



# David's Dispatch

1ST LT. DAVID RICHARD REYNOLDS  
HEADQUARTERS CHAPTER #1  
SOCIETY OF CONFEDERATE DESCENDANTS



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## PRESIDENT'S CORNER

by Larry "Joe" Reynolds



Greetings Compatriots,

I have had several inquiries about us changing our name and honoring both Confederate and Union ancestors. Please rest assured that this is not in the Plans! Our society will remain the Society of **Confederate** Descendants!

This was something that was briefly discussed at our last meeting, however, the majority of our members are happy with the way things are now. One of our members, Michael Birrenbach-Lytle, has started a new society, Society of Union Descendants, I have joined it, so if you also have a Union ancestor, I suggest you join also. We will discuss it at our next meeting but in the meantime, you can visit <https://sudhq.org>.

There are some that I still have not received your annual dues. According to our By-Laws, and one who has not paid dues by April 1<sup>st</sup> will be deleted from the rolls of the Society!

Joe Reynolds  
President General

## WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!

R033 - Michael Anthony Birrenbach-Lytle  
Salina, Kansas  
[Birrenbach-Lytle@gmail.com](mailto:Michael.Birrenbach-Lytle@gmail.com)  
2nd Lt. William Charlie Rainey

## Our Mission

*To fulfill the Charge handed down to us and to perpetuate the legacy of our ancestors by proudly preserving our heritage and faithfully promoting goodwill In our community.*

## Our Vision

*We dare to envision a culture that values its history and honors those who helped make it.*

## UPCOMING EVENTS NEXT MEETING

Monday, March 9<sup>th</sup>, 7:00 p.m.  
Zoom Meeting

### Battle for Jefferson

10:00 – May 2, 2026  
Pilgrimage Parade and Town Scrimmage  
Jefferson, Texas

## TRIVIAL PURSUIT OR – DID YOU KNOW THIS?

**Comment:** We all sit around from time to time and discuss events, people, and places related to the War of Northern Aggression. But check out how many of these you knew before today. I hope you enjoy this edition. The Editor.

*(Answers on Page 9)*

1. What was the caliber of the bayonet-equipped Enfield rifle musket, usually listed simply as “rifle”?
2. Thirteen-inch seacoast mortars could send a 220-pound bomb 4,325 yards if elevated to what degree?
3. What blade did naval men use in hand-to-hand combat?



## BIRTHDAYS, ANNIVERSARIES & OTHER IMPORTANT DATES

- Mar 01 .....Erica Rae Dukes
- Mar 01 .....Ranee Marie Hamilton
- Mar 17 ..... Rodney Wayne Seiler
- Mar 24 ..... Roger Wade Dukes
- Mar 10 – Rodney & JoAnn Seiger
- March 4<sup>th</sup> – Flag Day for the confederate States of America.
- March 11<sup>th</sup> – Confederate States Constitution Day - 1861
- March 16<sup>th</sup> – This day in 1861 the Arizona Territory secedes from the union.



## BATTLES FOUGHT DURING THE MONTH OF MARCH



Battle of New Madrid and Island No. 10 - New Madrid and Island No. 10 Missouri

3 March to 8 April 1862 - Generals McCown and MacKall verses General John Pope. Casualties 4077 Confederate, 831 Union!

### Battle of Pea Ridge - Pea Ridge Arkansas

7-8 March 1862 - General Earl Van Dorn verses General Samuel R. Curtis. Casualties: 800 Confederate, 1384 Union!

### Battle of Brentonville - Brentonville North Carolina

19-21 March 1865 - General Joseph E. Johnston verses General William T. Sherman. Casualties: 2606 Confederate, 1646 Union!

### Battle of Kernstown - Kernstown Virginia

22-23 March 1862 - General Thomas J. "Stonewall" Jackson verses General Nathaniel P. Banks. Casualties: 700 Confederate, 590 Union!

