



The Belo Herald

Newsletter of the Col. A. H. Belo Camp #49

And Journal of Unreconstructed Confederate Thought

July 2014 **SPECIAL EDITION**

This Special Edition features an important report by:

ROCKY JIM SPROTT

Reconstruction in 21st Century Texas

Undermining the Charge



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Col. A. H. Belo Camp #49

- Commander - Kevin Newsom
- 1st Lt. Cmdr. - Mark Nash
- 2nd Lt. Cmdr. - David Hendricks
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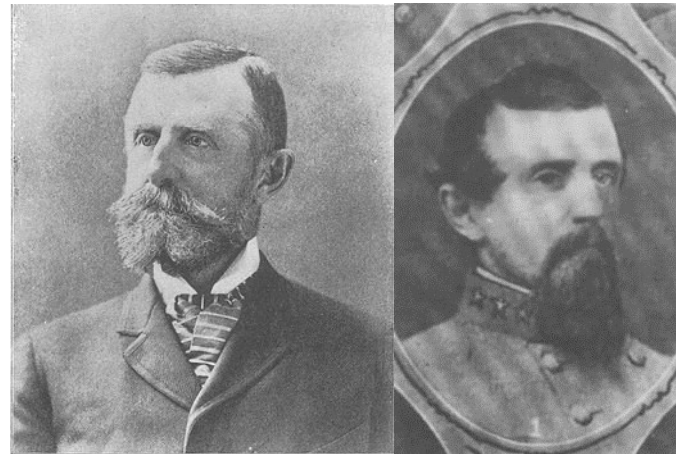
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SPECIAL EDITION !



"Everyone should do all in his power to collect and disseminate the truth, in the hope that it may find a place in history and descend to posterity." Gen. Robert E. Lee, CSA Dec. 3rd 1865



COMMANDER'S REPORT



Compatriots,

I want to thank Texas Division 2nd Lt. Commander Gary Bray for speaking at our July meeting. Not only was I impressed at the content of his speech, but also with the bravery he displayed. During Commander Bray's talk, he made two very salient points.

The first was that neither the Division, nor its Officers, can condemn, discipline, or interfere in any Camp's internal affairs when it comes to the flag/pledge issue. This affirms the Texas SCV Constitution and the spirit of States' Rights that we cherish so. Simply put, each Camp knows the best way to run its own affairs.

The second point was that there is still a lack of information concerning what happened in West Texas. Most of what people say is second-hand info, at best. Gary at one point asked if anyone in the audience was actually there for any of these events. Only one person raised their hand. This lack of clear, first-hand information makes it difficult for any true investigation to occur.

We at Belo offer this special edition as a means of providing said first-hand information to the Division. Should there come a point in time where charges are filed or investigations conducted, it's imperative that each person involved have a chance to state their case. Belo Camp welcomes all those who want to make a statement of direct involvement in these events.

It is our wish that getting all sides of the story out to the Division will help provide a quick and Constitutional remedy to this situation. If there are charges filed, then it is up to the DEC to determine their legitimacy. Belo Camp calls on the Division to handle these matters in the Constitutionally correct way.

Simply put, we don't need to go looking for enemies inside the Division. There are more than enough enemies outside the gates for us to deal with. Hopefully this publication will help uncover the truth and then let us heal. At that point we can focus on doing what this organization was formed to do: FULFILL THE CHARGE!

Bless GOD, Deo Vindice,

Kevin Newsom
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Texas Division Officer, 2nd Lt. Commander Gary Bray came to the July meeting to address any questions that Belo members had on this issue. However, he indicated the committee has a gag order on how much they can say while their investigation is ongoing. Their investigation is being done by the ad hoc Disciplinary Committee formed by Johnnie Holley. Interestingly enough, even though 2nd Lt. Commander, Bray stated that he did not know who was on the committee. In an effort to unveil the secrecy, Belo asked Rocky Sprott to provide the story for a candid world to see. That report follows.

Reconstruction in 21st Century Texas

Undermining the Charge

By Rocky Jim Sprott

Preface

The following will be an attempt to give a record of events which have grown out of a controversy centered in the Col. Thomas S. Lubbock Camp of the Sons of Confederate Veterans in Lubbock, Texas. An attempt will also be made to show the broader implications of this conflict for the whole of the Texas Division and the Confederacy.

What began as a local camp issue in the Lubbock camp has evolved into a major conflict of ideas about the nature and mission of the "Sons" in Texas and the Confederacy. This debate has drawn attention and comment from our compatriots on the camp, brigade, division and national levels. The involvement of both men and women in the SCV and its auxiliary the OCR has been both a source of much encouragement and disappointment. What is best and unfortunately much that is very bad in the leadership and rank and file of our fraternity and associate organization the OCR has surfaced in the last few months.

Across the Texas Division, as more of our men have taken sides in this debate camps have been divided, members have engaged in rancorous and hostile verbal exchanges, friendships have been damaged, the spirit of cooperation that once flourished has broken down and some have lost faith and trust in each other. What cause could wreck so much havoc among our brethren and bring our Division to the brink civil war. What issue could be so strongly held and hotly contested to provoke both men and women in the circle of our voluntary Southern heritage association to sink so low as to lie, slander, libel, viciously attack and attempt to destroy the good name and credibility of their compatriots whom may not share their particular ideology or conform to their notions about camp protocol. How could this fellowship of supposedly likeminded individuals, supposedly equally committed to the ideal of the Charge, be transformed into an arena for a political contest of the basest sort between warring factions some of whom have distinguished themselves by intolerance, ignorance, arrogance, extreme prejudice, hatred, envy, malice and pride. You might stop at his juncture and reflect "What a mess!" and you would be correct but not entirely because this isn't just a dirty mess this is war.

