



DCV TRAVELLER

DESCENDANTS OF CONFEDERATE VETERANS
A TEXAS BASED ASSOCIATION WITH CHAPTERS IN TEXAS AND SOUTH CAROLINA
www.DCVTX.org

Spring 2019

2019 14th Annual DCV Reunion

The 2019 annual membership Reunion/Board of Directors meeting was held in Comanche, Texas at the Comanche Housing Authority Judge Newton R. Lindsey Building.



Excellent meeting facility
DCV President J.D. Boydston opens the
14th annual reunion/meeting.



The marker honors T.O. Moore's legacy in Comanche from his service in the Confederate Army, to his appointment by President Grant as the postmaster of Mooresville (now Proctor), to his service to Comanche as School Trustee and City Secretary. He is honored for promoting Comanche and taking extraordinary steps as the leader of the Comanche County Confederate Veterans to begin healing and restoration after the War. T.O. Moore served in the 7th Texas Volunteer Infantry Regiment, Company F. In his autobiography he wrote he and others were furloughed and they walked from Jackson, Mississippi to Tyler, Texas. "No men suffered as we did from hunger, cold, and sore feet on that trip.... I don't now see how we lived."

The city of Comanche is rich in Confederate history. Just three weeks prior to the DCV Reunion the Comanche County Historical Museum dedicated a new Texas State Historical Marker for Comanche Civic Leader and former Confederate T.O. Moore. The marker has been placed in front of the T.O. Moore Log Cabin on the grounds at the Comanche County Historical Museum.

2019 14th Annual DCV Reunion cont.

Every meeting of the DCV begins with an invocation. DCV Chaplain Steve von Roeder gave the invocation followed by President Boydston leading the members in the pledge to the American Flag and the Texas Flag. The pledges were followed with the DCV salute to the 1st National Flag of the Confederacy.



"I salute the Confederate Flag, with affection, reverence, and undying remembrance."

Comanche County Judge John Weaver gracefully accepted an invitation to speak at the meeting by his good friend and DCV founding member Dr. Gary M. Loudermilk. Judge Weaver offered the group a warm welcome to Comanche and shared with them much of the rich Confederate history within the city of Comanche and Comanche county as a whole. Judge Weaver's excellent talk was well received and very much appreciated.



DCV President Boydston Speaker Judge John Weaver

Reports

DCV Treasurer Dr. Samuel Bennett provided the members with the Treasurer's report.

Dr. Bennett reported all annual prerequisite paperwork relevant to the DCV's 501(c)(3) status is in order and has been filed with the IRS. The current balance of the treasury was given, noting dues were still being received with some not yet recorded. All financial data is available to any member upon request.



DCV Treasurer Dr. Samuel Bennett

DCV Capitol Chapter

Chapter President Steve von Roeder reported on the recent activities of the Capitol Chapter including the Veterans Day Parade in Fredericksburg, Texas and annual Robert E. Lee birthday commemoration ceremony at the Texas State Capitol in Austin. Mention was made of the upcoming annual presentation of the DCV Capitol Chapter's Robert E. Lee Leadership award that will take place as the Spring semester at the five participating high schools nears its end. Details of that program will be included in the Summer edition of the *DCV TRAVELLER*.



Capitol Chapter President Steve von Roeder giving the chapter report.

East Texas Chapter

President Terry Hedrick was unable to attend the meeting so member J.D. Boydston provided the members with the East Texas Chapter report.



J.D. Boydston gives the East Texas Chapter Report

In the East Texas Chapter report J.D. Boydston noted the highly successful marker dedication at the East Mountain Cemetery in north Longview last fall spurred the membership to take on an even more ambitious project, the Hallsville, Texas, City Cemetery.

That had been one of beloved member Barney Hilburn's goals for many years and Barney had done quite a bit of research on those Confederate veterans who are buried there. His research has been turned over to the Heritage Committee and a marker project honoring perhaps as many as 18 Confederate soldiers is well underway, hopefully to be completed later this year. Efforts are already underway by the chapter to raise the funds.

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



1st Lt. W. E. James Chapter President Bob Jones

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

Chapter President Bob Jones submitted the following written report read at the meeting by President Boydston:

"Since our report in August of 2018, the 1st Lt. W. E. James Chapter in Darlington, South Carolina, has continued to have quality monthly meetings and speakers. We also continue to have good attendance for our events. As we go into the new year our chapter is planning two memorial services. The chapter's annual memorial service will be for our namesake, W. E. James. The other service will be for two members of General Hampton's Iron Scouts, both buried in the same cemetery in Society Hill, South Carolina. Our chapter has purchased two engraved iron plaques indicating these two veterans were in the Iron Scouts. Both of these services will be advertised locally.

