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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

WINTER 2014

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE:

Greetings DCV Compatriots,

I hope everyone had a great Thanksgiving and I hope you and your loved ones will have a very Merry and Blessed Christmas and that the New Year will bring you good health, and happiness.

We have several events scheduled early in the New Year; including the Birthday Celebration for General Robert E. Lee on January 18th at the State Capitol. Please try to attend this event. I fear that our ability to access the Capitol grounds is going to be harder and harder to obtain.

The plans for our annual reunion are coming together. It is scheduled for February 20th and 21st in San Antonio. We will hold our business meeting in the historic Gallagher Building just across the street from the Alamo. After the meeting, we will be treated to a special demonstration of the "Firearms of the Texas Frontier" at the Alamo.

The DCV donation was presented to the UDC at their convention in October. We were the only heritage group that was individually recognized and allowed to speak. I also lead the Color Guard for the posting and retrieval of the colors.

Speaking of donations; the Capitol Chapter donated 225.00 to the Blue Santa project. This project is to assist the Austin Police Dept. provide Christmas gifts and food to folks in Austin that otherwise would not have anything. During the presentation of our check, I had a nice

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE Cont.

conversation with the APD chief of police, Art Acevedo. He is a very interested in WBTS history and is very knowledgeable and has visited several battlegrounds including Gettysburg.

The Capitol chapter also participated in the annual Veterans Day Parade. It was a cold and windy day. Terry's ancestor's Battle Flag came loose and the APD chief of police grabbed it and waved it high above his head. Too bad we did not get a photo. Our 'float' was also visited by one of the two run-off candidates for Austin mayor.

The Harry Ransom Center on the campus of The University of Texas has an exhibit currently being displayed from their "Gone With The Wind" collection, including photos, documents related to the making of the movie, and five dresses, including the famous green velvet "curtain" dress and hat. The exhibit runs thru 4 January, 2015. If this is one of your favorite movies, you should make plans to visit.

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 150th Anniversary of
The War Between the States Continues**



1864

November ended with one of the worst defeats of the war for the men in gray at the Battle of Franklin. Although Lieutenant General John Bell Hood's powerful Army of Tennessee conducted numerous valiant frontal assaults they failed to break the heavily fortified Union positions. Failure to break through not only cost them a victory but it also failed to prevent the Federals from withdrawing to their stronghold in nearby Nashville. General Hood's massive assault of six infantry divisions numbering close to 20,000 men resulted in heavy losses that included the loss of life of six Generals, the wounding of seven others and the capture of one. Among the Generals killed was one that is forever near and dear to our hearts in Texas, Major General Patrick Ronayne Cleburne.



Cleburne leads his division in the bloody assault at Franklin

In Cleburne's Division was Brigadier General Hiram B. Granbury's Texas Brigade whom General Cleburne called a "band of heroes". Also in the Division was Brigadier General Daniel C. Govan Arkansas Brigade, Brigadier General Mark P. Lowrey's Mississippians, and the 5th Confederate Infantry Regiment.

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Observance of the 150th Anniversary cont.

The 5th Confederate Infantry was mostly Irish and very close to General Cleburne.

Prior to the fateful battle at Franklin General Cleburne held his last meeting with the Brigade Commanders. General Govan commented, "General, few of us will ever return to Arkansas to tell the story of this battle." To which Cleburne replied, "Well, Govan, if we are to die, let us die like men." In the end, the Confederate force was left in control of Franklin but there was no victory. The loss of General Cleburne, who was without doubt the best Division Commander in the West, and the death of five other Generals along with the huge number of casualties among regimental commanders decimated the leadership in Hood's Army of Tennessee.

Beaten but not yet defeated General Hood would move his Army against the Federals at Nashville. But the odds were not in his favor. Their force of 50,000 would deliver a fatal blow to his severely diminished ranks of less than 20,000. Retreating in defeat to Mississippi the Army of Tennessee was no longer a powerful fighting force. General Hood resigned his command in January of 1865. Blame it on the blood of my Confederate ancestors that run through my veins but I just have to end this segment on a somewhat positive note. Being an old Navy man I think it's worth noting that prior to the Battle of Nashville the Confederates set up batteries on the Cumberland River below Nashville. On December 2nd they captured two Federal transports carrying horses, mules and fodder. The next day the Federal naval squadron responded with two ships, the ironclad USS Carondelet and the tinclad USS Fairplay and were able to recapture the transports. On December 7th in an effort to break the river blockade the Federals sent the USS Carondelet and the river monitor USS Neosho downstream to engage the batteries. The action was inconclusive, though the Neosho sustained considerable damage. The Confederate batteries had effectively closed the river below Nashville to supply traffic until they were finally driven off by Federal Cavalry on December 15th.

