



DCV TRAVELLER

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

www.DCVTX.org

Fall 2020

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE:



Steve Lucas

Ladies and Gentlemen of the DCV,
I hope you all are well and that the dreaded Covid bug has stayed away from you and your loved ones. No news has gotten to me of any of our DCV members being afflicted and I pray that it stays that way. I, for one, am sick to death of wearing a mask and avoid it whenever possible but I have found it more tolerable if I fill it with M&Ms from time to time. It tends to remind me of a horse's feed bag but I can get over that.

Our DCV Executive Board was able to meet in person in August and we had great attendance. I'm proud of all who shunned the dreaded "bug" and did what was right for our beloved organization. We had a great meeting in Hillsboro, TX and the restaurant was very good to us...as usual.

In my last message I spoke of attacks on our shared heritage, and the wolf is certainly at the door here in Texas. A few days before the Executive Board meeting we learned that AGE of Central Texas, www.ageofcentraltx.org, the organization that currently occupies the site of the former Confederate Woman's Home in Austin had covered the Texas Historical Marker we sponsored and placed there along with the Children of The Confederacy in 2013.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE Cont.

They covered it with a black trash bag and placed information on the bag related to George Floyd, etc. The Board determined that we should look into the matter and we have done so by contacting AGE as well as the Texas Historical Commission, the Travis County Historical Commission, the City of Austin Historical Commission and many others. We have found that AGE has petitioned the Texas Historical Commission to remove the marker completely from the property and to remove the Texas Antiquities Landmark designation completely from the building/site. That would allow them to do pretty much anything they want to with the building, including demolish it. We have offered AGE alternative solutions to this "plan." We heard from the AGE Executive Director on September 21, 2020, that the Executive Committee of the AGE Board of Directors discussed our proposal and decided to pass the proposal along for discussion/decision by their full Board at their next meeting, scheduled for September 30, 2020. As we await that decision we remain active and are committed to doing everything in our power to save both the Historical Marker and the building/site itself. Should AGE turn down our generous overtures the decisions will fall to the Commissioners of the Texas Historical Commission, who will hear testimony on the matter at their October quarterly meeting.

PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE Cont.

Stay alert for more on what you can do to save the marker and the Home if it comes to that. Your Executive Board members have been working almost non-stop on this since we learned of it and we are determined to leave no stone unturned. Our duty in this is clear, and we all know what General Lee said about duty. If you do not...shame on you – look it up. Our Southland needs all her sons and daughters as there appears to be no lull in the battle. There is something that everyone can do. All you have to do is to want to. You can type some e-mails, do some research, make a phone call, etc. Remember, you are defending your own family’s good name. If the time comes where we have to muster the troops to try and save the Historical Marker and the Woman’s Home, please be ready. We will let you know what you can do. And time will not be our friend. The Historical Commission is tentatively scheduled to meet on October 27-28 and right now we won’t be able to meet with them in person; it will be a Zoom meeting. But there will be opportunities to do things to help prior to that date that will very important. We will let you know if we need to fire those muskets. Please keep your powder dry. My thanks to each of you for all you do every day. Every one of you is important and you are the very heartbeat of the organization. May the good Lord continue to bless each of you.

Steve Lucas
DCV Board President

Mid-Year Board of Directors Meeting

In accordance with the DCV Constitution the Board of Directors met on August 22nd. Board members in attendance were President Steve Lucas, vice President J.D. Boydston, Kay Hilburn, Dr. Samuel Bennett, and J.D. Denton. Also in attendance was Terry Ayers, Amy Hilburn, and Rosanna Denton. East Texas Chapter members J.D. Boydston and J.D. Denton have actively worked to protect Confederate related school names in Tyler, Texas and in several counties the War Memorials to the men of the Confederacy. Their efforts have been mostly successful with the school renaming being the one exception.

Mid-Year Board of Directors Meeting Cont.

John Tyler High School, named for the 10th President of the United States who sided with the Confederacy and elected to the Confederate House of Representatives shortly before his death in 1862 was changed to Tyler High School, dropping the name “John”. Robert E. Lee High School, better known as “Tyler Lee” was also being considered for a name change. It was changed to Tyler Legacy. Changing the name to Tyler Legacy enabled the school to continue using uniforms with “TL” lettering.



Gregg County Confederate War Memorial
The Confederate War Memorial in Longview, TX, the county seat of Gregg County will remain on the lawn of the county courthouse. A motion to remove it failed to receive a second and the motion died.