### Battle of fort Stedman - Fort Stedman Virginia

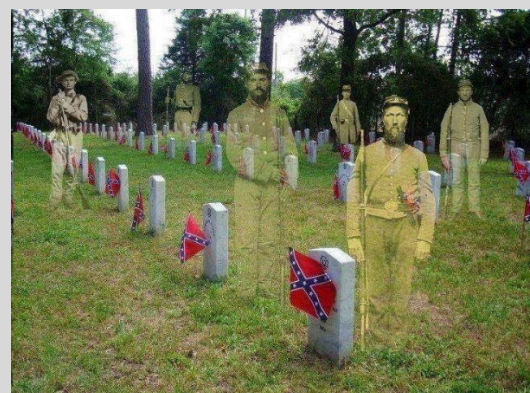
25 March 1865 - General John B. Gordon verses Generals Hartranft and Meade. Casualties: 4400 Confederate, 2080 Union!

### Battle of Dinwiddle Courthouse and White Oak Road - Dinwiddle Virginia

29-31 March 1865 - General Robert E. Lee verses General Ulysses S. Grant. Casualties: 2000 Confederate, 2198 Union!



## GUARDIAN PROGRAM



The Society of Confederate Descendants has its First members of our Confederate Guardian Program!

**President General Larry Joe Reynolds**

1<sup>st</sup> Lt. David Richard Reynolds

Pvt. Albert Gallaten Brown

Concord Cemetery, Omaha, TX

**Historian General William Thomas Wilcoxson**

Private William Miller

Private James Murphy

Greenwood Cemetery, Canon City, CO



**T. J. "STONEWALL" JACKSON  
GENERAL, CSA**

*(Continued from last month)*

Jackson rose to prominence and earned his most famous nickname at the First Battle of Bull Run (First Manassas) on July 21, 1861. As the Confederate lines began to crumble under heavy Union assault, Jackson's brigade provided crucial reinforcements on Henry House Hill, demonstrating the discipline he instilled in his men. Brig. Gen. Barnard Elliott Bee, Jr. exhorted his own troops to re-form by shouting, "There is Jackson standing like a stone wall. Let us determine to die here, and we will conquer. Rally behind the Virginians!" There is some controversy over Bee's statement and intent, which could not be clarified because he was killed almost immediately after speaking and none of his subordinate officers wrote reports of the battle. Major Burnett Rhett, chief of staff to General Joseph E. Johnston, claimed that Bee was angry at Jackson's failure to come immediately to the relief of Bee's and Bartow's brigades while they were under heavy pressure. Those who subscribe to this opinion believe that Bee's statement was meant to be pejorative: "Look at Jackson standing there like a stone wall!"<sup>[35]</sup> Regardless of the controversy and the delay in relieving Bee, Jackson's brigade, which

would thenceforth be known as the Stonewall Brigade, stopped the Union assault and suffered more casualties than any other Southern brigade that day; Jackson has since then been generally known as Stonewall Jackson. During the battle, Jackson displayed a gesture common to him and held his left arm skyward with the palm facing forward – interpreted by his soldiers variously as an eccentricity or an entreaty to God for success in combat. His hand was struck by a bullet or a piece of shrapnel and he suffered a small loss of bone in his middle finger. He refused medical advice to have the finger amputated. After the battle, Jackson was promoted to major general (October 7, 1861) and given command of the Valley District, with headquarters in Winchester.

In the spring of 1862, Union Maj. Gen. George B. McClellan's Army of the Potomac approached Richmond from the southeast in the Peninsula Campaign. Maj. Gen. Irvin McDowell's large corps were poised to hit Richmond from the north, and Maj. Gen. Nathaniel P. Banks's army threatened the Shenandoah Valley. Jackson was ordered by Richmond to operate in the Valley to defeat Banks' threat and prevent McDowell's troops from reinforcing McClellan.

Jackson possessed the attributes to succeed against his poorly coordinated and sometimes timid opponents: a combination of great audacity, excellent knowledge and shrewd use of the terrain, and an uncommon ability to inspire his troops to great feats of marching and fighting.

The campaign started with a tactical defeat at Kernstown on March 23, 1862, when faulty intelligence led him to believe he was attacking a small detachment. But it became a strategic victory for the Confederacy, because his aggressiveness suggested that he possessed a much larger force, convincing President Abraham Lincoln to keep Banks' troops in the Valley and McDowell's 30,000-man corps near Fredericksburg, subtracting about 50,000 soldiers from McClellan's invasion force. As

it transpired, it was Jackson's only defeat in the Valley.