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Confederate Ordinance Magazine

The Confederacy built three structures in Jefferson, Texas in 1863 to store gunpowder manufactured fifteen miles away in Marshall. The Jefferson Powder Magazine is the only one still standing in Texas and one of only a handful in the country. It's located on Big Cypress Bayou where 151 years ago gun powder was loaded onto steamboats and shipped downstream to Confederate troops. Over the years the combination of natural erosion and floods has moved the bank so close to the structure that it is in danger of being lost forever.



The Historic Jefferson Foundation, a non-profit group has undertaken an effort to raise awareness of the dire situation and raise funds to build a permanent retaining wall that will save the structure. The Texas Division United Daughters of the Confederacy 2014 President's Project is to raise a minimum of \$10,000 to contribute to the Save the Jefferson Ordinance Magazine Fund.



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Confederate Ordinance Magazine Cont.

At the 2014 DCV mid-year Board of Directors meeting in Waco the Board approved a donation of \$200 to the UDC Texas Division President's Project to help save the Jefferson Ordinance Magazine. In October DCV President Steve von Roeder and his wife Lyn attended the UDC Texas Division Convention in Beaumont, Texas to make the donation in person. Lyn is a member of the Capitol Chapter DCV and a member of UDC General Ben McCulloch Chapter 2435.



DCV President Steve von Roeder and wife Lyn with General Robert E. Lee on Traveller in the background



President von Roeder presents the DCV donation to the UDC

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

During this past quarter our DCV Compatriots in South Carolina has been serving the cause in fine fashion with a host of outstanding speakers presenting a wide range of excellent programs.

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



Chapter Member Phil Salvo spoke on the guards at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier in Arlington National Cemetery



Guest Speaker Chris Harrel on the life and murder of Doctor James Howard Jarrott. Doctor Jarrott was the Confederate Doctor at the Florence Stockade Prison in Florence, SC. In 1866 he was murdered by an overseer on one of Doctor Jarrett's properties.

Chapter members and guests were treated to fine food and an extra helping of fine programs at Takis Restaurant. Dr. Lesa Bethea shared the experiences of her Great Grandfather Dr. Alfred Bethea who was one of the signers of the South Carolina Ordinance.



Dr. Lesa Bethea signing copies of her book. Pictured are Bob Jones, Joyce Digges, Cade Erickson, Artie Quick



Guest Speaker Chris Harrell received the Chapter's Certificate of Appreciation from Chapter President Joyce Digges for his excellent program at the October meeting.

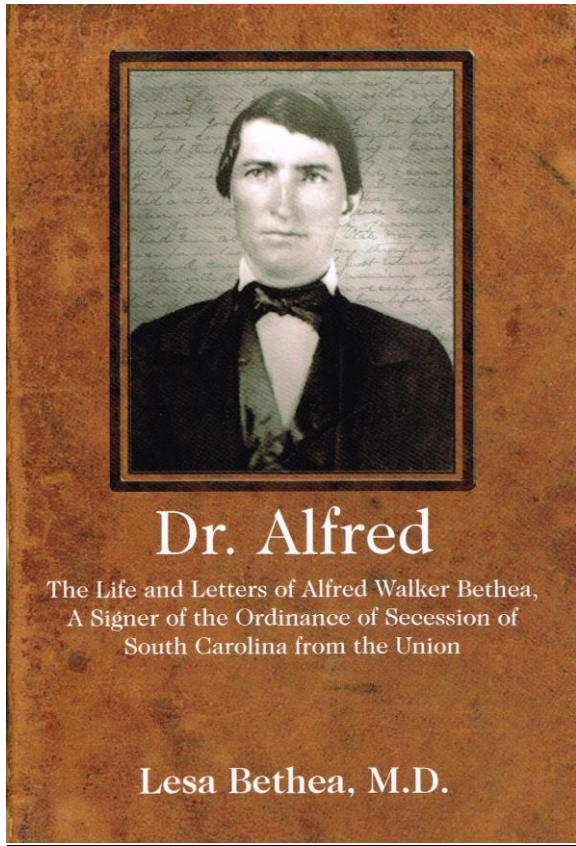


Bob Jones inspects swords belonging to Dr. Bethea's ancestors.

