



Clarion Call

Texas Society, Military Order of Stars & Bars
 Volume 10, Issue 2, August in the Year of Our Lord 2014

THE TEXAS SOCIETY COMMANDER'S REPORT
 Larry L. Wilhoite, Commander



**Commander
 Larry Wilhoite**

Greetings Compatriots:

Summer is upon us and I hope you and your family are doing well in this heat. I have now completed my first year as commander and it has been a very exciting experience for Pam and me. We are well on our way in planning for the 2015 convention (more later).

Savings from our electronic distribution of *Clarion Call* allowed the Texas Society to present our first \$500 scholarship this year. Please see the report elsewhere in this issue. I would very much like to see us give two scholarships annually in the coming years. Thanks to the fine work of Jim Templin and Gary M. Loudermilk, our scholarship will be more widely publicized and thus have more qualified applicants.

I would really like to see more efforts made to recruit members into the Texas Society. Our numbers need to grow substantially, especially with younger compatriots. I am the adjutant for my local Sons of Confederate Veterans camp and process each application for membership. If the compatriot joins on a Confederate officer, I make a special effort to sign him up for the Military Order of the Stars & Bars as well. Developing a relation-

ship with SCV adjutants and commanders is an excellent source for potential members.

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2014 Convention Report

The 2014 Bryan convention held in April was well attended. I really appreciate those in attendance for making the effort to come. These conventions give you an opportunity to meet compatriots from other parts of the state as well as conduct the business of the society.



2014 Society Convention Attendees

Our Lt. Commander, Michael Hurley, was unable to attend due to his winning a trip to Ireland, home of many of our ancestors. I know he and Tami had a great time and we look forward to having them at the 2015 convention.

As discussed by editor Jack Dyess at the convention business session, the *Clarion Call* should be news of the society chapters. I challenge each chapter to submit a report to the editor so your activities will receive proper recognition. A nice photo or two will greatly enhance the report.

Our newsletter editor, Jack Dyess, presented the historical program on the Texas Navy. Jack, thank you for an excellent presentation. All the attendees certainly enjoyed it and found it most informative.

2015 Texas Society Convention

Hold the dates of April 24-25 open for our 2015 convention. Plans were finalized recently for the site of the convention. We are most pleased to advise that the convention will be held at the Homewood Suites located on Overton Ridge Road in southwest Fort Worth. We toured the facilities and found it most suitable to our needs.

Spacious two-room king suites will be \$99, queen doubles \$109. The hotel provides a free hot breakfast. There is also an indoor pool with hot tub. For the shoppers in the group, Hulen Mall is only one mile from the site.

Scott Bowden, co-author of *Last Chance for Victory: Robert E. Lee at Gettysburg* and *Robert E. Lee at War: The Mind and Method of a Great American Soldier*, will be our speaker. Having heard Scott speak in the past, I know you will enjoy his presentation.

On Saturday afternoon we will travel seven miles to the Civil War Museum. Most of you have visited the museum before. If it has been more than nine months, you have missed the following changes. They opened a new artillery wing with five cannons and an original limber. The Navy gallery has been expanded with a new model ship and more medical artifacts are displayed. A diorama of the Battle of the Wilderness has been added. New items on display include Winston Churchill's mother's dress, Scarlett O'Hara's hat made from the green draperies and a dollhouse replica of Beauvoir. The Victorian clothing section is updated every month. If you have not seen the coat worn by General Grant at Appomattox you will not want to miss this tour.

More information on the convention, including registration forms will be in the February *Clarion Call*. I do hope you will plan now to attend.

National Convention in Charleston, South Carolina

The Texas Society was well represented at the National Convention and brought home many awards. The South Carolina Society is to be commended for putting on a first-class convention.



Members of the Texas Society at the National Convention in Charleston. Front Row: Larry Wilhoite, David Whitaker, Tony Turk, Robert Turk, Ray Holder – Back Row: John Burdine, Jim Templin, Jack Dyess, Michael Hurley and James Simmons

William Howard Jones of California was elected Commander General and Harold Franklin Davis III of South Carolina Lt. Commander General by acclamation. Our new ATM commander is David Wayne Snodgrass of Colorado. I look forward to serving with these fine gentlemen as we move the MOS&B forward.