Hurricane Florence decided to visit this area in September. This slow moving storm stayed around for hours delivering much destruction and flooding. Because of this, the chapter's plans for field trips were put aside until a later date which will be discussed at a future meeting. We have two street festivals that we participate in during April. This summer we plan to have a booth at a Gun Show in Florence, South Carolina. Five members of the chapter are members of the Harlee Guard. They perform at funerals, weddings and memorial services throughout the year.

The Chapter picked up one new member in January with others showing interest. Our membership wishes only the best for everyone at this year's DCV Reunion. May we all remember those who came before us. "

President's Message

Following the Chapter reports President J.D. Boydston reflected on the successes and failures during the past year. Commenting on the continuing attacks across the nation on confederate heritage and the never ending misrepresentation of the true history of seemingly every aspect of the War Between the States he urged all members of the DCV to make a strong

effort to establish a good relationship with the press in spite of what may be perceived as a 'hostile editorial environment'. He also spoke of the need to draw a clear distinction between the DCV's non-racial philosophy of heritage and history as opposed to the violent and anti-American views of white supremacists, Nazi sympathizers, skinheads, etc., in the belief that a reasonable person can and will make a distinction between the two. Going forward we should not be afraid to 'make it personal'. Let others know we do not appreciate the disrespect and denigration many of the supposed 'do-gooders' afford our Confederate ancestors, asking, "What would you do if I did that to you"?

President's Award

It is the discretion of the DCV President to select a member or members to be recognized and receive the DCV's President's Award for Outstanding Achievement. Two members received the President's award at the 2019 Reunion



Dr. Gary M. Loudermilk
DCV founding member
Capitol Chapter



Arthur L. (Artie) Quick Jr.
1st Lt. W. E. James Chapter
Darlington, SC.

Dr. Loudermilk was influential in arraigning for the 2019 reunion to be in Comanche. His personal relationships with many of the local citizens, including County Judge John Weaver plus the fact his daughter, Capitol Chapter member Theresa Nabers is affiliated with the Comanche Housing Authority was able to make the Judge Newton R. Lindsey Building available for the meeting. Unfortunately due to recent health issues Dr. Loudermilk was unable to attend. Accepting and sharing in the award on his behalf was his daughter Theresa Nabers.

President's Award cont.



Capitol Chapter member Theresa Nabers
President J.D. Boydston



Framed photograph of the contemporary Gettysburg Battlefield which depicted cannon from Jubal Early's Artillery (Richard Ewell's Division) at the silent ready, highlighting Little Round Top, Big Round Top, Cemetery Ridge and the famous 'copse of trees', focal point of Pickett's Charge.

Congratulations Dr. Gary M. Loudermilk

It is totally understandable Artie did not make the 1200 mile journey from Darlington, South Carolina to Comanche, Texas. In his absence President Boydston said the following about Artie's achievements.

"Artie is an authority on WBTS artifacts, plus he is an outstanding speaker on all things Confederate. He is a very valuable charter member of the James chapter and also a charter member of the Harllee Guard."

Congratulations Artie Quick Jr.

President's Award cont.



DCV President J. D. Boydston with the assist of Sam Bennett displays Artie Quick's award with the South Carolina State Flag as a backdrop.

**Next stop for the plaque March 18
1st Lt. W. E. James Chapter, SC. monthly meeting**



Artie Quick shown receiving the DCV President's Award, from Chapter President Bob Jones, at the March 18th meeting of the 1st LT W.E. James, Chapter in Darlington, SC.

Artie was caught completely off guard with this presentation that was so much deserved. Compatriot Quick works to design and print the chapter's membership cards, membership certificates, event programs, much at his own expense. He has written the forwards to three volumes of the *Suppliers to the Confederacy* series authored by Dave Burt in England.

President's Award cont.

The books are great reference material on supplies Britain sent to the Confederacy. The books are all available at major book outlets. If that is not enough Artie has a summer program for the chapter which deals with many of the artifacts from his huge collection. Artie is a History Teacher in Lake View, SC



Congratulations Artie Quick Jr.

2019 DCV Board of Directors Election

The last item of business for the 2019 DCV reunion was the election of two Board members to fill the expiring terms of J.D. Boydston and Terry Ayers

Kay Hilburn, East Texas Chapter member was elected to fill a vacancy. Kay is the first female to serve on the Board of Directors.

Steve Lucas, DCV Founding member and member of the Capitol Chapter, was elected to fill the remaining vacancy. Steve also serves full time as the DCV Parliamentarian, Special Officer



**Congratulations Kay and Steve
THANK YOU FOR SERVING**

2019 DCV Board of Directors

President Terry Hedrick
 Vice President Michael Dunagan
 Secretary/Treasurer Samuel Bennett
 Membership Chair/Registrar Carl Hedges, Jr.
 General Board Members Kay Hilburn
 Steve Lucas
 Steve von Roeder

Meeting adjourned and after a great lunch at Comanche’s Rockin' J's Restaurant & Tavern a few of us visited the County Courthouse to pay respect to the Confederate Veterans of Comanche County.