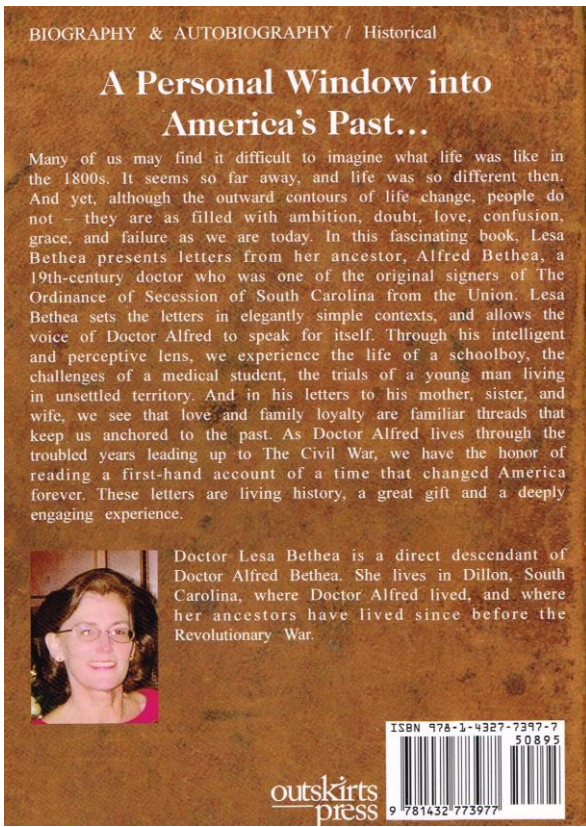


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The book contains letters written by Dr. Alfred Bethea before and during the war as well as several photos

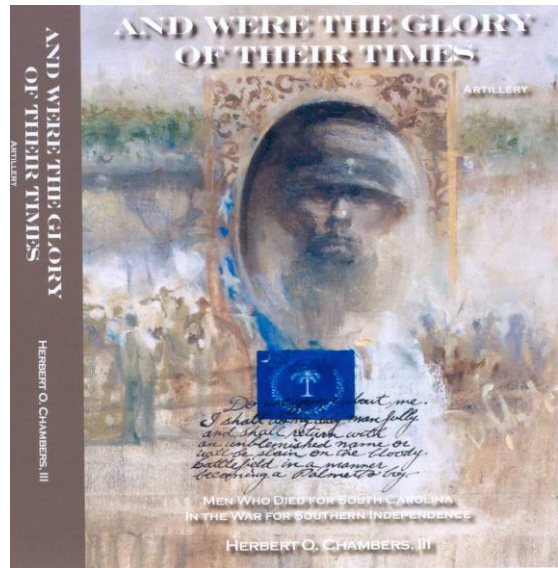


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Dr. Lesa Bethea is presented with the Chapter's Certificate of Appreciation by Chapter President Joyce Digges

Next up at the meeting was returning Author Herbert "Bing" Chambers with his book "And Were the Glory of Their Times, the Artillery." He also spoke about the first volume of his series on South Carolina Soldiers that died in the war.

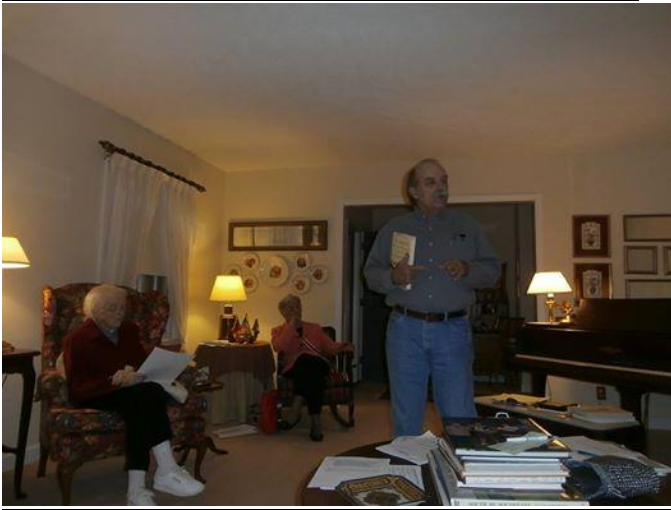


Top: "And Were the Glory of Their Times, the Artillery"
Bottom: Chapter member Pat Coxie purchased a copy



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



Bob Jones was the guest speaker at the November meeting of the Ann Eliza Harllee Chapter #14 South Carolina UDC. Bob's program was "The New England Slave Trade".