The tour of the CSS H. L. Hunley was especially enjoyable. I was unable to go on the harbor tour to Fort Sumter but I understand it was fantastic as well.

As mentioned earlier, the Texas Society brought home many awards:

- Distinguished Commander Award: James C. (Jim) Templin
- Lt. Charles Read Meritorious Service Medal: Walter Anthony (Tony) Sinclair
- T. T. Fakes Award for Best Chapter Scrapbook: Texas Society Chapter 273, Glenn Toal, editor, Susie Toal, designer
- Rebel Club (Recruit three or more new members): Larry D. Martin

Certificates awarded:

- Communications General: Gary M. Loudermilk
- Commander ATM: Gary L. Loudermilk
- Real Great Grandson: Larry D. Martin

Next year’s convention will be held in Old Town Alexandria, Virginia and the 2016 convention will be in Fair Hope, Alabama. You should make every effort to attend as many of these conventions as possible. Meeting compatriots from other states is always a pleasure.



TEXAS SOCIETY LT. COMMANDER’S REPORT
W. Michael Hurley, Lieutenant Commander



Lt. Commander Michael Hurley

I am pleased to report of my most recent work as Lieutenant Commander of the Texas Society.

I was blessed to attend the 77th Annual National Reunion of MOS&B July 10-13, 2014 in beautiful Charleston, SC. The Texas Society was well represented with a large number of delegates present. We had so many Texans present, that I believe we outnumbered our hosts from the South Carolina Society!

The events included a private tour of the C.S.S. Hunley and a tour of famed Fort Sumter. Our Ft. Sumter tour took place close to dusk, and while at Ft. Sumter I was honored (with other members of the MOS&B) to lower the 2nd National Flag of the Confederacy. We proudly sang Dixie as we lowered the colors. It was a thrill and a once in a lifetime opportunity that will not be forgotten this side of the grave! The Reunion concluded with the Commander General’s Ball held at the Charleston Yacht Club.



Texas Society members Michael Hurley, James Simmons and Diane Dyess (wife of Jack Dyess) lower the 2nd National flag at Fort Sumter.

I want to encourage all of our members to attend next year’s reunion to be held in Alexandria, VA in July of 2015. The value of the fellowship, historical tours, Commander’s Ball, and the opportunity to participate in the business of the Society is one not to be missed. For our members who also belong to the SCV, the SCV National Reunion will be the following weekend in Richmond, VA only 90 miles away. This provides an excellent opportunity for a great vacation in an area allowing you to visit numerous sites of historical interest.

Does Your Chapter Need A Speaker? I wanted to make the Chapters of the Texas Society aware that I am available to come and speak at your Chapter events at no cost. I have spoken in seven states and at more than one hundred Gospel meetings, SCV events and MOS&B meetings. I have developed a number of formal presentations but would be open to developing one especially for your organization given sufficient time. *[Editor’s Note: A list of programs offered by Commander Hurley, and other presenters, is in a following sidebar.]*



NOTE FROM THE EDITOR
Jack Dyess



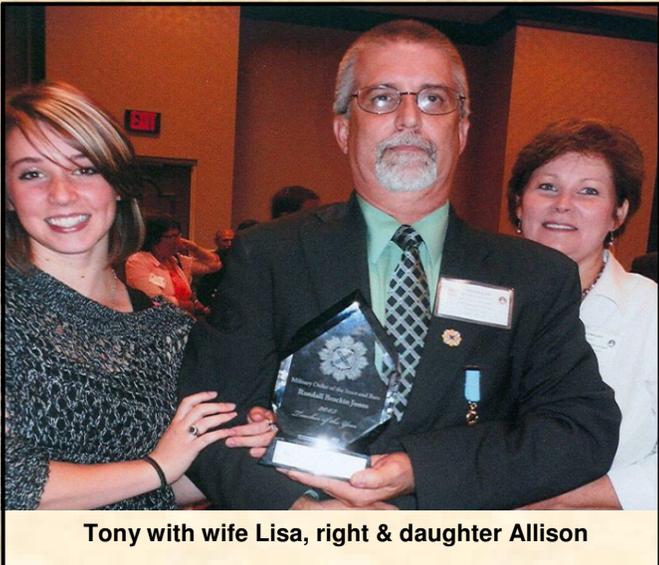
I greatly appreciate and sincerely thank each person who submitted material for inclusion in this issue of the Clarion Call. In fact, we received so many great articles that if we were to print all of them the length of this issue would be excessive. We will keep all articles on file and print them in future issues.