By adding Maj. Gen. Richard S. Ewell's large division and Maj. Gen. Edward "Allegheny" Johnson's small division, Jackson increased his army to 17,000 men. He was still significantly outnumbered, but attacked portions of his divided enemy individually at McDowell, defeating both Brig. Gens. Robert H. Milroy and Robert C. Schenck. He defeated Banks at Front Royal and Winchester, ejecting him from the Valley. Lincoln decided that the defeat of Jackson was an immediate priority (though Jackson's orders were solely to keep Union forces occupied away from Richmond). He ordered Irvin McDowell to send 20,000 men to Front Royal and Maj. Gen. John C. Frémont to move to Harrisonburg. If both forces could converge at Strasburg, Jackson's only escape route up the Valley would be cut.

After a series of maneuvers, Jackson defeated Frémont's command at Cross Keys and Brig. Gen. James Shields at Port Republic on June 8–9. Union forces were withdrawn from the Valley.

It was a classic military campaign of surprise and maneuver. Jackson pressed his army to travel 646 miles (1,040 km) in 48 days of marching and won five significant victories with a force of about 17,000 against a combined force of 60,000. Stonewall Jackson's reputation for moving his troops so rapidly earned them the oxymoronic nickname "foot cavalry". He became the most celebrated soldier in the Confederacy (until he was eventually eclipsed by Lee) and lifted the morale of the Southern public.

McClellan's Peninsula Campaign toward Richmond stalled at the Battle of Seven Pines on May 31 and June 1. After the Valley Campaign ended in mid-June, Jackson and his troops were called to join Robert E. Lee's Army of Northern Virginia in defense of the capital. By utilizing a railroad tunnel under the Blue Ridge Mountains and then transporting troops to Hanover County on the Virginia Central Railroad, Jackson and his forces made a surprise appearance in front of McClellan at

Mechanicsville. Reports had last placed Jackson's forces in the Shenandoah Valley; their presence near Richmond added greatly to the Union commander's overestimation of the strength and numbers of the forces before him. This proved a crucial factor in McClellan's decision to re-establish his base at a point many miles downstream from Richmond on the James River at Harrison's Landing, essentially a retreat that ended the Peninsula Campaign and prolonged the war almost three more years.

Jackson's troops served well under Lee in the series of battles known as the Seven Days Battles, but Jackson's own performance in those battles is generally considered to be poor. He arrived late at Mechanicsville and inexplicably ordered his men to bivouac for the night within clear earshot of the battle. He was late and disoriented at Gaines' Mill, and late again at Savage's Station. At White Oak Swamp he failed to employ fording places to cross White Oak Swamp Creek, attempting for hours to rebuild a bridge, which limited his involvement to an ineffectual artillery duel and a missed opportunity. At Malvern Hill Jackson participated in the futile, piecemeal frontal assaults against entrenched Union infantry and massed artillery, and suffered heavy casualties (but this was a problem for all of Lee's army in that ill-considered battle). The reasons for Jackson's sluggish and poorly coordinated actions during the Seven Days are disputed, although a severe lack of sleep after the grueling march and railroad trip from the Shenandoah Valley was probably a significant factor. Both Jackson and his troops were completely exhausted. An explanation for this and other lapses by Jackson was tersely offered by his colleague and brother-in-law General Daniel Harvey Hill: "Jackson's genius never shone when he was under the command of another."

The military reputations of Lee's corps commanders are often characterized as Stonewall Jackson representing the audacious, offensive component of Lee's army, whereas his counterpart, James Longstreet, more typically advocated and executed defensive strategies and tactics. Jackson has been described as the army's hammer, Longstreet its anvil.

