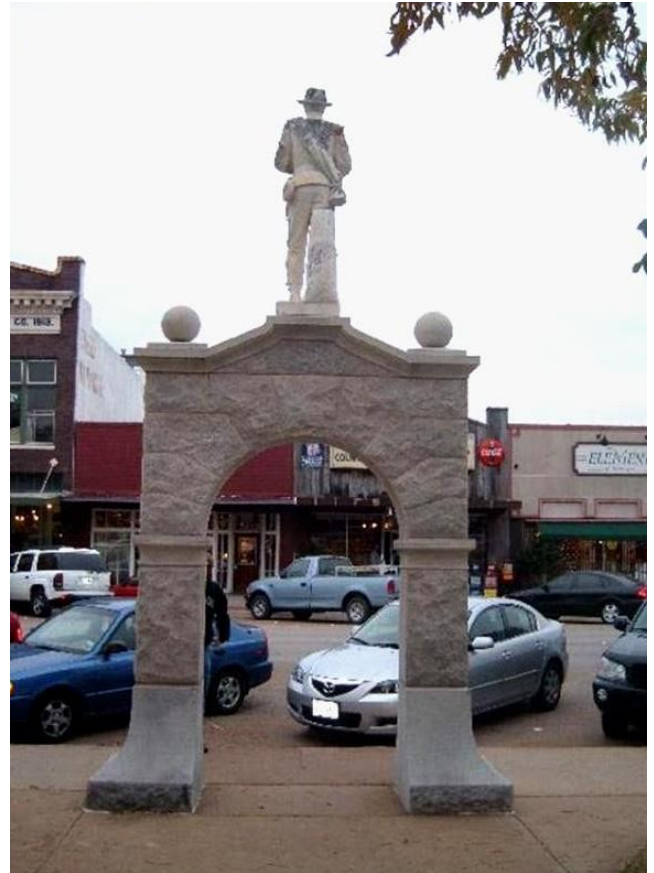


Those protests and calls for removal increased dramatically following the protest in Charlottesville VA in 2017 that resulted in violence.

After two years of discussion Steve Lucas reported the matter has been settled. The monument will remain in place.



Mid-Year Board of Director's Meeting cont.



Denton County Commissioners Court have outlined plans to add a bronze sculpture, granite memorial and kiosks to the Confederate monument outside the Courthouse-on-the-Square. The plans follow the recommendations of the Denton County Confederate Memorial Advisory Committee. The committee, formed in November 2017 proposed adding context about slavery to the Confederate Memorial after unanimously agreeing the memorial should stay on the Courthouse-on-the-Square grounds.

Mid-Year Board of Director's Meeting cont.

Wrapping up the business portion of the agenda Board member Carl Hedges Jr. presented an excellent detailed proposal to the DCV Board nominating Carthage, Texas as the location for the 2020 DCV Annual Membership Reunion. Founded in 1847, Carthage has a population of less than 7000 and is the county seat of Panola County in East Texas. Many men from Carthage and Panola County served in the ranks of the Confederacy.

By a unanimous vote Carthage was approved as the location for the reunion

It is early and there is plenty of time to make plans to attend. Please review the proposed itinerary for the February 27-28, 2020 reunion.



**DCV REUNION 2020
CARTHAGE, TEXAS 75663**



**Panola College
Elizabeth R. Hedges Studio Theatre
Q.M. Martin Auditorium Complex**

Date: February 27-28, 2020

Friday

5:30 p.m. Assemble at College and car pool caravan to Tatum 17 miles
6:00 p.m. Bodacious Bar-B-Q
7:30 p.m. Evening activities as time allows
Sights and Sounds of Carthage 1891 Jail Tour

Saturday

a.m. Breakfast on your own
9:00 a.m. DCV Membership Meeting Panola College
Length of meeting will depend on amount of business conducted
Historically the meeting lasts no later than noon
Noon: Lunch on your own
The food service at the college is available
No outside refreshments may be brought in
1:30 p.m. Tour Texas Country Music Hall of Fame
Adults \$10 Child \$5

IMPORTANT: WILL NEED A NUMBER COMMITMENT NLT FEBRUARY 14, 2020

Reply to: Carl Hedges
809 Beverly Dr.
Carthage, Texas 75633
-OR-
Email: cfhedges@sbcglobal.net

As more information becomes available it will be shared with the membership. Look for an update in the Winter DCV TRAVELLER December 21, 2019.