Without a doubt, historical articles concerning subjects of interest to our members are educational, interesting and extremely beneficial. However, remember, the primary purpose of any newsletter is to share news of happenings within the organization. Unfortunately, we received few reports of activities from the individual Chapters and almost no photographs. We need to report to our Society's membership what each Chapter is doing. Please send us a short report for each issue on what your Chapter has done, is doing, and plans to do. We also want to print pictures of as many of our members as possible in order to give a face to the names we hear about. Please send us photographs of as many of your members as possible to jplsail@earthlink.net especially **Chapter Commanders**.



TONY SINCLAIR RECEIVES THE RANDALL BRACKIN JONES TEACHER OF THE YEAR AWARD

Tony Sinclair, history teacher and chairman of the social studies department at Avalon High School was awarded the Randall Brackin Jones Teacher of the Year award at the recent convention in Springdale, Arkansas. This is the third year for the award. The first went to a teacher in California, the second to one in Virginia. We are very happy that he has brought the award to Texas.



Tony with wife Lisa, right & daughter Allison

Tony is a member of the Col. W. H. Parsons Chapter #273 in Ennis. He has always tried to make history come alive for his students and has encouraged them to study and make good test scores, even shaving his head, beard and moustache when they first met his challenge. Tony is married, with two daughters, both of whom are members of the UDC.



POTENTIAL SPEAKERS

W. Michael Hurley
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- *Recruiting Techniques for Chapters of the MOS&B.*
- *The Value of Leadership in the MOS&B.*
- *Joseph P. Davis - The Brother of Jefferson Davis*
- *The Irish Officers of the Confederacy*
- *General Edward Carey Walthall - and His Brave Mississippians*
- *Courtship and Marriage in the Confederacy*
- *Songs of Our Fathers - Confederate Music 1861-1865*
- *The Faith of General Thomas J. "Stonewall" Jackson*

Jack Dyess
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- *History of the Texas Navy (30-45 minutes)*
- *Holt Collier – Slave, Confederate Soldier, Hero (25-35 minutes)*
- *Andersonville vs. Camp Douglas (35-45 minutes)*
- *Battle of Sabine Pass (25-30 minutes)*
- *Myths Concerning the Causes of the War Between the States (35-45 minutes)*
- *Myths Concerning the Vietnam War (25-30 minutes)*
- *Colonial Navy" (20-25 minutes)*

WOMEN IN THE CIVIL WAR



Gary M.
Loudermilk

The role of women in the WBTS was much greater and of a wider scope than many of us realize. We know how they served as nurses and hospital aides, even supervising field hospitals at times. Historians have also made us aware of all the "home front" support they provided, but many of their roles are not generally known. For example, even though women were not legally allowed to fight in the War, it is estimated that somewhere around 400 women disguised themselves as men and went to war, sometimes without anyone ever discovering their identities.

At the time, women were not perceived as equals by any stretch of the imagination. It was the Victorian era and women were mostly confined to the domestic sphere. Both the Union and Confederate armies actually forbade the enlistment of women. They established women as nurses because they needed help on the front when soldiers were injured but women were not allowed to serve

in combat. However, they did disguise themselves and enlist as men.

How women were able to enlist is not a great mystery. The physical exams were not rigorous at all. If you had enough teeth in your head and could hold a musket, you were fine. In this scenario, many women did not seem any less manly than, for example, the teenage boys who were enlisting. At the time in the Union army, there was an official cutoff age of 18 for soldiers, but that was often flouted and people often lied. They had many young men, their voices had not changed, and their faces were smooth. The Confederacy never actually established an age requirement. Therefore, women bound their breasts if they had to and just kind of layered on clothes, wore loose clothing, cut their hair short and rubbed dirt on their faces. They also kept to themselves. The evidence that survived often describes them as aloof. Keeping to themselves certainly helped maintain the secret.

Even in the cases where these women were found out as soldiers, there does not actually seem to be much uproar. More or less, they were just sent home. The situations in which they were found out were often medical conditions; they were injured, or they got sick from dysentery or chronic diarrhea.