**Comanche County Courthouse
 Comanche, Texas**

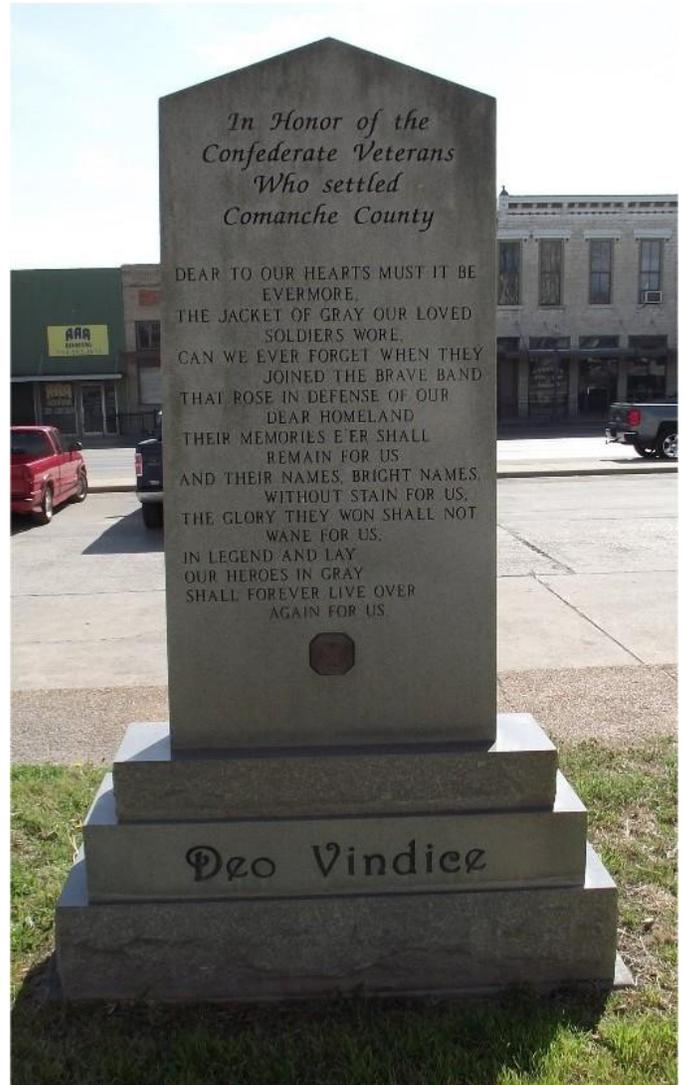


Terry Ayers J.D. Boydstun Steve von Roeder
 Beautiful monument on the courthouse lawn honoring Confederate Veterans who settled Comanche County



East Texas Chapter members Debbie and J.D. Boydstun

**Comanche County Courthouse
 Comanche, Texas**

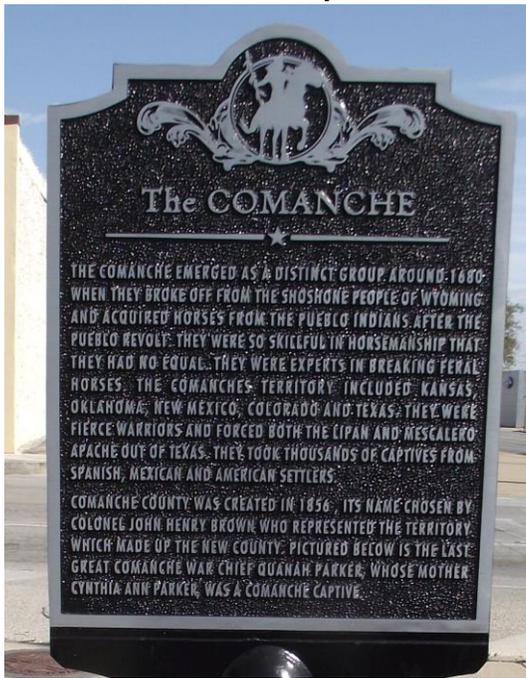


Back of the Confederate monument on the courthouse lawn



J.D. Boydstun “Comanche” Terry Ayers Steve von Roeder

Comanche County Courthouse



"In their own words" is recurring feature in the *DCV TRAVELLER*. It may be a single quote from a well-known military leader, government official, or the recollection of a low ranking soldier or sailor. In all cases the words are theirs.

In the last edition of the *DCV TRAVELLER* **"In their own words"** featured two letters written by Major John Samuel Shropshire to his wife Carrie at Christmas in 1861. Major Shropshire was serving in Mexico. Major Shropshire was killed by Union musket fire during the Battle of Glorietta in New Mexico. He had wife (Carrie) and a one year old son Charlie.