Harrison Confederate War Memorial

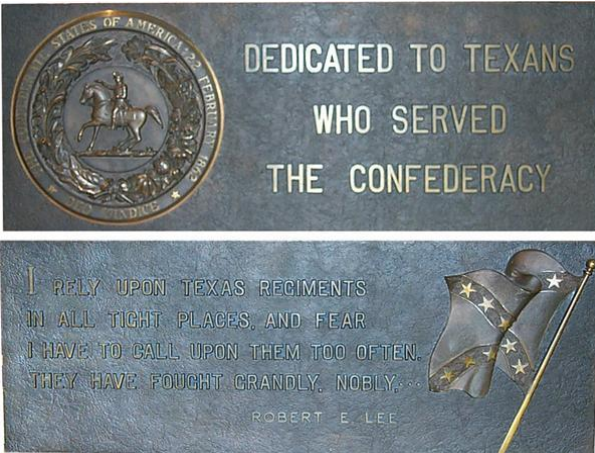
Mid-Year Board of Directors Meeting Cont.

The Confederate War Memorial in Marshall, TX, the county seat of Harrison County will remain on the lawn of the county courthouse.



Marion County Confederate War Memorial

The Confederate War Memorial in Jefferson, TX, the county seat of Marion County will remain on the lawn of the county courthouse. Pictured L-R: DCV members Terry Ayers and Barney Hilburn. The picture was taken October 28, 2005 following a quarterly meeting of the Texas Historical Commission. Barney and Terry were there to speak about the removal of the two dedicatory plaques that were removed from the walls of the Texas Supreme Court Building in Austin.



The fight lasted for over 10 years. Multiple court battles ended in the plaques not being returned to the walls of the Texas Supreme Court Building.

Mid-Year Board of Directors Meeting Cont.

DCV Board member and treasurer Dr. Samuel Bennett gave a report on the financial status of the DCV. The DCV bank account is with Edward Jones. It is a money market fund that earns interest. The amount of funds in the treasury is available to members upon request. Following his report Dr. Bennett shared with those in attendance some recently acquired copies of vintage posters that came from the Texas State Land Office. The great guy that he is made them available free of charge to those desiring to have them.



Sam Bennett Amy Hilburn Kay Hilburn



Steve Lucas J.D. Boydstun



J.D. Denton Amy Hilburn Kay Hilburn
J.D. Boydstun Sam Bennett Steve Lucas

Mid-Year Board of Directors Meeting



It's not an official meeting until we eat!

Steve Lucas Amy Hilburn Kay Hilburn J.D. Boydston
 J.D. Denton Rosanna Denton Sam Bennett



President Steve Lucas presents a Certificate of Appreciation to the Manager of El Conquistador Restaurant in Hillsboro for allowing the DCV to hold the mid-year Board of Directors meeting in their private room. 2020 was the 6th consecutive year. If you're passing through Hillsboro and hungry for some excellent TexMex please stop in.

In his message to the members, DCV President Steve Lucas focused primarily on the heritage issue that surfaced recently with the former Texas Confederate Woman's Home in Austin. What is being requested by the owner of the building and property will have dire consequences is approved. Because of the importance of this critical issue the remainder of this issue is dedicated to the Confederate Woman's Home and the effort to protect and preserve the historic site.

Confederate Woman's Home in Austin, Texas



Courtesy of Austinpostcard.com

The post card is dated March 20, 1909. The Confederate Woman's Home was built to care for widows and wives of honorably discharged Confederate soldiers and other women who aided the Confederacy. The home was initially acquired and operated by the United Daughters of the Confederacy. Residents were required to be at least sixty years of age and without means of financial support. The two-story facility had fifteen bedrooms. The home opened on June 3, 1908 with three women being admitted. By 1909 it housed an additional thirteen women. In 1911 a constitutional amendment was approved by a wide margin of Texas voters providing for state ownership of the home. The property was deeded to the state. At the time of the transfer, the institution had eighteen residents. In 1913 the state constructed a large two-story brick addition which included twenty-four new bedrooms. A brick hospital building was built in 1916, with a hospital annex added in 1924. In 1963 the last three residents of the home, Mrs. Elizabeth Kyle, a Mrs. Holcomb, and Mrs. Mattie Smith, the longest living resident of the home were moved to a private nursing home. The Confederate Woman's Home was closed in 1964.