In a letter addressed to Marc Robinson of Palestine, Texas on April 30th, 2014 I wrote the following under the heading, "Our Current Dilemma":

"Today the Texas Division is confronted with a pernicious challenge to the peace and unity of its membership and camps. It is my concern that our response to this challenge be crafted in a manner specifically calculated to preserve both peaceful cooperation and unity of force within the Texas Division. That the effect of our efforts to address the issue in conflict strengthens and not weaken the bonds of our brotherhood of Confederate compatriots must be of first priority.

To fail to recognize this threat poised to do such great harm to the Texas Division would be in itself an act of extreme negligence. This conflict among the compatriots of the Division which is creating so much controversy centers around the issue of the use of the U.S. flag and the pledge of allegiance to the same in the protocol of the various camps. Unless this debate over the issue of the flag and pledge can be handled properly the predictable consequence may be a significant rift in the ranks of our membership in the Texas Division and even our beloved Confederacy.

The question of whether the camps of the Division retain the right to determine the protocol of their respective camps is a settled matter. Each camp is autonomous and shall act in accordance with the consensus of the members on any such question.

It is not the issue in question itself that poises the threat, it is the unwillingness of many of our compatriots and even elements of the Texas Division command to respect local camp autonomy and are so disturbed by the camps acting to remove the flag and pledge that their actions constitute a protest that may escalate tensions to the point of becoming offensive and themselves intolerant of those with whom they differ.

To have the leadership taking a partisan view in this debate and failing to show proper respect for compatriots of differing opinions only serves to alienate and divide the

Texas Division into opposing factions and results in a loss of credibility and confidence in the leadership of the Division.

We all work very hard to build up our Division, camp by camp. We recruit new members and work even harder to retain and involve our compatriots in the active service of the Charge. We expend a fortune in time, money, and energy to enlarge the influence and effectiveness of the "Sons" across the state of Texas and beyond.

Therefore it seems more than reasonable that we ought to exercise every possible resource at our disposal to preserve what we have gained from loss due to senseless and petty disputes and personality conflicts.

What is needed is the will to not allow ourselves to be distracted by selfish ambition and narrow minded political posturing from our sense of true brotherhood and shared purpose which binds us together and can heal all the wounds that threaten to destroy us."

In the following account of the events of the preceding months that have disturbed the peace of the members and camps of the SCV on the South Plains of Texas, there will be discussions about camp proceedings, elections, who said what to whom and why and many other bits and pieces that have certainly added color and affected the tone and substance of the story I am about to tell. Regardless do not allow yourself to lose sight of the driving issue that has blown this whole affair so out of proportion and propelled it on to larger stage of the Division and even made what happened in a small West Texas SCV camp of concern to compatriots and leaders from Virginia to New Mexico. That issue is the question of the use of the U.S. flag and pledge in the camps of the Sons of Confederate Veterans.

Introduction

In 2006 after removing my family from Bell County to Sherman County, I transferred my membership to the Amarillo Camp and by 2012 I had assumed the duties of both camp and brigade chaplain and adjutant and Aid de Camp of the Panhandle Region.

One thing I learned after becoming active in the SCV in West Texas is that even though the distances are great, the camps in this region form a close knit family and are very mutually supportive. Most activities are brigade projects in order to have the numbers to make it happen.

My work particularly as a brigade chaplain allowed me to get very familiar with most of men in the brigade which has been a blessing to me. Also as we developed the uniformed presence of the SCV at various events and as I also serve as 1st Sargent 8th Texas Cav. Co. I, DSMTD, it fell my lot to organize and command the formations at dedications etc.

Having said all that brings this story to a starting point. The date is Nov. 15, 2012 and occasion is the burial of the last real son of a Confederate soldier in Texas, Compatriot Marian Wilson, in Amarillo, Texas. The graveside service allowed the SCV to provide full honors to this beloved compatriot and it fell to my lot to arrange the service.

We were blessed by many compatriots who drove long distances to help us and every one was very pleased with the protocol that was observed. The family was particularly appreciative of our efforts. Unfortunately there was at least one problem and at the time I had no idea how big the problem would become. David McMahan, who was the 2nd Brigade commander at the time and had come all the way from San Angelo for the service, objected to the omission of the US flag in the line of colors presented at the service. This discussion developed into an argument between myself and David about the required flag protocol at SCV sponsored events or at any venue where the SCV was represented, camp meetings, parades etc. David insisted that the US flag must always be displayed and that the SCV Handbook mandated its use.

My response was to the contrary. That the references to the use of the US flag and the pledge for that matter were optional in nature and their use would be at the discretion of the separate camps. Furthermore I could not help but question the propriety of someone not a member of the Amarillo Camp and not even a member of the High Plains Brigade attempting to dictate or even question the protocol developed for this event. Mr. McMahan's attitude was arrogant and condescending and he definitely was not pleased that I was not the least moved by his rant about things that had no bearing upon what we were trying to accomplish in Amarillo that day.

This incident is important because it marks the beginning of a crusade by Mr. McMahan to address what he considered a growing problem in the High Plains Brigade and I from that point on would be the focal point of his attention. It should be noted that all this

time and to the present the US flag and the pledge is retained by the Amarillo Camp and will always be as far as I am concerned. My contention is that we are a bottom up organization and the camps are to govern themselves period.

This seemingly insignificant debate at a cemetery in Amarillo in fall 2012 can be compared to an unanticipated flare up of a sleeping volcano whose fiery magna is building for a catastrophic volcanic eruption.

Now let us fast forward to the August of 2013 to a High Palins Brigade meeting at Silver Falls in Crosby County. The meeting was sponsored by the Lubbock Camp and Mr. McMahon was present as a guest of the Lubbock Camp commander Mike Walker. When it came time to give the pledge to the US flag there was no flag.