In the Northern Virginia Campaign of August 1862 this stereotype did not hold true. Longstreet commanded the Right Wing (later to become known as the First Corps) and Jackson commanded the Left Wing. Jackson started the campaign under Lee's orders with a sweeping flanking maneuver that placed his corps into the rear of Union Maj. Gen. John Pope's Army of Virginia. At Manassas Junction, Jackson was able to capture all of the supplies of the Union Army depot. Then he had his troops destroy all of it, for it was the main depot for the Union Army. Jackson then retreated and then took up a defensive position and effectively invited Pope to assault him. On August 28–29, the start of the Second Battle of Bull Run (Second Manassas), Pope launched repeated assaults against Jackson as Longstreet and the remainder of the army marched north to reach the battlefield.

On August 30, Pope came to believe that Jackson was starting to retreat, and Longstreet took advantage of this by launching a massive assault on the Union army's left with over 25,000 men. Although the Union troops put up a furious defense, Pope's army was forced to retreat in a manner similar to the embarrassing Union defeat at First Bull Run, fought on roughly the same battleground.

*(Continued next month)*



## THE CONFEDERATE BATTLE FLAG



Do you know what our Confederate Battle Flag stands for? It can represent the Christian Faith. I found this a few weeks ago and thought I would share it. First picture in your mind or look at the Confederate Battle Flag.

The red field represents the blood of Christ. The white border represents the Protection of God. The blue "X" represents the Christian Cross of Saint Andrew, The first disciple of Jesus Christ and the patron Saint of Scotland.

Thus, the message in the Confederate Battle Flag is: "Through the Blood of Christ, With the Protection of God, We, the Thirteen States, are united in our Christian fight for liberty."

The one symbol of the Christian Faith is that of the Cross where Jesus died for our sins and was raised on the third day to a glorious resurrection. John 3:14b says so as the Son of man be lifted up, He will draw all men to Him, Jesus Christ. That glorious Cross which is the symbol that Jesus Christ died on is to be lifted up as who we are in Christ Jesus.

1st Corinthians 1: 18 says "For the preaching of the Cross is to them that perish, foolishness; but unto us which are saved, it is the power of God". These are the written words of the apostle

Paul, a Jewish Christian of the first century who quiet literally walked from one end of the Roman Empire centered on the Mediterranean Sea preaching the good news of the Gospel and establishing churches along the way. After the War of Northern Aggression, which I think is the more applicable name of this very tragic conflict, our Confederate ancestors continued to take that Cross that Jesus died on as the principle symbol of our Christian faith and have marched around the world with the message of the Cross.

The message of the Cross is the message of the Gospel of good news of Jesus Christ. John 3:16-17, "For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that who so ever believes in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life. For God

sent His Son into the world not to condemn the world but the world through Him might be saved". Hence, this is the central message of the Cross, of which our Confederate ancestors came back to their broken land and continued their Faith which was that of sending this message of the Cross around the world. The genuineness and integrity of the character of our ancestors even into this present time is being shown as they and we have risen from the ashes of defeat to create our legacies of Faith here and around the world. This is one way I view the Confederate Battle Flag, not of defeat, but as the Message of the Cross.



## UNIT SPOTLIGHT

### WHITFIELD'S LEGION

### 27<sup>TH</sup> TEXAS CAVALRY

Whitfield's Legion, also known as the First Texas Legion and as the Twenty-seventh Texas Cavalry, was one of the two legions that Texas provided to the Confederate States Army. The other was Waul's Legion. Though a legion was properly a regiment of mixed arms, generally composed of infantry, cavalry, and artillery battalions, Whitfield's regiment was composed of only Cavalry Companies.

Captain John Wilkins Whitfield recruited in Lavaca County in 1861, and his company was assigned to Brig. Gen. Benjamin McCulloch's Army of the West at Fort Smith, Arkansas. There it was combined with three other independent cavalry companies from Texas; Capt. E. R. Hawkins's from Hunt County, Company A; Captain James Murphy's Company from Arkansas, Company B; Capt. John H. Brooks's from Saint Augustine County, Company C; and Capt. B. H. Norsworth's from Jasper County, Company E; to form Whitfield's Battalion, sometimes called the Fourth Texas Cavalry Battalion. Whitfield's company became Company D, and Captain William Townsend replaced Whitfield.