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

The 1st Lt. W. E. James Chapter continues to grow and set the example for recruiting membership in the DCV. The past quarter the chapter was very active with excellent programs and field trips.

July Chapter Meeting

DCV Member Artie Quick's presentation was on "Photography during the War Between the States".



Excellent program with many different types of images from that period, from Dag's to Ambrotypes to CDV's. His program generated a lot of conversation.



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



1st Lt. W.E. James Chapter member Artie Quick

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



Ambrotype: Private Thomas F. Bates. D Company, 6th Texas Infantry

1860's photo types from various collections



Daguerreotype, aka "dag": Brothers Stephen D. and Moses M. Boynton, Privates in the South Carolina Cavalry Battalion.



Carte De Visite, aka CDV: General Albert Sidney Johnston was considered by CSA President Jefferson Davis to be the finest general in the Confederacy before the emergence of Robert E. Lee. He was killed at the Battle of Shiloh on April 6, 1862. Johnston was the highest-ranking officer, Union or Confederate, killed during the entire war. The loss of General Johnston "was the turning point of our fate." - Jefferson Davis

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



The James Chapter hosted a field trip to Lake City, SC on 8/10/2019. 27 folks attended the event which included DCV members, family, and friends. The day started off with dinner at Piggybacks BBQ & Catfish restaurant. Next up was a visit to the Lynches Lake Historical Society & Museum. Then it was off to Three Rivers Genealogical Society. It was a day of looking and learning. The James Chapter highly recommends visiting these three establishments in Lake City.



Jimmie Epling, Director of the Darlington County Library System was the chapter's guest speaker for 19 August 2019. He gave an excellent presentation, "Ready, Aim, Fire, the story of long arm projectiles". He had many types of ammunition on display such as Enfield, Gardner, Round Ball, & Buck & Ball. Mr. Epling showed everyone how to load a musket in 9 movements.

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

Two young men were sworn into the DCV 1st Lt. W.E. James Chapter on 19 August 2019. These are fine young men who are excited about learning all they can about their ancestors and the true history of the Confederate War. This is the DCV organization's future leadership. Welcome aboard boys.



Chapter President Bob Jones swearing in Zachary & Noah Brafford. Two fine young men



Noah and Zachary Brafford with Grandfather Ernie Hales, who is also a member of the DCV

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



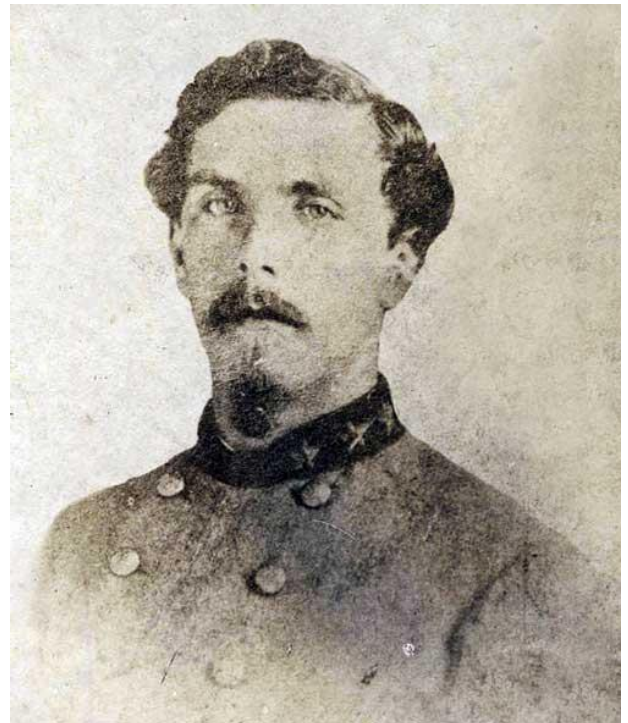
Noah is just a little bit excited to be a part of the DCV
CONGRATULATIONS