This was an unfortunate oversight by Mike Walker so the pledge was offered to an imaginary flag. Though nothing was said there was a noticeable bit of embarrassment by Walker and disgust by McMahon. Subsequent to this event since no one recited the pledge except Gail and Mike Walker and McMahon and Golda Foster, myself and the boys in the Lubbock Camp began to be the subject of much discussion in some of the camps of the 2nd Brigade where Mr. McMahon rules.

Once again there seems to be a noticeable division between compatriots who have conflicting ideas about the place of the US flag and the pledge in the protocol of SCV camps.

It might be suggested by the uninformed that the divide here in play is based on the fact that some like Walker and McMahon, who are veterans of the US armed services, are necessarily set apart as advocates of the traditional protocol while men like myself and some in the Lubbock camp, who didn't serve, are looked upon as radical un-American unpatriotic trouble makers. Unfortunately this theory does hold up because among those refusing to utter the words "one nation, indivisible" are combat veterans like Joseph Hernandez and Randy Alford. I am tempted to ask what gives men like Walker and McMahon and for that matter Holley or Mike Moore or anybody the right to invade the camps of the Texas Division and force a Reconstructed version of our Southern fraternity down the unwilling throats of true Confederates for whom the Charge is their only Creed.

If such men continue to act beyond their constitutional authority and attempt to ignore the rights of the rank and file, camp by camp, believing themselves to be endowed with some special dispensation to rule over us, I can readily predict that their arrogant assumptions of power will be vomited up by the good Confederate patriots of the Texas Division.

Many in the SCV who are forced to acknowledge the rule of local camp autonomy in general find it almost intolerable to accept such a standard if it is to be applied to the question of the use or nonuse of the US flag and the recitation of the pledge of allegiance. Many of our compatriots feel very strongly that even the suggestion that the flag and pledge has no place in the protocol of our SCV camps represents a personal insult to their own service to our country in times of peace and war.

This reaction is somewhat understandable and it should never be the intent nor is it the desire of anyone I know to denigrate or be disrespectful toward those who placed themselves in harm's way for our national peace and security.

Nonetheless it must be pointed out that the SCV is not an American veterans organization. Furthermore since no one I know actually served in the War 1861-1865 we are not even a Southern veteran's organization in the same sense as the American Legion etc... The word "veteran" is part our name because we celebrate a particular veterans service to his country. In other words it is not about us. It is about our Confederate ancestor's service to his country the Confederate States of America. The Charge clearly places all our focus on that generation of American veterans who served the South in its bid for independence 1861 - 1865.

I believe that the obligation imposed upon us as "Sons" by the Charge requires that we vindicate the Cause for which our ancestors fought and I for one believe that the South was right and I do so without reservation or to the exclusion of any position which they in their time valued so much as to fight and die for, including slavery.

It is to the shame of some of our compatriots that they really believe that the defeat and destruction of the Southern Confederacy and the preservation of the Yankee Empire is a positive good. Have such men forgotten that it was United States soldiers who

marched upon Southern soil as invaders beneath the Star Spangled banner blowing in a Southern wind with the nasty Yankee eagle perched on top with wings out stretched anxious to feed upon the dead carcasses of Southern men women and children? And just as a minor side note, I do believe that these Southern patriots whose bodies covered a thousand fields of battle were earnestly contending that we are not "one nation" but a union of sovereign states, a republic of republics and if their departed spirits could speak to us they would be horrified to hear their succeeding generations utter the words of any pledge of allegiance to anything that included the word "indivisible".

We say we are in a war against the advocates of political correctness as it pertains to our Southern and Confederate heritage, but have we been so corrupted to believe the PC nonsense that the wars outcome requires that we surrender instead of vindicate the Cause and relegate all that blood and sacrifice to a mere interruption in the progress of our country toward the fulfillment of Lincoln and Marx's vision of "one nation, indivisible".

Within the Texas Division we must make every reasonable effort to find a basis for the peaceful co-existence and effective cooperation of compatriots and camps where there is a difference of opinion upon matters of personal conscience. Nonetheless I would be the last to advocate peace and unity at any cost. Certainly not peace or unity that requires that we betray our ancestors, renounce what they fought for and so moderate our vindication of their Cause to become in effect anti-Confederate.

SKIRMISHING ON THE HIGH PLAINS OF TEXAS

RECON AT THE CRACKER BARREL

After the High Plains Brigade meeting at Silver Falls, and the succeeding months some discussion took place that centered on the desire of some of the men in the Col. Thomas S. Lubbock Camp to put the question about the use of the flag and pledge to a vote. The commander Mike Walker was opposed to any proposal for the vote and stalled successfully through the fall which only served to fuel a growing sense of frustration and resentment in the minds of some of the men of the camp. They could not understand how a SCV camp commander could refuse to allow the membership to put a motion before the camp. Mike Walkers attitude was this was his camp and he would determine what motions would come before the camp.

Then, incidentally, on Jan.9th, 2014, I received a phone call from Division Commander Holley, while dining at Cracker Barrel, informing me he had heard that I was stirring up trouble out in West Texas. Now this was very peculiar, especially since he refused to tell me what trouble I was stirring or who had been witness to the said trouble. Obviously I was being given more credit than I could borrow on and certainly more than I could repay. All I could do was to assure Cmdr. Holly that I had no idea what he was talking about all the while wondering if he knew what he was talking about. Somebody somewhere evidently did think they knew something I did not know.

Knowing what I know now I should have begun to smell a rat, as Patrick Henry was heard to say. Soon it would become apparent that this sort of attempt to blind side opponents and having to deal with an administration that would assume guilty when accused would be standard operating procedure. Forget fairness and respect. I really don't think that Holley and Co. based on my experience subsequently have any higher motivation than to get what they want any way they can get it.