John Whitfield was promoted to major and assigned as the battalion's commander. The unit fought in the Battle of Pea Ridge, also known as Elkhorn Tavern, Arkansas, on March 7-8, 1862, and had casualties and combat experience. The battalion was dismounted by order of General Van Dorn, and the horses sent back to Texas. Van Dorn's Army moved east of the Mississippi River with the intent of supporting General Price. They were delayed by high water and Shiloh was fought without them.

In May the battalion was augmented by eight new companies from Texas. General McCulloch had told Whitfield that if he recruited eight Texas Companies he could command a legion. The Arkansas company was transferred to Ras Stirman's Arkansas battalion, and Whitfield's battalion was re-designated as Whitfield's Legion. Someone at the Confederate Department of the Army designated the Legion as the Twenty-seventh Texas Cavalry Regiment.

Its field-grade officers were John Whitfield as Colonel, Edwin Hawkins as Lieutenant Colonel, and John Broocks, Cyrus K. Holman, and John T. Whitfield as majors. Assigned to the Army of West Tennessee it fought as infantry in Little's Division at the Battle of Iuka, MS (September 19, 1862), and lost 19 killed, and 53 prisoners of war many of who were left wounded. Those who were able to march or ride a wagon wounded did so. Col Whitfield was carried away in an ambulance. The battle was very fierce and the Texas units fought well. At Hatchie (Davis) Bridge, TN (October 5, 1862), the regiment lost 80 more as wounded and prisoners and three more killed. Thus in the span of two weeks, it lost one quarter of a company KIA and another company and one half wounded and on parole.

The regiment was then remounted and assigned to a brigade consisting of the 3rd, 6th, 9th and 27th Texas Cavalry Regiments. Its commander was to be Whitfield, who he was still wounded and in the hospital. The Brigades first engagement in this new configuration was a raid on the Union Depot at Holly Springs, MS on 19 December 1862. The raid was successful and destroyed the depot and much of the

railroad track and rolling equipment. The raid coupled with a raid by General Forrest in Northwest Tennessee caused General Grant to end his overland march and move back his time table to take Vicksburg for almost a year. The Brigade was commanded by John Summerfield Griffith who initiated and planned the raid.

Colonel Whitfield was to be promoted to brigadier general in May 1863. He was at the Battle of Thompson's Station in Van Dorn's Cavalry Corps but was not ready to command. For several months until his health failed Whitfield commanded what would become one of the western theater's most famous units. In December 1863 it became Brig. Gen. Lawrence Sullivan Ross's Brigade, the famed Ross's Texas Cavalry Brigade (see ROSS'S BRIGADE, C.S.A. in the Handbook of Texas Online) of the Army of Tennessee. There it fought in all of the principal battles in Alabama, Georgia, Mississippi and Tennessee during 1863 and 1864.

Hawkins was promoted to colonel to command of the regiment. In April 1863 the regiment suffered its biggest embarrassment With Lt Col Broocks in temporary command, 127 men were captured in a surprise early morning wake up by a Union brigade. Many escaped, and a few were wounded and left behind. These 127 were carried all the way to Ft McHenry, Maryland to be exchanged. A couple died in route, some escaped and some quit, joining the Union Army.

After the corps was disbanded in Tennessee because of Van Dorn's assassination, the Brigade returned to Mississippi. The regiment was to be assigned to screen the Big Black River and to gather intelligence on Union action at Vicksburg. Though it helped the Southern cause, it was not enough in itself to relieve the city. After the siege of Vicksburg, it was assigned to harass General Sherman's Cavalry and attempt to keep his Army from coming to Meridan. This continued through the summer and fall of 1863 as unit morale went down because of the lack of rations and material and the lack of good missions. Some of the problem was brought about by General Stephen

Lee messing with the unit's organization. Finally, in September Col Mabry was in command of the brigade and things began to change. In December Col Ross took over and Col Mabry went to a brigade in General Forrest command. From this point on the brigade began to reenter the war.