1926 photo of resident of the Confederate Woman's Home

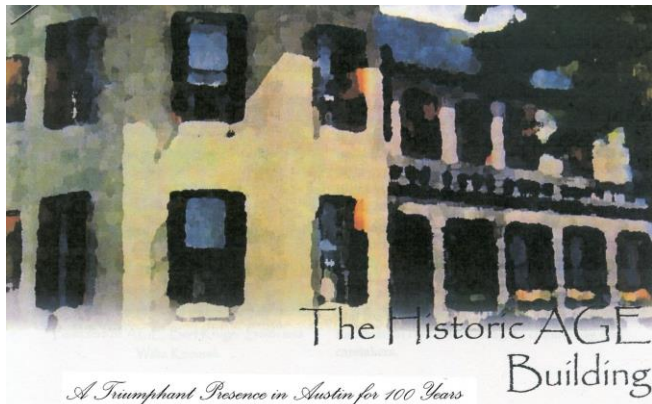
Confederate Woman's Home cont.

The State of Texas retained ownership of the property and building until 1986. In 1986 it was purchased by a newly founded non-profit, Austin Groups for the Elderly (AGE). AGE was founded by two leading citizens of Austin, Bert Kruger Smith and Willie Kocurek to provide one stop services for the aging community.

In promotional publications AGE made it absolutely clear their proudest accomplishment was acquiring the historic building to continue providing care for those the most in need.



Founders of AGE, Bert Kruger Smith and Willie Kocurek



The Birth of AGE



A hard-working volunteer touches up the AGE sign

Eva Church, Director of the Caregivers Resource Center, was here at AGE's inception in 1985. She remembers the early days like this: "The building had been empty for several years, so repairs were needed, but everyone chipped in. Tenants painted their own offices and brought in furniture to share. Everyone contributed. There was an air of excitement. Everyone felt they were a part of history." She also fondly remembers that when the AGE Building was paid off, everyone gathered for a "mortgage burning party" in back of the building.

Confederate Woman's Home cont.

The screenshot shows the website for Austin Groups for the Elderly. At the top is the logo with a tree and the text 'Austin Groups for the Elderly'. To the right are three small photos of people. Below the logo is a navigation menu: Home, About Us, Services, Support Us, Sponsors, News & Events, Contact. The main content area has two columns. The left column is titled 'Our Mission' and describes the organization's goals. The right column is titled 'The Historic AGE Building' and describes the building's history and current use as a collaborative community of non-profit organizations.

In the State of Texas subject matter historical markers can be placed either on public or private property with the consent of the owners. Where it is not feasible to place the marker on private property often they are placed in the public right-of-way contiguous to the historic site.

In 2009 when the DCV sponsored the historical marker for the site of the Confederate Men's Home it was placed in the public right-of-way. The land use had long since changed and in 1970 the building was razed. The DCV determined the best option even though it was more involved and more expensive was to place it in the public right-of-way. That way the DCV was able to place the marker in the most visible location for public view.

The DCV was aware of the pride AGE had promoted for over 25 years that they occupied the original Confederate Woman's Home providing like services to those most in need.

Working through the Travis County Historical Commission permission was sought by the DCV to place the marker on the property at a location that would be easily visible to the public without having to be on AGE's property.

The Executive Director of AGE took the proposal to the Board of Directors of AGE. It was approved and the required document granting permission was signed and submitted with the application to the Texas Historical Commission.

To ensure there was no misunderstanding regarding the marker, a to-scale cardboard mock-up was made and taken to AGE and placed at the proposed location for their approval. AGE was also provided a draft of the proposed inscription for their approval. Size, location, and inscription were all approved by AGE.

Confederate Woman's Home cont.