One thing that did come out of this conversation was Holley's displeasure over the ongoing debate taking place in the Lubbock Camp about the US flag and pledge. How I was supposed to be connected with any of this he did not inform me but it would be my assumption given what I know now, Mike Walker was already starting to shovel ---- to Holley and Co. and they would demonstrate in the months to come an insatiable appetite for this particular delicacy. Of course whatever was being discussed about anything in the Lubbock Camp was never any of Holley's business no more than it was mine. What part of camp autonomy do these people not understand or is it just in this area that the Division leadership feel at liberty to exercise a heavy hand.

When I returned home I sat down and wrote Holley a letter encouraging all outside parties to respect the autonomy of the Lubbock Camp:

"The autonomy of the local camp is not a weakness but one of the great strengths of

our organization. This concept of government is consistent with the political philosophy of disseminated government authorized by the founding fathers and defended in the American wars of secession in the 18th and 19th centuries."

In other words, My suggestion to you, Mr. Holley, leave these people alone. And interestingly that is the very message Holley was forced to pay lip service to at the DEC meeting on Jan. 11th 2014 by order of Commander Givens.

A PROMISE MADE, A PROMISE BROKEN

On Jan. 15th, 2014, the Cmdr. of the Lubbock Camp Mike Walker and 1st Lt. Cmdr. Clarence Pope met in Idalou, Texas to discuss finally bringing the flag and pledge issue to a vote. Cmdr. Walker promised that he would allow the vote to take place and his Lt Cmdr. took him at his word as a Christian and a Southern gentleman and I might add as a man worthy of the name Compatriot.

The next night at the regular monthly meeting of the Lubbock Camp, just before the meeting was to be called to order, Walker approached Lt. Cmdr. Pope and threw the camp constitution down in front of Clarence and with anger in his voice lashed out at his senior officer, saying, "There would be no vote on the flag and pledge!" Cmdr. Pope insisted that Walker start the meeting but Walker continued his rant and other members weighed in on this attack on Cmdr. Pope. Troy Simpson told Clarence he should join the Texas Militia, as if that had anything to do with anything being discussed. In response Clarence told Troy he should honor his ancestors. By this time the argument was getting out of hand and to avoid further conflict Cecil and Clarence Pope left the meeting.

Allow me to make a few observations about what had just happened. When Walker reversed himself and broke his promise about the vote, he did irreversible harm to his credibility as a leader. Trust is a precious thing and once we throw it away for whatever reason we can never get it back. From that point on Walker ceased to be an effective leader of the Lubbock Camp. His action in breaking his promise to his men loosened the knot which allowed the rope to unravel which bound the leadership and the men of the camp together by trust, friendship and the Charge.

After the Pope's left the meeting it was determined to take up the question of the flag and pledge protocol by way of a constitutional amendment. A committee headed by Joseph Hernandez and included Blake Pope, Randy Alford, and Mike Walker was formed to report back in February with a revised and amended constitution for the camp to vote on.

WHAT YOU SEE IS WHAT YOU GET

In early February I became aware that a very serious allegation of disloyalty to the Lubbock Camp was being rumored among the members. Cmdr. Walker was implicated in this matter and as High Plains Brigade Chaplain and Adjutant and Aid de Camp for the Panhandle Region of Texas, I made arrangements to head off this problem and put it to rest. I drove 250 miles to Tahoka, Texas to talk to Mike Walker about these rumors. Walker denied any involvement in the affair and that was that.

While I was with Mike, we visited about the ongoing debate over the flag and pledge and Walker insisted that in his camp if he could not have the US flag and pledge in his camp there would be no Texas flag or Confederate flag in his camp. This statement somewhat shocked me because I thought I knew this man but hearing this arrogant and dictatorial rant come out of his mouth told me Mike Walker was not the true compatriot I had always assumed him to be. I told him that it was not his place to dictate to his men but lead them where they wanted to go. He does not decide the flag and pledge question that is for his men to choose what they want and he would have to abide by their decision. I am sorry to say that I was not able to change his thinking. For him it was to be his way or the highway. I left there having driven all that way very much disappointed. The date was February 9th, 2014.

I would like to interject here that my involvement in this whole affair was in direct response to my responsibilities as Brigade Adjutant and Aid de Camp in filing reports on what I knew about these matters to my brigade and division commanders, answering questions where I could, fielded by various parties on both sides of the debate, or in my role as Brigade Chaplain by providing counseling to members about personal concerns. At no time did I act without proper authority or except by solicitation from my compatriots.

At the February 20th, 2014 meeting of the Lubbock Camp the constitutional revision committee chairman Joseph Hernandez was given the chair of the meeting to report the work of the committee. Copies of the revised constitution which included several amendments had been sent to all members by US mail on Feb. 7th, 2014 in order to meet the 7 day requirement for action proposed of this nature.

Hernandez asked for direction as to how to take up consideration of the amended constitution and the camp lead by Cmdr., Walker's insistence elected for a simple vote to approve or disapprove the constitution in the form presented as a whole. The motion to approve was unanimous. there was no dissenting vote cast.

Hernandez was then asked to explain the work of the committee. Joseph pointed out that the question of the use of the US flag and pledge which had not been voted on in January but referred to the constitutional committee was resolved. The new form of the constitution dropped any requirement for the US flag and pledge from the protocol of the camp while retaining the use of the Confederate and Texas flags and pledges.

Joseph went on to point out that under both the old form of the constitution and the new, officer elections were to be conducted annually. Walker had failed to provide for elections per the requirement of the rules governing the Lubbock Camp in December of 2013. Consequently technically the Lubbock Camp had no duly elected officers.

At this juncture Joseph asked for instructions from the members and a motion was made and seconded to nominate and elect a new panel of officers to include members to fill the new offices created by the newly adopted constitution. The motion carried by a majority.