The Battle of Champion Hill

During the discussion about cemeteries at the recent DCV Board meeting President Terry Hedrick spoke of his great grandfather and the Battle of Champion Hill during the Vicksburg Campaign. He commented that many cemeteries in Missouri have veterans from both sides. Discussing Champion Hill I recalled having read quite an impressionable letter from Lieutenant E. M. Underhill, Aide-de-camp of Brig. Gen. S. D. Lee that he wrote to his Mother telling of his experiences during the Vicksburg Campaign. Lt. Underhill mentions many of the Generals who participated in the Battle of Champion Hill, including Brigadier General Lloyd Tilghman who was killed in action.

The Editor has chosen excerpts about the Battle of Champion Hill from that letter to feature in this issue. The Editor added photos of Generals mentioned in Colonel Underhill's letter

"In their own words"



Colonel E.M. Underhill
65th Alabama Infantry
Aide-de-camp of Brig. Gen. S. D. Lee
Promoted to Brigadier General 29th July 1863
**Headquarters, 2nd Brigade,
Stevenson's Division
Trenches,
Vicksburg, Mississippi
Sunday, June 28, 1863, 11 A.M. to 4 P.M.
The 42nd day of the siege**

EDUCATING THE PUBLIC
particularly future generations, on the true history of the Confederate States

PARTICIPATING IN EVENTS
such as reenactments, parades, and school presentations

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT
Such as raising money for Operation Blue Santa

HONORING
all Confederate Veterans with the dignity and respect they earned and deserve

LOCATING, MARKING, DEDICATING & MAINTAINING
the graves of CSA Veterans

ASSISTING IN ACTIVITIES
designed to increase public awareness, truth, and understanding of the War Between the States

With the addition of Zack and Noah to the DCV we are reminded of one of our important core goals,
"Educating future generations"

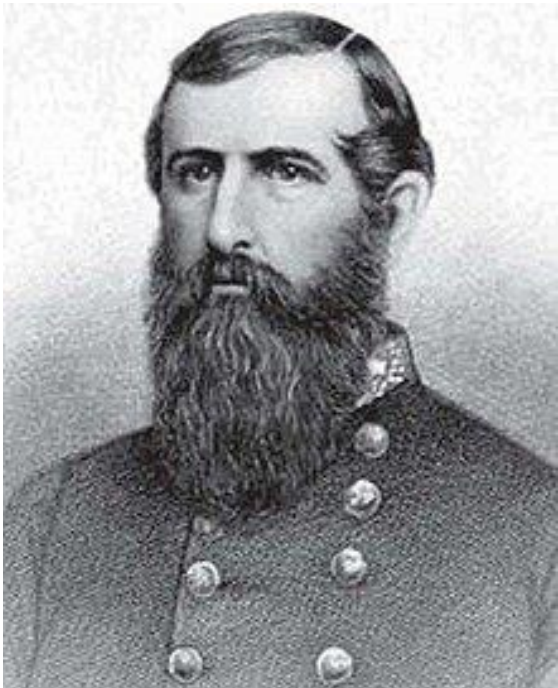
In their own words cont.

Mrs. Underhill, Coldstream, my dear, dear mother, It is with feelings of great doubt and uncertainty that I sit down to write this. To give you some idea of how matters have turned out as they have, I must go back until, say, the middle of April.