Some documentation shows that some soldiers that were discovered as women were briefly imprisoned. In the letter of one [female disguised as a male] prison guard, she said that there were three [other] women in the prison, one of whom was a major in the Union Army. It creates an interesting irony, a woman, disguised as a man, standing as a prison guard for a woman imprisoned for doing the same thing.

Regardless of which role women chose, they had to overcome social mores, ethics and ironbound stereotypes. In the years before the War, the lives of American women were shaped by a set of ideals that historians call "the Cult of True Womanhood." As men's work moved away from the home and into shops, offices and factories, the household became a new kind of place: a private, feminized domestic sphere, a "haven in a heartless world." "True women" devoted their lives to creating a clean, comfortable, nurturing home for their husbands and children.

During the War, however, American women turned their attention to the world outside the home. Thousands of women in the North and South joined volunteer brigades and signed up to work as nurses. It was the first time in American history that women played a significant role in a war effort. By the end of the war, these experiences had expanded many Americans' definitions of "true womanhood."

Women in the South threw themselves into the war effort with the same zeal as their Northern counterparts. The Confederacy had less money and fewer resources than did the Union, however, so they did much of their work on their own or through local auxiliaries and relief societies. They cooked and sewed for their boys. They provided uniforms, blankets, sandbags and other supplies for entire regiments. They wrote letters to soldiers and worked as untrained nurses in makeshift hospitals.

They even cared for wounded soldiers in their homes.

For women in some urban areas, especially in the north, there were employment opportunities away from the farm, in jobs both patriotic and dangerous. Thought of as conscientious workers with great attention to detail and a natural fastidiousness that lent itself to working with dangerous and untidy gunpowder, women became valued employees at munitions plants and arsenals, building the machinery of war.

In an effort to add an air of respectability to this work outside the home in a skeptical Victorian society, employment at arsenals often became a family affair, with sisters, cousins or neighbors venturing together. This tactic, however, could multiply the tragedy when accidents occurred in these incendiary crucibles.

On September 17, 1862 - the same day as the Battle of Antietam - a massive explosion rocked the Allegheny Arsenal near Pittsburgh, PA. The ultimate cause of the blast is uncertain, but many witnesses reported seeing barrels leaking powder as they were moved around the complex. The extent of the disaster, however, was beyond dispute. Seventy-eight workers were killed; 54 were never positively identified and were buried in a mass grave.

Many of the victims were young women who died in horrific ways; limbs severed in the blast and bodies riddled with munitions. Arsenal worker Mary Jane Black remembered the pandemonium as "two girls behind me; they were on fire; their faces were burning and blood running from them. I pulled the clothes off one of them; while I was doing this, the other one ran up and begged me to cover her. I did not succeed in saving either one":

A similar disaster occurred at the Washington, DC, arsenal in June 1864, when some 20 workers were killed in a fire resulting from gunpowder negligently left in the sun outside the cartridge room. The resulting explosion touched off a massive fire, sending workers rushing from the building - and in some cases into the Potomac River to extinguish their burning dresses. Witnesses reported seeing smoldering hoopskirts among the wreckage.

In both these and other arsenal explosions, the community moved quickly to find closure. In Washington, a coroner's inquest began the next day and the War Department paid all fees for funerals, held two days later, including ornate coffin linings and silver-plated name plaques. A grand monument was raised in Congressional Cemetery a year later and a plaque listing the Allegheny victims was dedicated on the former arsenal site in 1913.

Obviously, during the War, women, both north and south, faced a host of new duties and responsibilities. For the most part, these new roles applied the ideals of Victorian domesticity to "useful and patriotic ends." However, these wartime contributions did help expand many women's ideas about what their "proper place" should be and contributed to their post war re-thinking of their role in society and the work place.



HISTORY OF WALKER'S TEXAS DIVISION "WALKER'S GREYHOUNDS"



**Lt. Commander
Michael Hurley**

Walker's Texas Division was organized at Camp Nelson, near Austin, Arkansas, in October 1862. The only division in Confederate service composed, throughout its existence, of troops from a single state. It took its name from Major General John George Walker, who took command on January 1, 1863. Originally, the division was made up of four brigades:

First Brigade, composed of the Twelfth (usually called "Eighth"), Eighteenth, and Twenty-second Texas infantry regiments, the Thirteenth Texas Cavalry (dismounted), and Haldeman's Texas Battery;