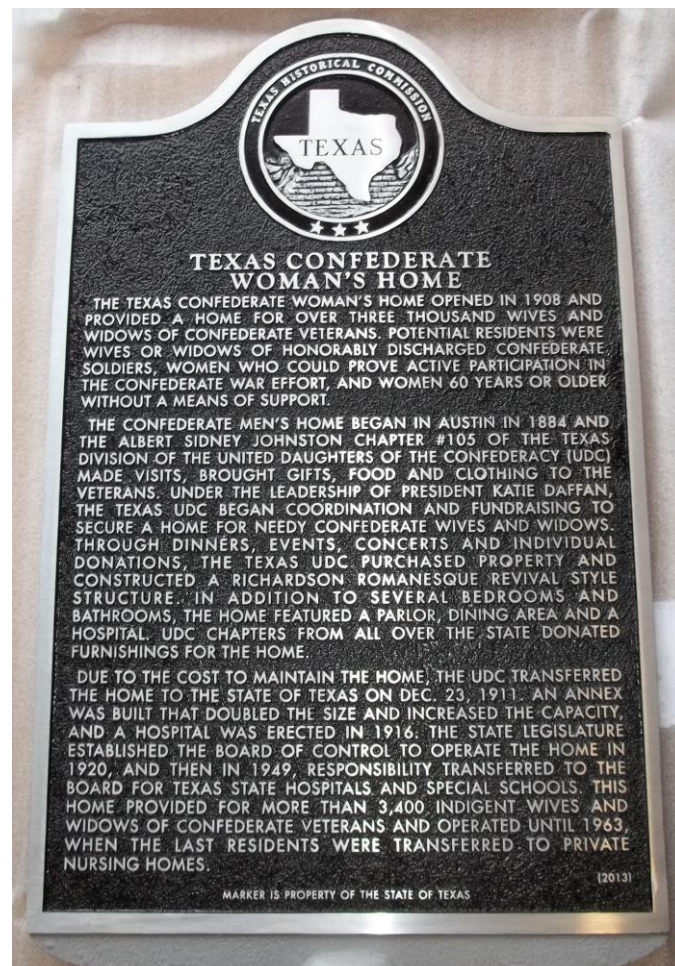
Capitol Chapter member Lyn von Roeder, Travis County Historical Commissioner Mae Schmidt, and Capitol Chapter President Steve von Roeder with the cardboard/pvc mock-up of the proposed marker.

Confederate Woman's Home cont.



The Confederate Woman's Home in 2012 during the yearlong marker approval process.

AT LAST THE TEXAS CONFEDERATE WOMAN'S HOME MARKER ARRIVED



The next step is installing the marker and plan the dedication ceremony

ATTACHMENT A

TEXAS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

SUBJECT MARKERS:

PERMISSION OF PROPERTY OWNER FOR MARKER PLACEMENT

Please fill out the form, print and sign. Proof of current property ownership is also required and may be found at the county appraisal or tax office. Return to our offices via email, fax or mail.

Will the marker be placed on right-of-way maintained by the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT)?

Yes No

If the answer is yes, the THC will secure the necessary permission from TxDOT, and no other information is required. If the answer is no, please provide the following information for the person or group who owns the property.

Property owner: Austin Groups for the Elderly, dba AGE of Central Texas

Address: 3710 Cedar Street City, State, Zip: Austin, TX 78705

Phone: 512-451-4611 Email address: jalauck@ageofcentraltx.org

I, Joyce Lauck, certify that I am the legal owner or authorized representative of the property owner noted herein, and further certify that I have read the information regarding Official Texas Historical Markers and that I voluntarily seek the marker for the property described herein, and proof of ownership is attached to this form. I further certify that I will comply with the policies and procedures of the Official Texas Historical Marker Program.

Signature: *Joyce Lauck 11/14/2012*

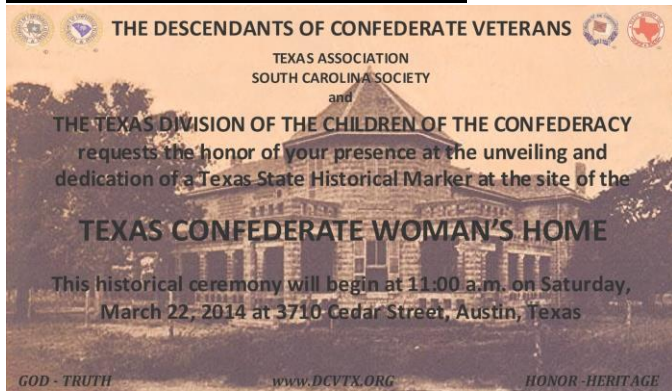
NOTE: The property owner will not receive copies of correspondence from the THC. All procedural correspondence (notice of receipt, requests for additional information, inscription, shipping notice, etc.) will be sent by email to the THC representative, who is encouraged to share the information with all interested parties as necessary.

Texas Historical Commission
P.O. Box 12276
Austin, TX 78711-2276
512.463.6100
fax 512.475.4872
thc@thc.state.tx.us



Permission of property owner Austin Group for the Elderly for placement of proposed State of Texas Historical Marker

Confederate Woman's Home cont.



With full support of Austin Group for the Elderly the dedication ceremony and unveiling of the Texas Confederate Woman's Home Marker was set.

Confederate Woman's Home cont.