The letter picks up referencing May 15th, the eve of the Battle of Champion Hill:

Lieutenant General Pemberton now took command. We brought our forced march of Friday evening May 15th to a close on Saturday about 2 A.M. when we bivouacked in an open field. We had no wagons with us, but the men were so exhausted that they soon forgot their hunger in sleep. By 4:30 next morning, a courier arrived from General Johnston directing us at once to make a junction with him and immediately afterward a scout came in to say the enemy was making a forced march to get in our rear and between us and Vicksburg.

General Pemberton at once ordered a retreat. Our wagons, ordnance, hospital, trains, etc. were all sent off on the Vicksburg road while the troops after a five mile march formed line of battle on a strong position near Baker's Creek and Edward's Depot on the Raymond and Clinton road, and there awaited the approach of the enemy.



Lieutenant General John C. Pemberton
Army of Mississippi

In their own words cont.

It was now about 7 A.M. The men were completely broken down by hard marching and none had had anything to eat for nearly 36 hours. Under these auspices we awaited battle on a glorious May morning. General Loring's division was on the right; Stevenson's on the left extending nearly to Baker's Creek and our brigade (Lee's) was on the extreme left of our division (Stevenson's). General Bowen's division was in reserve and General Pemberton commanded in person.

The battle commenced about 7:30 with heavy skirmishing on the right. It gradually rolled round to the left, however, and came to us, ceasing on the right entirely. By 9 o'clock the enemy had massed large bodies of troops in our front and Cumming's on our right. General Lee had, six different times, to move his brigade that it might not be outflanked by the overwhelming numbers of the enemy.

Five separate times did I gallop at top speed upward of a mile and back bearing the same message from General Lee to General Stevenson to the effect the enemy were outflanking him. Five times did I bring the reply, "Tell General Lee I know it and am moving my division accordingly." Five times did we take a new position on our left, but the cry was "still they come."

At this time the enemy seemed to have completed their arrangements for they made a simultaneous and vigorous attack along our lines. They advanced in three lines and to each of our little brigades they opposed at least a division. We could only bring two brigades into the fight at this time for the others were guarding and holding important positions.

At first our men stood up the work gallantly and vigorously returned the deadly fire than thinned their ranks. They went down by dozens before the Yankee artillery and musketry, but many a Yankee bit the dust. There were two distinct lines respectively of blue and brown, marking where the dead of either army lay where they had fallen when the fray began.

In their own words cont.

This unequal contest lasted several hours but though wearied almost to death and though pressed by overwhelming odds, the Second Brigade still held out, patiently awaiting the arrival and aid of our other two brigades or those of Loring or Bowen. It did not come, however, and one of Cumming's Georgia regiments being hard pushed broke and took shelter in the woods. It was like a bank crumbling away before the action of a torrent to watch our lines at this juncture. The panic seemed contagious and as it ran down the lines, regiment after regiment caught it toll both brigades were in full retreat, leaving all their artillery and all dead and wounded in the enemy's hands.

With some trouble the fugitives were rallied on the crest of a hill and again faced the now victoriously advancing enemy. Once more the men from Alabama and Georgia sent their missiles into the ranks of Indiana, Wisconsin, Illinois, and Ohio, and the death yell of the Western men rang loudly out under the luxuriant magnolia groves in which they fought. Again the Southern troops showed signs of wavering and General Lee, seizing the banner of the 30th Alabama and followed by his staff, rode down the line and led it to the charge. New life seemed to have been infused into the Southern troops. They rushed on with leveled bayonets, cheering wildly. The Northerners rapidly though steadily retiring and pouring volley after volley into their pursuers. At length a shout announced some triumph for the enemy who in a moment rallied and halted, as did also our men, and sure enough there lay General Lee upon the ground.

Before any of us could reach him he had disengaged himself from his dead horse and mounting another once more led the charge. We were now passing over our old position when once more did Lee's horse fall dead, amidst a triumphant shot from the enemy. This time our troops fairly broke and run notwithstanding every effort and all example.