Second Brigade, composed of the Eleventh and Fourteenth Texas infantry regiments, the Twenty-eighth Texas Cavalry (dismounted), the Sixth (Gould's) Texas Cavalry Battalion (dismounted), and Daniel's Texas Battery;

Third Brigade, composed of the Sixteenth, Seventeenth, and Nineteenth Texas infantry regiments, the Sixteenth Texas Cavalry (dismounted), and Edgar's Texas Battery;

Fourth Brigade, composed of the Tenth Texas Infantry and the Fifteenth, Eighteenth, and Twenty-fifth Texas cavalry regiments (dismounted). The original regiments

of the Fourth Brigade were detached from the division shortly after its organization, and these were captured intact at Arkansas Post on January 11, 1863. Late in the war another Fourth Brigade was reconstituted which included the Sixteenth and Eighteenth Texas infantry regiments and the Twenty-eighth and Thirty-fourth Texas cavalry regiments (dismounted). At the same time, the Twenty-ninth Texas Cavalry (dismounted) was added to the First Brigade and the Second Regiment of Texas Partisan Rangers (dismounted) to the Third Brigade.

During its existence, it was commonly called the "Greyhound Division" or "Walker's Greyhounds," in tribute to its special capability of making long, forced marches from one threatened point to another within the Trans-Mississippi Department. Elements of the division attempted to relieve the siege of Vicksburg by attacking the federal troops at Millken's Bend in June and took part in the battle of Bayou Boubreau in Louisiana in No-

vember 1863. The high point of its service came during the early months of 1864, when it opposed Federal Major General Nathaniel Bank's invasion of Louisiana by way of the Red River valley.

On April 8-9, 1864, Walker's Greyhounds were committed with other Confederate forces in the battles of Mansfield and Pleasant Hill, halting Bank's advance on Shreveport, LA and Marshall, TX. On April 10, 1864, with Thomas J. Churchill's and William H. Parson's division, the Greyhounds began a forced march north to intercept Federal Major General Frederick Steele, who was moving from Little Rock to Camden, Arkansas, in cooperation with Bank's invasion from the south. Steele reached Camden on April 15, then evacuated it on the 27th. On the 30th, he was overtaken by Confederate forces, including Walker's Division, at Jenkin's Ferry on the Saline River, fifty-five miles north of Camden. The ensuing fighting was desperate, costing the lives of two of the three brigade commanders of the division, Brigadier General William Read Scurry and Brigadier General Horace Randal. Steele completed his withdrawal to Little Rock, ending the last real threat to western Louisiana and Texas during the war. In June 1864, General Walker was directed to assume command of the District of West Louisiana, and Major General John Horace Forney took command of the division. During March and April 1865, the division marched to Hempstead, Texas where the men disbanded themselves in May 1865.

To the novice historian, the fighting service of Walker's Texas Division may seem less arduous than that of many similar commands in the Army of Northern Virginia and the Army of Tennessee. However, it operated efficiently, under extreme and peculiar difficulties unknown east of the Mississippi River and it deserves major credit for

preserving Texas from the devastation, robbery, rape, and destruction that usually accompanied Federal invasion. So the next time you pass that beautiful old historic courthouse or do genealogy record research on your Texas roots, give a tip of the hat to old Major General John George Walker, and his brave Texan "Greyhounds" who kept Texas from the Union torch!

(Note: Much of this material was gathered from various sources and thus the author does not take credit as original thought, but a compilation of facts)