In May the brigade joined General Johnston's Army and began a continuous combat with Union elements of Sherman's Army for over 110 days. They fought as Infantry, did Cavalry charges, acted as skirmishers and as pickets. In August the regiment was worn down and on picket at a river crossing. They were to be at the point of Union General Kilpatrick's Raid to capture Andersonville Prison and disrupt communications. The 27th was unable to stop a Division size force, but it and the brigade did slow them down, until General Jackson and his Division got into the battle. Soon they had Kilpatrick on the run, even though he had a larger force and superior weapons. He did escape and the regiment did lose troops, but the Union did not capture Andersonville or greatly disrupt the railroads.

After the fall of Atlanta, the brigade became part of General Hood's Army of Tennessee and continued on till the failures at Franklin and Nashville, Tennessee. During these battles the unit was used to screen, provide diversionary activities and generally stay out of the main battle. The regiment was part of the rear guard and allowed Hood to escape back to Mississippi and the end of the war. When the regiment surrendered only about 210 men were left. Many had been given leave and were paroled in Texas. Others had just give up and gone home.

They were surrendered by Lieutenant General Richard Taylor, commanding the Department of Alabama, Mississippi, and East Louisiana, at Citronelle, Alabama between May 4-15, 1865. The regiment was located at Jackson, Mississippi at the time of the parole.

Organized by the increase of the five companies of the 4th Cavalry Battalion to a regiment of 12 companies in May 1862 recruiting men from Clarksville, Red River County, Daingerfield, Titus

County, and Paris, Lamar County, Texas and Polk County Arkansas. Company B, an Arkansas company was transferred to Ras Stirman's Arkansas Battalion as Company H. Its letter was not replaced in the regiment, thus requiring Company N.

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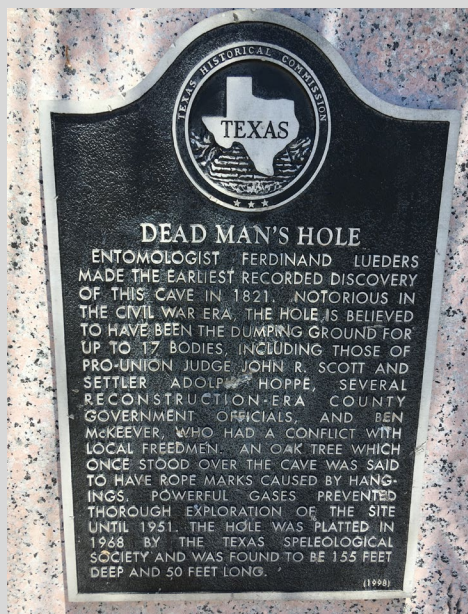
## MY FAVORITE QUOTE OF ALL TIME.....!!!!

Abraham Lincoln once asked General (Winfield) Scott this question: "Why is it that you were once able to take Mexico City in three months with five thousand men, and we have been unable to take Richmond with one hundred thousand men?"

"I will tell you," Said General Scott. "The men who took us into Mexico City are the same men who are keeping us out of Richmond."

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## EXPLORING DEAD MAN'S HOLE: A HISTORICAL SINKHOLE IN BURNET COUNTY, TEXAS



Dead Man's Hole, located south of Marble Falls in southern Burnet County, is a sink hole or cave developed in the Honeycut Formation of the Ellenburger Group. The cave was developed by the dissolution of limestone, not gas pressure as reported in some references. There is no reliable information on the initial discovery of the feature, and it was originally known as Burnam's hole until after the Civil War. The cave achieved notoriety during the Civil War as a dumping place for the bodies of Union sympathizers. The remains of several bodies were recovered from the cave in the late 1860s. In the 1950s and 1960s spelunkers from the University of Texas descended into the hole and reported "bad air" in the lower section of the cave. They described Dead Man's Hole as having a 5-foot by 6-foot wide entrance pit, then a 29-foot vertical drop to a sloping ledge, before dropping another 103 feet to a 50-foot long sloping fissure, and then into a 15-foot pit. The total vertical depth is 155 feet, and the total length is approximately 200-feet.

A Texas Historical Marker was erected for the landmark in 1998. The landowner, Ona Lou Roper, deeded Dead Man's Hole and its surrounding 6.5 acres as a park to Burnet County in 1999.