Major John Samuel Shropshire

This edition of the *DCV TRAVELLER* takes a closer look west of Texas during the early years of the war. Confederate victories beginning with the First Battle of Mesilla in July 1861 paved the way for a major Campaign in the west.

New Mexico Territory 1850-1861

The New Mexico Territory was organized as a U.S. territory in 1850. Proposals for a division of the territory and the organization of a separate "Territory of Arizona" were advanced as early as 1856. The first proposals for a separate Arizona Territory were not based on the east–west division but rather a north–south division.

In February 1858, the New Mexico territorial legislature adopted a resolution in favor of the creation of the Arizona Territory with a north–south border along the 109th meridian.

In April 1860, impatient for Congress to act, a convention of thirty-one delegates met in Tucson and adopted a constitution for a provisional territorial government of the area south of 34 degrees north. Due to the small number of inhabitants in the proposed territory, the U.S. Congress continued to refuse to recognize any proceedings from any of the conventions being held in the area.

On March 2, 1861, the U.S. government formally revoked a contract with the Butterfield Overland Stagecoach Line which was being used to support delivery of United States mail on the overland route through Mesilla, Tucson, and California. The loss of this key communications link with the rest of the United States angered settlers in the Arizona region, just as many states in the Deep South were seceding from the Union.



New Mexico Territory 1850-1861 cont.

In February 1861, Texans overwhelmingly voted to secede from the Union and joined the Confederacy. When a side had to be chosen in the New Mexico Territory much of the population sided with the Union. However, many in the southern portion of the territory carved out by the 1853 Gadsden Purchase willingly sided with the Confederacy. They complained the territorial government in Santa Fe was too far away to properly address their concerns. Those concerns were bolstered when regular troops had previously been withdrawn from the area.

Reflecting the Southern sentiment of the southern segment of the territory, a convention was held at Mesilla on March 16, 1861 that adopted an ordinance of secession, and called on the citizens of the western portion of the "join us in this movement".

First Battle of Mesilla

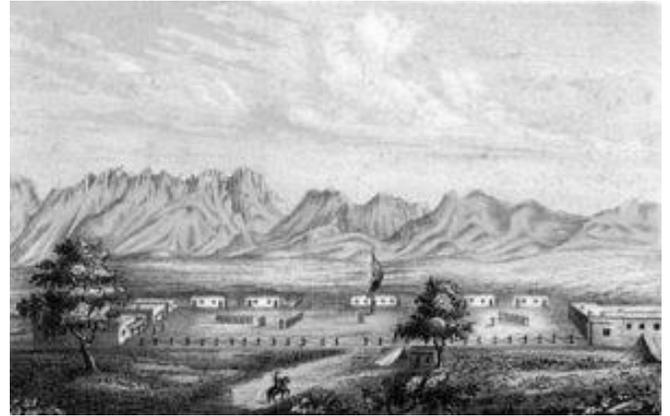
In July of 1861 the 2nd Texas Mounted Rifles under Lieutenant Colonel John R. Baylor was sent to occupy the series of forts along the western Texas frontier, as well as advancing into New Mexico Territory to attack the Union forts along the Rio Grande River.



Lieutenant Colonel John R. Baylor

First Battle of Mesilla cont.

After learning Texas forces were coming into the area a Union force quickly occupied abandoned Fort Fillmore. The small fort was originally established to control the Apache was located about six miles southeast of Mesilla.



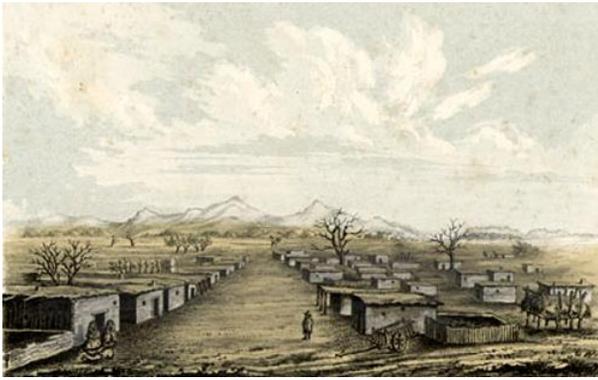
Fort Fillmore

On July 24, 1861, 250 troops of the 2nd Texas Mounted Rifles crossed the Rio Grande River into Mesilla, arriving to the cheers of the population. A company of Arizona Confederates quickly joined Colonel Baylor there. Planning to attack the Union force at Fort Fillmore the next day, they were thwarted by a Confederate deserter who informed the Fort Fillmore's commander of the planned attack.

On July 25th, taking the offense, the Federals left a small force behind to guard the fort and marched on Mesilla. Some 380 Union troops approached the town and demanded Baylor's surrender. When the Confederates refused, the Federals opened fire with mountain howitzers and the infantry was ordered to advance. However, heavy sand and corn fields interfered with this attack. Federal Cavalry and three companies of the Regiment of Mounted Rifles charged the Confederate forces.