UDC Officer Anna Sheppard and grandmother of CofC President Taylor Sheppard authored the narrative that provided the framework for the marker inscription.



DCV President J.D. Boydston, Children of the Confederacy President Taylor Sheppard



Excellent turnout for the dedication ceremony



Capitol Chapter member Todd Smith who's Great Grandmother was the last Superintendent of the Woman's home reads a tribute to the Women of the Confederacy by John H. Reagan, Confederate States Postmaster General.



Capitol Chapter member Lyn von Roeder (L) celebrating the dedication of the Texas Confederate Woman's Home Marker with members of the United Daughters of the Confederacy.

Confederate Woman's Home cont.



Members of the DCV celebrating the dedication of the Texas Confederate Woman's Home Marker



Children of the Confederacy President Taylor Sheppard presents Austin Group for the Elderly representative with a framed photo of the 1906 Texas Confederate Woman's Home as gift of appreciation for supporting the placement of the historical marker.

*****AND IN RETURN TODAY*****



Confederate Woman's Home cont.

Editor's Note: Repeating the words of DCV President Steve Lucas,

"Our Southland needs all her sons and daughters as there appears to be no lull in the battle. There is something that everyone can do. All you have to do is to want to. You can type some e-mails, do some research, make a phone call, etc. Remember, you are defending your own family's good name. If the time comes where we have to muster the troops to try and save the Historical Marker and the Woman's Home, please be ready."

If it becomes necessary to rally to the cause of saving the marker, saving the home, defending our history, and preserving our precious heritage the DCV Board of Directors will provide contact information to the membership.

Terry Ayers
Editor
DCV TRAVELLER

Partial memorial address relating to the Confederate Woman's Home in Austin, Texas by J.O. Bradfield, Company E, 1st Texas Regiment, Hoods Texas Brigade.

Delivered at Alto, Texas June 28, 1917

I am no speaker and shall make no attempt at oratory. On this occasion we are met to pay the last tribute of love to our comrades gone before.

The tribute to our own dead, the Hoods Texas Brigade men, has already been worthy said. My task is to call to mind those who have gone on from our two homes in Austin. The Confederate Woman's Home and the Texas Confederate Home.; and I wish all the people of Texas might realize how much they are doing for us there. The Woman's Home as you know is presided over by Miss Kate Daffin, who has proven herself capable in every way of its management. How faithful she had been the records will tell.

During the tenure years of its existence, there have been about fourteen deaths; which is a remarkable showing, when we consider the ages and feeble condition of its 80 inmates. The women of the old South gathered there, are worthy of all that can be said of them. You know their record, but is there a man- will there ever be a man – tell tales as it should be told.

Ah! Daughters of the South, you should be proud of your mothers, for their like shall never be seen again, for conditions again be such as to develop and mature characters like the women of the Old South. They were the inspiration that held us to what we were and held us to duty ever until death.

Those gentle refined women, who had never felt a want nor a care, freely assured the mighty burdens of a warring nations sustenance, the men at the front, and none to help save her younger children.

From the parlor to the plow-handles, from piano to the loom, from silks to satins to the homespun dress, spun, woven and fashioned by her own fair hands. Yet so proud and as lovely in her simple peasant garb as any queen that ever graced a throne.

And when at last decimated by starvation and slaughter, and overwhelmed by unbelievable odds, our little band gave up the struggle, when the sword of Lee was forever sheathed and the sun of Appomattox had gone down beneath the horizon of a starless night; when all was done that men could do and the last hope was gone, those grown women went back with us to our desolated homes, accepted the changed conditions and with the aptitude and resourcefulness never equaled, from want and desolation, wroth brightness and beauty; and from the smoldering embers of a war wrecked land, by her help was raised the brightest star that glitters today in the diadem of nations, the risen...Redeemed...Glorified New South.

That is what the women did. But oh the agony of it all. At home alone, watching working, praying, every home a hell of agony and

suspense. For every ball that struck a gray uniform crushed a Southern woman's heart.

You, comrades, have seen, as I saw the whole South laid desolate and the cerements of death draped athwart the door lintels of almost every household. While from within those sacred portals was heard the bitter of agony go up to God from the crushed and bleeding hearts of those widowed mothers, who like Rachael of old "Mourned for her first born because he was not".

But now, thank God, in their old age and decrepitude, they are being cared for by the whole people of Texas; and as they pass away their remains are laid to rest in the State Cemetery near the men who stood by them through life.



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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mototerry@sbcglobal.net

End