Joseph Hernandez was allowed to chair the nomination and election proceeding which was conducted according to Roberts Rules of Order. The results of the election was Commander Joseph Hernandez, 1st Lt. Cmdr. Clarence Pope, 2nd Lt Cmdr. Cecil Pope, Adj. Mike Walker, Judge Advocate Michael Tibbets, Historian Blake Pope, Quartermaster Randy Alford, Sgt Arms James Putman, Color Sgt. Spencer Simpson.

It should be noted that Walker was nominated and lost his bid for Cmdr. and 1st Lt Cmdr. before securing position as Adjutant which he stated was fine as long as he could be of service to the camp.

The Executive Council of the Lubbock Camp subsequently met and reviewed and certified as valid the election and that all electors were members in good standing and that the conduct of the proceeding had met the rules imposed by the Lubbock Camp constitution and that the results of the election should be held as inviolable. And that was that.

Unfortunately in the days that followed I was to discover that smell that was becoming all too familiar by now was once again tainting the air, the smell of a rat. First there was a call from David McMahon who challenged the proceeding of the Lubbock Camp and the election that garnered for Mr. Walker the position of Adjutant which he so humbly and cheerfully accepted "as long as he could be of service to the camp" Quote, unquote. But poor Mr. McMahon was first disappointed then frustrated then quite angry when I refused to join in his plot to unseat Cmdr. Hernandez and disallow the Lubbock Camps right to conduct their own affairs without outside interference. Finally he slammed the phone down just when I was warming to the conversation. Perhaps Mr. McMahon at that point realized he had probably said way too much to the wrong person.

Next came a call from Chief Judge Advocate Mike Moore, squeaking out his complaints that this was all about this flag and pledge thing. Once again we have a prime example of a feller who presumes way too much. The truth as far as why Walker lost the election is quite simple. To be a leader you have to lead and that is one thing that Walker hasn't done for a long time and given his dictatorial frame of mind may never do. Leadership is service not being served. Some folks just never get it. Needless to say my answer did not agree with Mr. Moore's agenda but he tried. I'll have to give him credit for that.

The third call I would receive would come from the leader of the Tyler Division. That may not be something you are personally familiar with but don't feel too bad most of the boys only learned about the Division within the Division at the Reunion in Houston where its announcement was greeted by a loud round of something but I can assure you it was

definitely not applause. The substance of this conversation which was rather lop sided as I did most of the listening and Holley did most of the talking, was that these boys out in West Texas had done nothing but work to destroy the Lubbock Camp in their short time as members. Now to this I took definite exception. The only thing Holly and Co. know about Cmdr. Joseph Hernandez and his officer corps is what his only possible source Mr. Walker, has fed him. How do I know this? In all of 6 months there has not been one instance where this person who claims to be the leader of the Texas Division has shown the least bit of respect or concern for Joseph or Clarence or Cecil or Randy or any of these good men in the Lubbock Camp. I say good men. Let me correct that I meant to say the best. At one recent event the sixteen men who showed for that parade in Texas Co. Oklahoma racked up close to 6000 miles just to stand proud for the SCV in virgin territory. There is one thing I really can't stand, Mr. Holley, is stupid statements by stupid people. Somebody owes somebody a very humble apology. **Guess who?**

THE COUP D'ETAT THAT FAILED

On March 12, 2014 I returned home from being gone for the previous month doing Grave Survey Seminars for the Texas Division. I had the opportunity to speak to 15 SCV camps in Texas mostly in East, Central and South Texas. Covering over 3000 miles criss - crossing the state.

While I was on the road the plotting of certain individuals to undo the legitimate outcome of the work of the Lubbock Camp in February had moved ahead. Mike Walker who had made much of his gracious acceptance of the adjutant's position in the new officer corps chosen by the Lubbock camp in Feb. had now for the second time since the dawning of the new year reversed his stated position and was now embarked on an all-out assault on his own compatriots in the Lubbock Camp with willing support from Mike Moore, David McMahon, and Johnnie Holley. My only thought was how could Walker make such an about face? I truly feel sorry for anyone who convinces themselves that such behavior will not ultimately become their downfall. How we treat our moral obligations, to make our word our bond, defines for all the world to see who we really are. It is little wonder at the recent Reunion in Houston that Walker refused to make eye contact with myself, Joseph Hernandez, or Clarence Pope. I wonder if Walker now really believes that what he has done to himself and to his reputation has been worth it. This is so very sad.

But returning to our story, the Texas Division Executive Council convened in Lorena, Tex. on Mar. 8th, 2014. Adj. Walker and Cmdr. Hernandez were both there and Walker was seen lobbying hard with anyone who would listen to his story about his rough treatment at the hands of the cowboys in West Texas. In his mind evidently he had now become the "victim". But the victim of what? Let's stop right here and ponder this interesting question for a moment. Remember that promise that Walker had made to 1st Lt. Cmdr. Pope on Jan. 15th, 2014 to allow a vote on the use of the US flag and pledge in Col. Thomas S. Lubbock Camp protocol? Remember also if you will that it was Walker who had then broke his promise to follow through on that commitment and then insisted on a review of the camp constitution which lead to the need for the election to bring the camp into compliance with its own rules. That action resulted in Walker losing his seat as commander of the Lubbock Camp. Now consider if you will my dear compatriots a big "What if?" What if Walker had keep his promise in January and allowed the vote on the flag and pledge? What if he had not insisted on a constitutional review? Well, several things would probably be true today. First Walker would still be the commander of the Lubbock Camp and second most likely there would be no US flag and pledge in the camp protocol. But because Walker refused to lead his camp and allow his men to chart their own course even if that meant no longer dictating the affairs of the camp as he had previously done, Walker lost his command and his precious flag and pledge both. From my perspective, gentlemen, Walker may be a victim but not as a result of anything that the cowboys in West Texas had done to him but what Walker has done to himself. Next time Mr. Walker wants to see that feller, who has so grievously injured his reputation and been the cause of so much personal embarrassment, I would humbly suggest he go find himself a full length mirror.