Able to repulse the oncoming Federal troops, both sides then began skirmishing at long range. After three Union enlisted men died and two officers and four other men were wounded, The Federals returned to the fort.

First Battle of Mesilla cont.

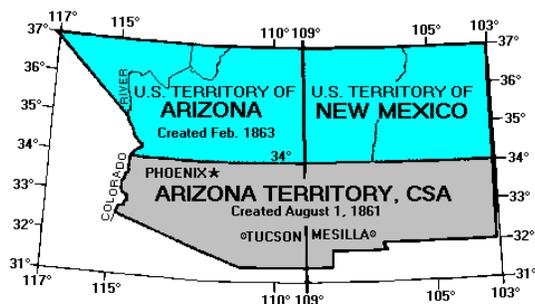


Mesilla

At sunset the next day on July 26th, Baylor ordered his artillery and more cavalry to reinforce him, while the rest of his command moved into position to attack the fort the next day. That same night, Baylor's men managed to capture 85 of the fort's horses, which formed most of the fort's transportation. Foreseeing the oncoming attack, the Federals destroyed the ammunition and supplies. They retreated northeast towards Fort Stanton, some 150 miles to the northeast.

In pursuit on July 27th, the Confederates captured a number of straggling Union troops and soon overtook the Union command, who had been reduced to only about 100 men as they crossed the dry Organ Mountains. The prisoners were paroled and Baylor returned to Fort Fillmore.

The Battle of Mesilla victory led to the establishing of a Confederate Arizona Territory on August 1, 1861, which would consist of the southern portion of the New Mexico Territory and Arizona, and paved the way for the Confederate New Mexico Campaign seven months later. At the same time Lieutenant Colonel John R. Baylor installed himself as the new territory's military governor and made Mesilla the capitol.



Confederate Arizona Territory

The New Mexico Campaign

In mid-September 1861, Major Henry Hopkins Sibley arrived in the Confederate capital of Richmond, Virginia, to present to President Jeff Davis his plan to seize control of a large part of the American West and place it under Rebel control.

President Davis was so taken with the plan that he quickly approved it and promoted Sibley to the rank of brigadier general.



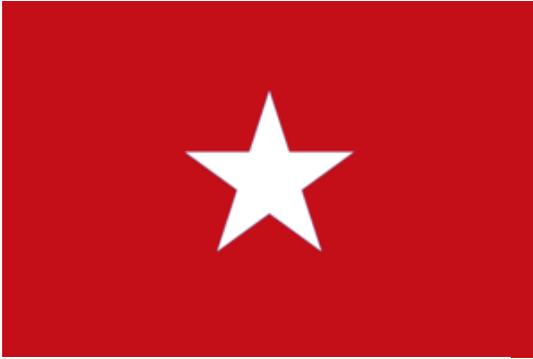
Brigadier General Henry Hopkins Sibley

Sibley's plan to dominate the western portion of the continent called for Texas Confederates to march from Texas through New Mexico, Colorado, and Dakota Territories to establish a western front. The coal, gold, and mineral reserves found beneath the Rocky Mountains would then finance a march to link up with Confederate forces in the East.

Control of the West Coast would also pique the military interest of Europe and perhaps Asia, while establishing trade with countries of those continents. This would do much to increase the legitimacy of the Confederate cause in the eyes of European and Asian governments, and perhaps an alliance could be struck.

Sibley went to San Antonio, where he helped organize three regiments of Texans into Sibley's Brigade and launched the New Mexico Campaign.

The New Mexico Campaign February-March 1862



“Sibley Flag” Army of New Mexico
2nd Texas Mounted Rifles
4th Texas Mounted Rifles
5th Texas Mounted Rifles
7th Texas Mounted Rifles

Battle of Valverde February 20 -21 1862

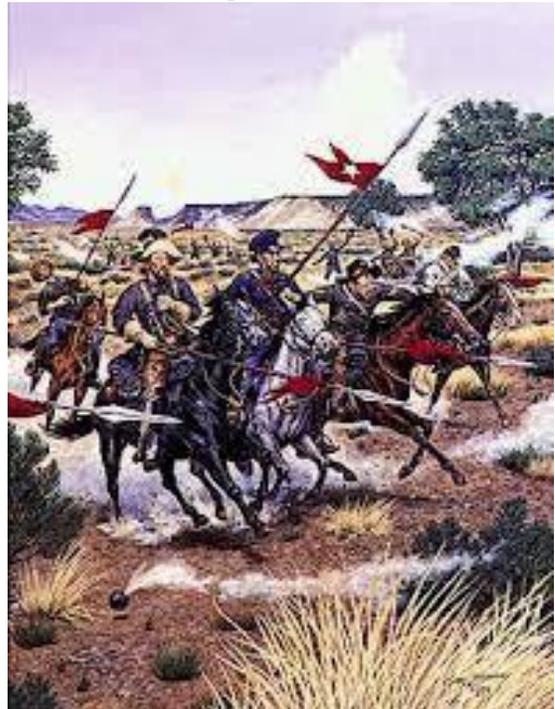
Making their way across and up the east side of the Rio Grande River to the ford at Valverde, north of Fort Craig, the Confederates hoped to cut Federal communications between the fort and military headquarters in Santa Fe. On February 20th 3,000 Union soldiers left Fort Craig to prevent 2,500 Confederates from crossing the river.