General Lee stood for a moment in despair. A ball, and then a second, both fortunately spent, struck his left sleeve, penetrating it and bruising his arm but doing no further damage.

In their own words cont.

Capt. Elliott of our staff had his horse shot and a ball broke his sword. I escaped. General Lee now mounted a third horse and followed his brigade which was once more formed in the magnolia wood upon the hill. He sent me to General Barton to ask for reinforcements.

I took a short cut and the first thing I knew I was amongst a number of Yankee sharpshooters who demanded my surrender. I declined, and spurring my horse in another direction, some of them fired and killed my horse. I then jumped into a ravine.

At the bottom I met a wounded Federal officer who when I wouldn't yield, fired three shots of his Colt at me but would not face me with his sword. I got into a rye field and ran up it. Some of our men were at the top and fired several shots at me ere they discovered their mistake.

When I got up to the road I caught and mounted a loose horse (which by the way died last week of the sixth shot, five balls having failed even to maim him), saw several aides riding about who all told me the day was lost. Barton's brigade had been demolished and Green's wild Missourians, after having completely routed one Yankee division, retaken all our artillery and made 560 Yankees prisoners, had been surrounded by two other divisions and had only cut its way out with frightful loss. General Tilghman had been killed by a chance shot and General Pemberton had ordered a retreat to Big Black Bridge. I tried to get back to General Lee but the Yankees intervened. I tried to get around them, lost myself in a wood, got fired at again, and finally escaped by swimming Baker's Creek.

I was so hot, hungry, and tired to death that life was hardly endurable, but I rode sadly on with the tide of wagons and fugitives that poured along the road. At last I came up with our headquarters wagon, hauled it on one side, and enjoyed a wash and some flour scorees and a drink of water. I now asked if it was near noon and was thunderstruck to find it was past six. At Big Black Bridge I saw General Pemberton, but he could tell me nothing. I heard General Lee was killed and his brigade taken and was in despair.

In their own words cont.

From a gentle eminence I could see Edwards' Depot and the fine plantations and country seats in a blaze, showing too plainly the advance of the pursuing foe. I had nothing to do at the bridge, so I rode on to Vicksburg, got there at midnight, and put up at our own headquarters¹. So ended the battle day.

Our junction with Johnston was prevented and we lost 18 guns and several thousand stand of small arms and some 5,000 killed, wounded, and prisoners. *Editor's Note: The letter would continue for several more pages. It was signed.*

Love to dear Emily, Sarah, and Joe, and believe me my dear, dear mama, ever your affectionate son,
S. M. Underhill, Lt. and A.D.C. to Gen. S.D. Lee,
2nd Brigade, Stevenson's Div., Dept. Miss. & E. La.

DCV Website

www.DCVTX.org

Visit the DCV on Facebook:

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

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

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-IMPORTANT-

The preferred distribution of the DCV TRAVELLER is email. If you are currently receiving the DCV TRAVELLER by USPS mail and would rather receive it electronically please notify the Editor.

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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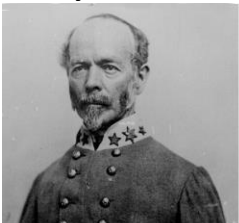
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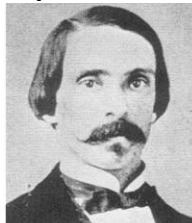
Key Generals in the Battle of Champion Hill



Brigadier General Joseph E. Johnston



Lt. General Stephen D. Lee



Brigadier General Alfred Cumming



Major General William Loring



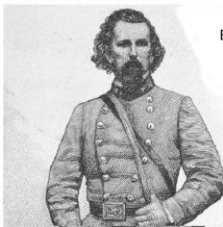
Major General John S. Bowen



Brigadier General Seth Barton



Major General Carter L. Stevenson



Brigadier General Lloyd Tilghman
Killed May 16, 1863 (aged 47)



Brigadier General
Francis M. Cockrell