****DUES ARE PAYABLE JANUARY 1****
YOU MAY SUBMIT THEM NOW

ASSOCIATION DUES PAID AFTER MARCH 1 MUST
INCLUDE A \$5.00 LATE FEE

Yep, dues are a pain but please mark your calendar, make a note, or do whatever it takes to remind you to submit them on time. 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. Your Chapter Treasurer should contact you about submitting your dues. Life Members do not pay annual dues to the Association but must pay the annual Chapter dues. There is not a Chapter Life Member option.

If you are not a member of a chapter you are an "At-Large" member and you must send your dues to the Association Treasurer. Association Dues are \$16 annually. Life Members do not pay annual dues to the Association. Make your payment payable to **Descendants of Confederate Veterans**

Mail to:

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

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Dues are payable January 1 cont.

Now the good news. If for any reason you think you may not be current with your dues obligation now is the time to square it up. The Board has agreed to waive delinquent dues and or late fees for 2014. Please use this opportunity to get your membership in order.

Life memberships are available

Age 18-59 years	\$ 300.00
Age 60-69 years	\$ 200.00
Age 70-79 years	\$ 100.00
Age 80 + years	\$ 50.00

Veterans Day Parade

The City of Austin observes Veterans Day each year with a parade that runs the length of Congress Avenue from the Colorado River to the State Capitol. There were over 100 entries in this year's parade and it is very well attended. The Capitol Chapter participates in the event every year representing our Confederate Veteran ancestors. The truck and trailer is decked with many flags of the Confederacy so there is no doubt what era of Veterans are being honored. It is extremely gratifying to see the salutes and hear the cheers from the parade spectators. The reviewing stand on the balcony of the historic Stephen F. Austin Hotel is filled with dignitaries and each group is recognized with a brief description announced over the public address system.



Members of the Capitol Chapter "Staging" for the move up Congress Avenue to the State Capitol

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Veterans Day Parade cont.



T. Ayers, Caren Lee, Doug Ayers, Steve von Roeder, Gillis Bartles

Christmas Time in Texas cont.



Gary Loudermilk participated in Christmas at old Fort Concho



Doug Ayers, Caren Lee, Gillis Bartles, Steve von Roeder



Ready.....Aim.....Fire

Christmas Time in Texas

Two very popular events are regularly attended by members of the DCV. **Christmas at old Fort Concho** in San Angelo, Texas is an annual favorite of Capitol Chapter member Gary M. Loudermilk. The living history and military reenactments are represented by both Union and Confederates.

Dickens on the Strand in Galveston, Texas attracts Capitol Chapter members Steve and Lyn von Roeder and Jim and Jean Price. The annual street festival is based on 19th-century Victorian London. Strolling carolers, roving musicians, and a host of other entertainers stroll "The Strand."



Gary Loudermilk holds an authentic LeMat pistol
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Lady in Green, Steve von Roeder, Lyn von Roeder, Jean Price, Jim Price

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Operation Austin Police Blue Santa

The Capitol Chapter since its charter adopted Austin Police Operation Blue Santa as a way to support local law enforcement and help needy families in a very worthy cause in a way that also gives positive exposure to the Descendants of Confederate Veterans. Through donations Blue Santa provides toys and food for families in need during the Christmas season.



KOKE FM Meteorologist Troy Kimmel, Austin Police Chief Art Acevedo, KOKE FM owner and radio personality Bob Cole

Austin Police Operation Blue Santa and co-sponsor KOKE FM Radio in Austin does a remote radio broadcast at the annual "Blue Santa Breakfast." The Capitol Chapter makes its donation at the event. Without fail our good friend and supporter Bob Cole thanks us "on the air" for the donation.



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2015 DCV Annual Convention February 20-21

It's set. The 2015 annual reunion/convention will be held in San Antonio, Texas February 20-21 2015.