February 21st, Sibley sent an advance party consisting of four companies of the 2nd Texas Mounted Rifles under the command of Major Charles Pyron to scout ahead to the Valverde ford, with Lt. Colonel 4th Texas Mounted Rifles following close behind.

When Scurry arrived, he deployed his regiment to Pyron's right, with the regimental artillery on the Confederate left. Although they had gained a numerical superiority, the Confederates were mostly armed with short range shotguns and pistols, which could not reach the Union positions three hundred yards away; the Confederate howitzers also could not reach the Union artillery on the far bank of the river. By early afternoon, the remainder of the Confederate force, the 5th Texas Mounted Rifles under Colonel Thomas Green and a battalion of the 7th Texas Mounted Rifles under Lieutenant Colonel John Sutton, arrived at the battlefield. river by the defending Union forces.

Battle of Valverde

Around 2:00 pm, Colonel Tom Green authorized a lancer company to attempt a charge on what they thought was an inexperienced New Mexico company on the Union extreme right; however, the Union soldiers turned out to be Colorado company which was able to defeat the charge without breaking. Twenty of the lancers were killed or wounded during the charge, with almost all of the horses disabled or killed as well. When it returned to the Confederate line, the lancer company rearmed itself with pistols and shotguns and continued fighting in the battle. This was the first and last lancer charge of the American Civil War.



Battle of Valverde

The Texas Mounted Rifles make the only Confederate lancer charge of the war

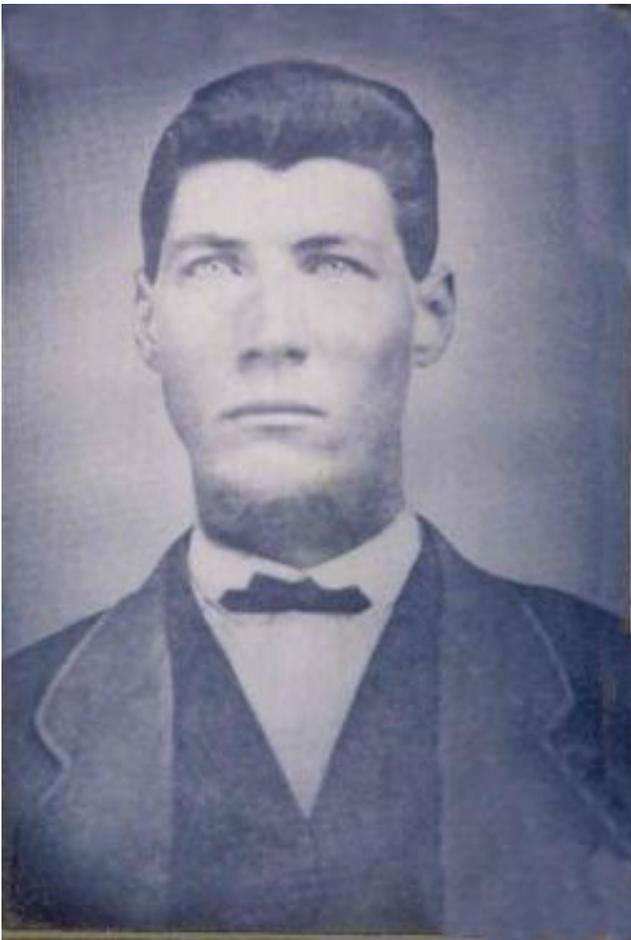
The main Confederate force made a frontal attack, capturing six artillery pieces, forcing the Union battle line to break, and causing many of the Federal troops to flee. Sibley was about to order another attack, when Union Colonel Edward Canby sent a white flag asking for a truce to remove the bodies of the dead and wounded, to which Sibley gentlemanly agreed. Canby managed to reorganize his men, minus about 200 deserters from among the New Mexico volunteers, and ordered a retreat back to Fort Craig leaving the road northward toward Santa Fe open to the Confederates.

Battle of Glorieta Pass March 26-28 1862

Following the victory at Valverde General Sibley advanced north occupying Santa Fe on March 10.