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## CHAPTER MINUTES 02-09-2025

The meeting was called to order by President General Joe Reynolds at 7:07 pm.

Invocation was given by Chaplain General Eve Holder.

Pledges to the United States, Headquarters Chapter and Confederate Flag were led by President General Joe Reynolds.

President General Joe Reynolds presented the SCD's Mission and Vision Statement.

Present for the meeting were:

### Members

Joe Reynolds, President General ----- Pittsburg, TX  
Bill Wilcoxson, Historian General ----- Pueblo, CO  
Eve Holder, Chaplain General ----- Gallatin, TN

Dave Adcox-----Morton, MS  
 Sam Bennett-----Bastrop, TX  
 Hal Cardwell-----Glendora, CA  
 Glenn Carroll-----Fort Worth, TX  
 Rene Hamilton-----Knoxville, TN  
 Darlene Sams-----Columbia, SC  
 Jola West-----Dumfries, VA

### Guests

Randy Coward  
 Pete Craig  
 Michael Birrenbach-Lytle

The minutes of the December meeting were emailed to all members prior to the meeting. There being no corrections or additions made by any member; therefore, the minutes were approved as received,

The Treasurer Report was not available for the meeting and will be mailed to all members on February 10, 2026.

The only Old Business was the status of our pins that we ordered, they have all arrived, however I am not satisfied with the quality and am looking. I am searching for alternative solution.

Under New Business we discussed the following:

- Obligation given to New Member Jola West.
- We discussed the formation of a new organization – Society of Union Descendants. Talked about supporting it or combining the two into one – Order of Civil War Descendants.

For the Program, a short video called “Texans at the Battle of Chickamauga.” was shown.

The Benediction was given by Chaplain General Eve Holder.

The Meeting was adjourned at 8:15.

## TRIVIAL PURSUIT ANSWERS!

1. .557 caliber, for use with smooth-sided Minnie balls.
2. 45 degrees
3. The cutlass.

## THE GRANTS AND LEE

General U.S. Grant and General Robert E. Lee are often viewed as the great opponents or rivalries in American military history. It is without question that they are among the great military minds of this nation. Both were graduates of West Point: Lee in 1829 and Grant in 1843.

As destiny would have it, Lee became the leader of the Confederate Army of North Virginia and Grant led the Union forces. They faced each other in a series of battles; Wilderness, Spotsylvania, and Cold Harbor. One would think that they'd be bitter enemies given that they were wartime opponents. This is further from the truth.

General Grant respected General Lee. During the surrender at Appomattox, Grant is noted for treating Lee and his men with dignity and generosity. He did not punish the Confederate soldiers and allowed them to return home with their horses. While they were opponents in war, many viewed them as viewing one another with mutual honor and respect.

“I felt like anything rather than rejoicing at the downfall of a foe who had fought so long and valiantly... Lee was a good man, a fair commander in the field. (1)” - *U.S. Grant*

Grant's son, General Fred Grant, would have this to say about Lee in 1906:

“He (Lee) was a soldier of the first order, and on many fields of battle handled his troops with such a skill as to elicit the commendations of military students and the admiration of his enemies. (2)”

The words of the two Generals, Grant, speak to the personality, skills, and stature of Robert E. Lee. He was viewed as one who loved his state and state's rights above all else. While he may have dreaded war he felt it a solemn duty. Though he may not have wanted to lead, he stepped forward when all others would not.

“Duty, then, is the sublimest word in the English language. You should do your duty in all things. You can never do more. You should never wish to do less.(3)”- General Robert E. Lee

### References:

1. U.S. Grant Memoir, 1885
2. Celebration Dinner for Lee, Waldorf Astoria Hotel, 1906
3. Lee letter to son, 1852

**1<sup>st</sup> Lt. David Richard Reynolds  
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Opinions expressed by individual writers are their own and do not necessarily reflect official positions of the 1<sup>st</sup> Lt. David Richard Reynolds Headquarters Chapter #1. Letters and articles may be submitted to: [Joe.Reynolds@davidrreynolds.org](mailto:Joe.Reynolds@davidrreynolds.org) (Cutoff for articles is 20<sup>th</sup> of the month)