Now before we leave this point in our story, I should take the time to make one more very important point. There are now some folks who have a vested interest in the outcome of this little scrap where you have men like Walker and McMahon who have publically announced their determination to see myself and a few good men in West Texas kicked completely out of the SCV and at the same time they are scared to death that the truth about what their real motivation is for pushing this fight so hard and so far. What I've told you already should be enough to convince most clear thinking and honest men that this fight is all about one thing,

the US flag and the pledge. Then there are others equally obsessed like McMahon and Walker about the flag and pledge question like Mike Moore who stand up in DEC meetings and demand that the Texas Division "take some type of action to force camps" to have the US flag and pledge regardless of the convictions of the members. Mr. Moore is so animated by his displeasure over what he perceives to be an un-American, un-patriotic radical element in the SCV, that he has taken to calling some of his compatriots flag-haters and in one letter makes at least eight references to the flag-haters and if you're reading this article you are likely included on Chief Judge Advocate Mike Moore's list.

Compatriots if you really treasure the free exercise of your conscience as a member or as a camp in this fraternity please pay close attention to the above quote, "take some type of action to force camps". So what is it that the McMahons and Walkers and Moores in the Texas Division want? My experience in confronting the attacks of "those people" as Gnl. Robert E. Lee like to say, on the good men of the Col. Thomas S. Lubbock Camp has shown me that "those people" want total compliance and subservience to their ideas about the use of the US flag and pledge. If we won't bow to the will of "those people", "those people" are ready to try and force their will upon us and if that doesn't work "those people" are prepared to assault our character, our honor, our loyalty, whatever it takes to discredit and malign anyone who stands in opposition to their beloved flag and pledge. "Those people" want us, the too-Confederate gone so they can make the SCV over into their image. What I say to that is, "Over my dead body!!!"

What you are about to read as this story continues is the account of events that took place at the regular meeting of the Col. Thomas S. Lubbock Camp on March 20, 2014. What will unfold before you will be a perfect demonstration of an attempt by "those people" to invade and depose the whole of the officer corps of the Lubbock Camp and to in effect disenfranchise the men of this small West Texas camp. Why do "those people" feel empowered to try this? The short answer is because they think they can. Not because they have any legitimate constitutional authority to override the elected leadership or the will of the camp in Lubbock. This was a raw abuse of power for the sake of ideology and the prime actors in this drama were Cmdr. McMahon, Chief Judge Advocate Moore and Camp Adjutant Walker who were as 1st Lt. Cmdr. Clarence Pope wrote, "guilty of tyranny, bullying, and treason to the SCV."

When you read this I want you to think about our ancestors who were forced to endure the indignity and humiliation of radical Republican Reconstruction, whose elected officials were deposed by the bayonet because they were tainted by their service to the Confederate Cause, and the people were disenfranchised because they remained proud of their loyalty to their defeated nation and refused to "swallow the dog". The analogy between what was going on in the post war South and the current conditions existing in the Texas Division of the Sons of Confederate Veterans is striking.

The problem for "those people" as you will soon see is that "those people" had no idea what or who they were messing with. The people of West Texas are in some ways a different sort with their own traditions and morays which fosters an independence of spirit and thinking and a undefinable gritty hardness. In other words they don't like to be pushed around. These people imbibe the true spirit of Texas which defied empires at the Alamo, San Jacinto, on the Texas frontier and oh yes, the greatest evil empire of 19th Century America, the United States of America.

"Those people" who came to Lubbock on March 20th were of a certain mind and those whom they encountered were of a different mind. It is not difficult to sense that there has developed in the Texas Division two minds and they are in increasingly sharp conflict. One which wholly identifies with our fathers in gray and butternut. Another which has been conditioned to surrender to the intimidation of a politically correct society. A society we all know hates and despises everything we stand for as "Sons". I will allow you the liberty to guess which of these two minds predominates in the officer corps led by Lubbock Camp Commander Joseph Lee Hernandez.

As I mentioned earlier the Texas DEC had convened in Lorena, Tex. on March 8th, 2014 and after the meeting in a sidebar limited invitation meeting (They don't allow smoking so I couldn't say smoke filled room like they used to have in the good old days) a small gathering of compatriots huddled to take up the delicate issues surrounding the rogue camp in Lubbock, Texas. This was another one of Johnnie Holley's famous "how the cow ate the cabbage" summits. As it was reported to me there was no shortage of red faced, bug-eyed angry men nervously sweating and sucking wind trying to outdo one another at the business of pronouncing haughty indignations. On the one hand in this corner there was the now familiar gang of four,

the honorable Holley, McMahon, Moore, and Walker. In the other corner two scrawny ruffians from West Texas Cmdr. Joseph Hernandez and my own beloved Plemons-Shelby Camp Cmdr. Samuel Cornelius of Borger, Texas.

The substance of the discussion was that the Lubbock Camp had no valid charter due to it having lapsed at some mysterious point in the past. Therefore the constitutional work that removed the US flag and pledge and necessitated the election that deposed Walker was invalid. Therefore the camp must reapply for a new charter, create a new constitution, and most importantly for the political future of Adj. Walker hold a redo of the election in April. In addition there was also the matter of one of the electors which swung the vote in favor of Cmdr. Hernandez not being a bona fide member which also invalidated the election process. Based on these irregularities which provided ample cause for the action Holley was demanding, Cmdr. Hernandez agreed to hold an election in April. And that was that.

In reality, compatriots, that was not that, if you know what I mean and this is where the story gets very interesting. So let me encourage you all to pay close attention.