President Steve von Roeder has secured the historic Gallagher Building across the street from the Alamo for the business meeting on Saturday the 21st. The meeting is scheduled to begin at 9:00 a.m. Following the 9:00 a.m. meeting (TBD, may be after lunch) President von Roeder has arranged to have a special demonstration of the Firearms of the Texas Frontier Weapons Exhibit.

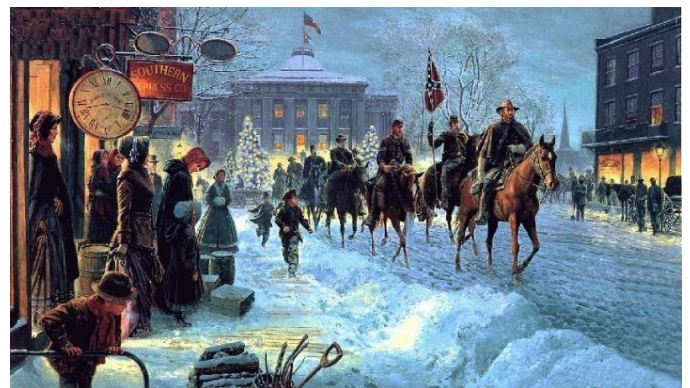
Because the business meeting is being held at the Gallagher Building there is not a host hotel. Members are encouraged to select the Menger Hotel next to the Alamo for lodging. The Gallagher Building is about a two city block walk from the Menger Hotel. Please make reservations as soon as possible. The Menger offers an advanced booking rate that is slightly lower than the standard rate but be aware it is a non-refundable rate. Selecting the standard rate you can still receive a 10% discount for AARP, AAA, etc. and their standard cancellation policy will apply.

Menger Hotel > <http://www.mengerhotel.com>

Google Map > <http://tinyurl.com/DCV-MENGER>

Still in the works is an informal "meet and greet" supper time at a restaurant on Friday evening the 20th. As soon as that information is available it will be sent to you the same way you receive the DCV Traveller.

There's still time so please plan to attend



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DCV on the Web

Keep up with the latest from the DCV by visiting the website. A big thank you to our webmaster and Capitol Chapter member Caren Lee for the excellent job. Also join me in congratulating Caren for earning an AA in Government at Austin Community College. Graduation was earlier this month. Caren is the daughter of Steve and Lyn von Roeder.



Caren Lee, 2014 Austin Community College Graduate

DCV Home > <http://www.dcvtx.org/>

Capitol Chapter > http://tiny.cc/Capitol_Chapter

See us on Facebook: **DCV** >

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

1st Lt. W.E. James Chapter, South Carolina

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

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From the Editor

I invite and encourage each of you to contribute to "The Traveller". Please send descriptions and photos of meetings, activities, and events. Every contribution we make to preserve and protect our Confederate history and heritage whether as an individual or a group, no matter how small or large, is worthy of being noted in our newsletter. Send to Terry Ayers > mototerry@texreb.com

In their own words

In lieu of "*IN THEIR OWN WORDS*" in this issue I want to share the words of Stanley F. Horn, Author of the book The Army of Tennessee.

"The annals of war may long be searched for a parallel to the desperate valor of the charge of the Army of Tennessee at Franklin, a charge which has been called "the greatest drama in American history." Perhaps its only rival for macabre distinction would be Pickett's Charge at Gettysburg. A comparison of the two may be of interest. Pickett's total loss at Gettysburg was 1,354; at Franklin the Army of Tennessee lost over 6,000 dead and wounded. Pickett's charge was made after a volcanic artillery preparation of two hours had battered the defending line. Hood's army charged without any preparation. Pickett's charge was across an open space of perhaps a mile. The advance at Franklin was for two miles in the open, in full view of the enemy's works, and exposed to their fire. The defenders at Gettysburg were protected only by a stone wall. Schofield's men at Franklin had carefully constructed works, with trench and parapet. Pickett's charge was totally repulsed. The charge of Brown and Cleburne penetrated deep into the breastworks, to part of which they clung until the enemy retired. Pickett, once repelled, retired from the field. The Army of Tennessee renewed their charge, time after time. Pickett survived his charge unscathed. Cleburne was killed, and eleven other general officers were killed, wounded or captured. "Pickett's charge at Gettysburg" has come to be a synonym for unflinching courage in the raw. The slaughter-pen at Franklin even more deserves the gory honor.

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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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