Glorieta Pass was a strategic location, situated at the southern tip of the Sangre de Cristo Mountains, southeast of Santa Fe, and on the Santa Fe Trail. Control of the pass would allow the Confederates to advance onto the High Plains and make an assault on Fort Union, a Union stronghold on the route northward over Raton Pass.

Sibley ordered a force of 200-300 Texans under the command of Major Charles L. Pyron on an advance expedition over the Glorieta Pass. Pyron encamped at Johnson's Ranch, at one end of the pass. Sibley also sent six companies to block the eastern end of Glorieta Pass, turning any Union defensive position in the Sangre de Cristo.

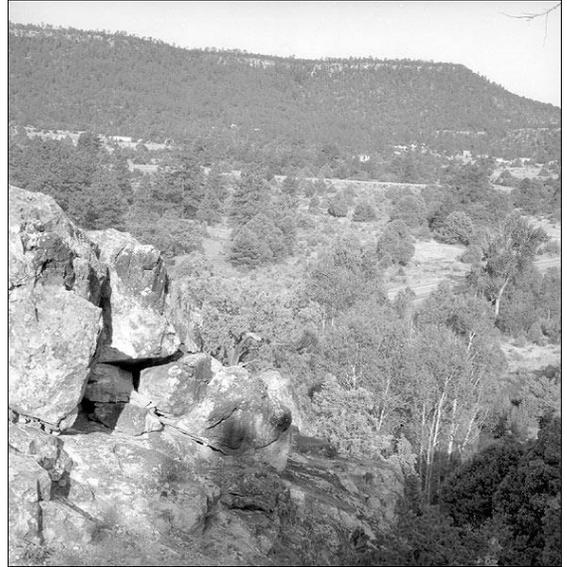


Major Charles L. Pyron
2nd Texas Mounted Rifles

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Battle of Glorieta Pass

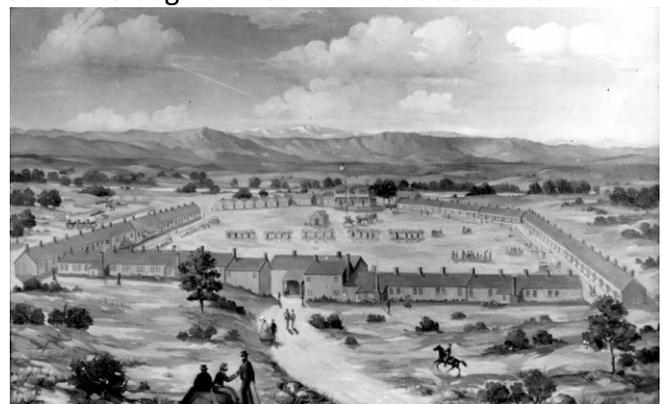
A Union force of more than 400 soldiers moved to the Pass and on the morning of March 26 attacked the Confederates. The Federals advanced on the Confederate main force but artillery fire caused the Federals to retreat. Regrouped, they split the force to the two sides of the pass catching the Rebels in a crossfire forcing them to fall back.



Sharpshooter's Ridge

Major Pyron and his men fell back about a mile and a half to a narrow section of the pass and formed a defensive line. The Federals flanked Pyron's men again and punished them with enfilade fire. The Confederates fled again and the Union cavalry charged, capturing the rear guard.

Fighting on the 26th ended. No fighting occurred the next day as reinforcements arrived for both sides. Lt. Col. William R. Scurry's troops swelled the Rebel ranks to about 1,100 while Union Col. John P. Slough arrived with about 900 men.



Glorieta Pass

Continued Next Page

Battle of Glorieta Pass



Lt. Col. William R. Scurry
4th Texas Mounted Rifles

Both Commanders decided to attack and set out early on the 28th to do so. As Colonel Scurry advanced down the canyon he saw the Union forces approaching and established a battle line, including his dismounted cavalry. The Federals hit them before 11:00 am. The Confederates held their ground and attacked and counterattacked throughout the afternoon. The fighting ended as Scurry retired first to Pigeon's Ranch and then to Kozlowski's Ranch. Scurry left the field also, thinking his Confederates had won the battle.



Instead, the Federals snatched victory from the jaws of defeat when Union troops attacked a Confederate supply train, burning 90 wagons and killing 800 animals. With their supplies destroyed, the Rebels had to withdraw to Santa Fe. They lost 36 men killed, 70 wounded, and 25 captured.

Battle of Glorieta Pass

The Union army lost 38 killed, 64 wounded, and 20 captured.

After a week in Santa Fe, the Confederates withdrew down the Rio Grande. By June, the Federals controlled New Mexico again, and the Confederates did not return for the rest of the war. The Battle of Glorieta Pass was the turning point of the war in New Mexico Territory. In the end, it resulted in 331 total casualties – 142 Union and 189 Confederate.