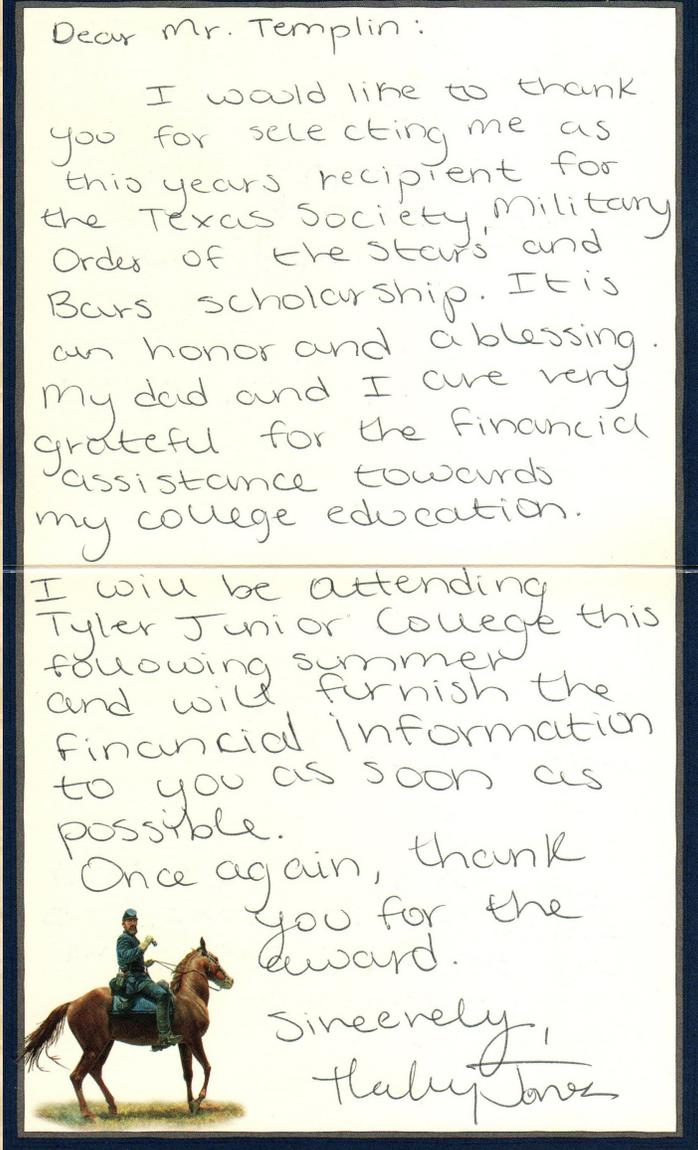
TEXAS SOCIETY 2014 SCHOLARSHIP WINNER

The Texas Society Scholarship Committee has announced that Haley Elizabeth Jones of Flint, Texas is the first winner of the 2014 Society \$500 scholarship. Haley recently graduated from Robert E. Lee High School in Tyler, Texas. She plans to attend Tyler Junior College.



Haley Elizabeth Jones

Haley is the daughter of Andrew Wayne Jones, current Lieutenant Commander and charter member of the Col. Richard B. Hubbard Chapter #261 of Tyler, Texas.



TEXAS SOCIETY CHAPTER REPORTS:

**Colonel Richard Bennett Hubbard
Chapter 261**

The next meeting of the Hubbard Chapter will be on September 16. The time and place is to be determined later. This meeting will be for election of officers. Our annual Lee Jackson Birthday Party will be on January 31, 2015, at the Potpourri House in Tyler.



COLONEL W. H. PARSONS CHAPTER 273



**Jim Templin
Adjutant**

The Parsons Chapter of Ellis County has changed its meeting place to Cancun Restaurant in Waxahachie. We had very good speakers for our January and April meetings. Due to the timing of the national convention, we do not meet in July. The convention would often interfere with that meeting, so we moved the July meeting to Memorial Day.

The Parsons Chapter, assisting the local UDC chapter, once again placed flags for Memorial Day on the graves of about 90 Confederate Veterans in Myrtle Cemetery in Ennis. This has been an ongoing project. We also placed two U. S. flags on the known Union soldiers, and a Texas flag on the grave of the Texas Revolution soldier buried there. After a ceremony in the cemetery on Memorial Day, we enjoyed a picnic at the home of Jim Templin, the chapter adjutant.



Col. W. H. Parsons Chapter 273 members place flags on Memorial Day weekend. (L-R) Glenn Toal, Larry Wilhoite, Gerald Tyler, Jim Templin and Robby Keever

We are in the planning stages of ordering and placing a footstone for a Confederate veteran. We have had several suggestions, and will narrow these down to the one to be honored at this time.

The Parsons Chapter donated \$100 for the installation of a flagpole and fence at the historic marker for the Waxahachie Powder Mill. Spearheading the project is the O. M. Roberts SCV Camp of Waxahachie. The completed project will protect the marker and draw more attention to it. We are happy to be able to help with this fine project, and congratulate the SCV members on the work

At the National Convention, the Col. W.H. Parsons Chapter 273 won first Place for the best chapter scrap-

book. Compliments are certainly in order to Glenn Toal as scrapbook editor and to Suzie Toal who did all the work.

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