When the gang of four looked into the eyes of Cmdr. Jose Hernandez, I can only speculate on what they might have imagined this gentleman to be. Did they see simply a fellow compatriot who was due the respect and the right hand of fellowship accorded to all our "Sons" or did they sniff the air for a smell of taco sauce, there had been some rumblings of concern in Lubbock about meetings at Taco Bell. If any of these gentlemen had made the mistake of labeling Cmdr. Hernandez as a dumb wet back they were fixing to get a rude awakening. People are not always what we imagine them to be and if for some reason these men underestimated the courage, intelligence, self-control and Confederateness of Cmdr. Joseph Lee Hernandez they were very foolish.

Upon returning home to Lubbock on March 10th, 2014, Cmdr. Hernandez made a phone call to Natl. HQ and spoke to Bryan Sharp. Yes I realize that some may be surprised to learn that phone service has been extended to the South Plains of Texas. It is truly amazing what a difference a little phone call to someone who doesn't have a dog in the fight can make. Compatriot Sharp was only too happy to inform Cmdr. Hernandez that the Lubbock Camp Charter and Constitution was indeed valid.

Now I can't help but ask and you know I probably would get around to it. What is this all about? What would motivate division officers like Holley, McMahon and Moore not to mention a former camp commander Mike Walker to attempt to mislead and deceive Cmdr. Hernandez into taking action in contradiction to the expressed will of his own camp members?

Furthermore it is generally known, unless you have a reason to remain ignorant of such things, that charters don't lapse but may become dormant if the membership requirement is not met. Yet when the numbers come up to seven a charter once again becomes active just as when recently Walker resigned as the Lubbock Camp Adj. and transferred to the Plainview Camp whose charter was dormant but became active when the number reached seven.

A second concern for the validity of the election in Lubbock in February was the membership status of one of the electors. The question is: when is a member a member? Okay, boys and girls here is the answer. **An applicant for membership in the SCV has to do three things to be recognized as a bona fide member of a camp and thus eligible to vote:**

- 1. Present and have approved a properly completed application with the required genealogy and documented proof of the veteran's service.**
- 2. Have paid his dues to the camp adjutant/treasurer in full**
- 3. Have been voted in by the membership as a member now in good standing.**

Now what of the member number, what of the certificate of membership from HQ? Here is the deal. No action for approval or disapproval of a member takes place beyond the camp and these items are simply per functionary and have no bearing on the new member's status. By this standard the compatriot in question was eligible to vote in the election in February in Lubbock.

Walker, when he was commander of the Lubbock camp, regularly used this standard for member participation as in the case of Clarence and Cecil Pope and Randy Alford and Joseph Hernandez. They were accorded full membership status even though their names had not appeared

on the Lubbock camp role from HQ and in the instance of Randy and Joey had not received either their number or certificate from HQ. Only when this matter became a possible basis for overturning this election did it become a matter of concern to Mike Walker and his band of co-conspirators. Remember, compatriots all this debating over procedures is not out of a concern for the proper order in the workings of the Lubbock Camp. This is a means to an end for "those people" and that end is to return the US flag and the pledge to the protocol of the camp and as a side to reinstall Walker as the commander.

On March 10th, 2014, the Lubbock Camp Executive Council met to consider these developments and it was determined that all the challenges to the Lubbock Camp constitution and the February election had no merit and furthermore since the agreement to hold new elections in April were predicated on reasonable cause which were no longer valid, it was determined that the executive council of the Lubbock Camp had no choice except to sustain the actions of the camp and to consider the matter closed. The Lubbock Camp constitution empowers the camp EC to rule on all such matters. Consequently the officers prepared the agenda for the March 20th, 2014 meeting which included as the chief order of business the swearing in of the new panel of officers elected in February.

Let me insert here a response to a question concerning the prior notice for elections which would have delayed the election for 30 days at least and allowed what some compatriots feel would have been reasonable under the circumstances. Cmdr. Hernandez indicated that no such notice is required under their camp rules and it was the will of the men to proceed with the election in February since Mr. Walker had neglected to hold the annual camp elections two months prior. It doesn't matter what some think reasonable and what someone outside the Lubbock Camp thinks about anything should not become the standard. There's that camp autonomy thing again.

On the March 12th I returned to my ranch on Frisco Creek after a month's absence on tour doing Grave Survey Seminars. Shortly after settling in for some much needed rest, I received a call from Amarillo Camp commander Sam Cornelius requesting that I accompany him and his wife Barbara to the March 20th meeting of the Lubbock Camp. Sam was concerned that he feared that a confrontation was brewing which would have unpredictable consequences for the Lubbock camp and that we should represent the Amarillo Camp and serve as witnesses to whatever action might take place. Cmdr. Cornelius is the 2nd Lt Cmdr. of the High Plains Brigade. and I am the Adjutant and Chaplain.

I called Cmdr. Hernandez about our coming down and he extended a warm invitation for us to join them and requested my services as chaplain to provide an invocation and benediction for the meeting.

The three of us arrived in Lubbock bringing with us an assembly of flags for the hall as Adjt Walker was refusing to surrender the Lubbock Camp property to the new commander and the quartermaster. We were entering the restaurant which had provided a room for the meeting in the back of the main dining area. While we were threading our way through the customers seated in the restaurant somewhat to our surprise we were approached by David McMahon and trailing along behind was Mike Moore. These two people were evidently intent on physically blocking our path into the room where the Lubbock Camp meeting was to take place. Then without any cordial greeting normally due compatriots, McMahon there in the middle of the restaurant and totally oblivious to the fact we were in a public place, began to angrily berate me for coming to Lubbock to attend the meeting that night. McMahon backed up by his willing accomplice and my former camp commander and current Chief Judge Advocate Mike Moore, now standing at arm's length, thrust his finger in my face and demanded that I leave the restaurant and gave me the general impression that my presence was totally unanticipated. Now, compatriots, consider if you will, that I had driven some 250 miles to attend an SCV meeting that I really would not have chosen to attend as I was very tired and worn out from my month on the road in Feb. and Mar.. Nonetheless out of respect for the concerns of my commander Sam Cornelius and my personal concerns for my compatriots in the Lubbock Camp we had made the effort. And here we were being greeted not by the warm embrace of our compatriots but by a hostile attack on our persons that was both publically humiliating and personally insulting not to mention physically threatening. And where I might ask does the fact that we are brothers in this fraternity grant some compatriots the right to deny to others their legal access to a public establishment. The last time I looked I was still a citizen of this country and had not broken any laws but was minding my own business, was not provoking any form of disturbance, was a member in good standing of the "Sons", had paid good money to journey to Lubbock, was acting under the authority of my camp commander, and was also present at the specific invitation of the Lubbock Camp commander Joseph Hernandez.