The Confederates moved southward to Albuquerque, only to find a force of 1,200 Union troops outside the town. Facing defeat and starvation, Sibley and his men began their retreat to Texas. Nearly dead of thirst and starvation, 1,700 Confederate survivors eventually reached safety in El Paso, Texas on May 4th.



By July 1862, all Confederate Troops had vacated New Mexico Territory and remained under Union control.

Colonel Tom Green would be promoted to Brigadier General In 1863, in command of the Texas Confederate forces, participated in Battle of Galveston, Mansfield, and Pleasant Hill. At the Battle of Blair's Landing, April 12, 1864, he was killed at short range by the cannon of a Federal gunboat on the Red River. He was 49 years old



Oakwood Cemetery Austin, Texas

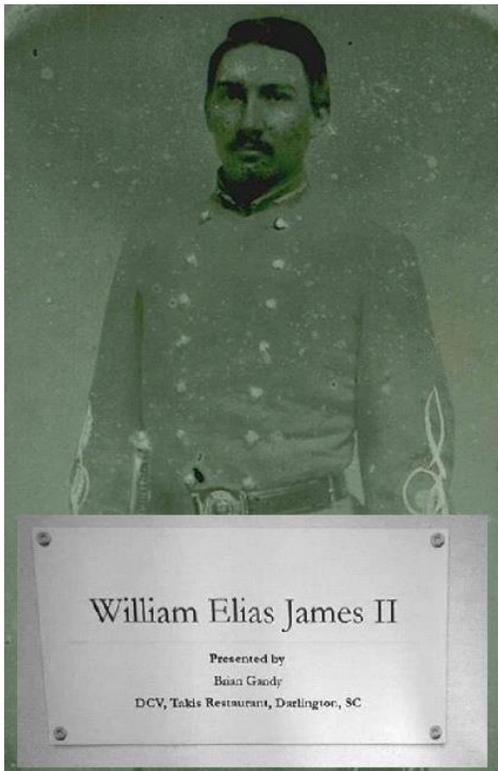
1st Lt. W. E. James Chapter February Meeting

Special guest Brian Gandy, Director of the Darlington County Historical Commission, was the speaker for the chapter's February meeting. His program was on the James Family and the chapter's namesake, William Elias James. Mr. Gandy has presented other programs to the chapter. As usual from Brian Gandy it was another excellent program.

1st Lt. W. E. James Chapter Meeting cont.



Brian Gandy, Director of the Darlington County Historical Commission



William Elias James II

Presented by
Brian Gandy
DCV, Takis Restaurant, Darlington, SC

1st Lt. W. E. James

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Robert E. Lee Birthday Commemoration

Under a beautiful blue Texas winter sky with only a wisp of clouds for contrast the Capitol Chapter gathered at Hoods Texas Brigade Monument on Sunday January 20th to commemorate and celebrate Robert E. Lee's 212th birthday.



The Lee birthday commemoration was the main attraction

In order to have an "event" on the Capitol grounds it requires obtaining a sponsor from the legislature from the Senate or higher, approval by the State Preservation Board and DPS Capitol Police.

Chapter President Steve von Roeder contacted Texas Senator Donna Campbell of nearby District 25. Senator Campbell willingly agreed to sponsor the event. The State Preservation Board and the DPS Capitol police approved the three round musket volley.

Enough reading already.... Enjoy the scene of visitors to the State Capitol from many states and foreign countries talking with and taking pictures of the Capitol Chapter members. A GREAT EVENT



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Robert E. Lee Birthday Commemoration



Shelby Little, Gillis Bartles, Terry Ayers,
Steve von Roeder, Sam Bennett, Jim Price

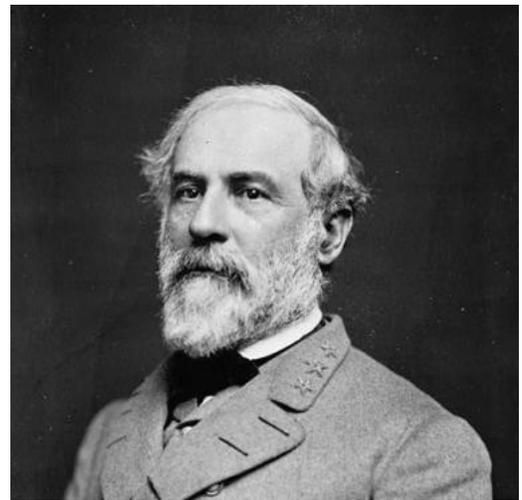
Robert E. Lee Birthday Commemoration



Annual tradition is to end the Robert E. Lee
Commemoration Ceremony with the singing of "DIXIE"



International Cultural Exchange



GOD BLESS ROBERT E. LEE

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>

The DCV TRAVELLER is published quarterly. Members are encouraged to contribute items of interest to the Editor for publication. The Summer edition will be published June 21, 2019

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Three Round Musket Volley