At this point McMahon continuing to stand his ground blocking our forward movement toward the place of meeting that was in the back of the facility began to order me to not attend the meeting saying I had been specifically ordered to not attend and furthermore I knew I was not to be there and he intimated that my presence represented an act of insubordination. Please, dear compatriots, let me pause right here for a reality check. Insubordinate to what? Does Holley really think that his position as Texas Division commander grants him absolute dictatorial power to control the movements of the members, what camp meetings they can attend, to send his thugs out to abuse, insult and humiliate anyone who dares fail to recognize their authority as agents sent down from on high to beat a little band of West Texas shit kickers into whimpering obedience. If that is what McMahon and Moore thought was going to happen and I strongly suspect that it was, they made at least one major miscalculation. This very official looking duo, all dressed up in their, as one compatriot said, Yankee banker uniform suits, came unprepared to confront true Confederates, eyeball to eyeball. The little sticks, their inflated notions of their own self-importance and power, which they brought to lay across the backs of the descendants of Confederate soldiers who fought the arrogant assumptions of power in their own day, were fixing to get broken and shoved... Well for the sake of the more delicate reader let's just stop right there. Oh yes, I guess we were insubordinate alright and I believe my Granpa Sprott and Craft and Harrison and Clarence's and Joseph's and Cecil's and Randy's ancestors were all equally proud of their rebel descendants that night in Lubbock, Texas on March 20th, 2014. Now back to the story.

I turned to my camp commander, who along with his wife Barbara were also being held up by this confrontation which McMahon and Moore were staging and I asked Sam if he knew anything about what McMahon was saying with regard to any order for me not to attend this meeting. He said he did not. This seemed to frustrate McMahon even more. Finally I had had enough of this abusive and illegal interference and with McMahon's finger still waving threateningly in my face I told him "to go to hell and get out of my way". Enough was enough!

I later described this encounter as an arrogant, high handed, attempt to control and influence the conduct of myself, the Lubbock Camp officers, and even the proceedings of the camp itself with a total lack of respect for any one. I later learned that McMahon and Moore had only one mandate from the Division leadership and that was to attend this meeting as guest and observe the proceedings. That's all. Any action they took beyond that was by their own initiative and without any authority from anyone. They were there and could remain there only by the permission of the camp Cmdr. Joseph Hernandez and with consent of the local camp membership. Remember that little thing about local camp autonomy? McMahon had no authority to order me or anyone about like we were stray dogs who had accidentally gotten into the living room parlor and it wasn't even his parlor. The Yankee imposed Republican Reconstruction governor of Texas, Edmund Davis, would have been proud at this attempt to exclude and disenfranchise good Confederate men from a place of assembly just like the damn Yankees, carpetbaggers, and scalawags did to our fathers after the war. **Is this what "emulate the virtues" has come to mean for the current leadership of the Texas Division?** Compatriots after the sorry spectacle we all witnessed at the Reunion in Houston I am convinced that "those people" do not and cannot be allowed to represent the interest of the Texas Division. As the Apostle John said of the anti-Christ, "they went out from us because they were not of us". "Those people" must go out from us because they have lost sight of what we are to be as Sons of Confederate Veterans. They have politicized and dragged our fraternity into the mire by the conduct of their officers and their henchmen. Can you imagine someone like David McMahon as Division Commander? What if he or some of his Reconstruction police come banging on the door of your camp meeting with the intent on culling your attendees like so many sheep or as we shall see as our story continues invade your camp proceedings creating chaos and trying to take control of the camp from the elected officers?

The once formidable blockade of McMahon and Moore quickly melted away as we showed our determination not to be deterred from our objective for which we had driven half way across Texas to reach. I still contend that "those people" just don't have any idea who they are messing with. My camp commander, Sam Cornelius, assured me if our roles had been reversed McMahon wouldn't have gotten off so light. Sam wrote in a message to the Amarillo Camp dated April 30th, 2014, "Had David (McMahon) done this to me I would have broken his finger and given him the cussing he deserved".

As I said M. and M. melted away sort of like how fresh snow dissolves under a noonday sun. McMahon as he was retreating blurted out something real stupid about how he was going to call the police and have us removed. I'd say that's making yourself at home wouldn't you? McMahon had crawled over into a corner and was all hunched up with a cell phone

stuck to his ear. I could only imagine that he was hoping to get instructions from someone up above perhaps Holley or Beal or anybody, that's how some of those military types are. They are always looking for someone to tell them what to do especially when things don't go as planned, like our heels clicking together in trembling obedience. Moore had disappeared who knows where and for McMahon things were not going too well. Remember Burn's, "Ode to a Mouse"? Well, having driven in their pickets, with all our banners streaming, we drove headlong into the rear of the assembly like Forrest who had caught the Yankees napping. We planted our standards and with a big Texas "How are you all!!" we sat down to eat and enjoy the show.

Now as we were planting the sacred Cross of St Andrews, and the Lone Star Flag of Texas, much to consternation of a red faced and noticeably flustered Adjutant Walker, who if you will remember had back in February vowed to me that if he could not have his US flag and pledge there would be no Confederate flag and Texas flag etc. in the meetings of his camp, a very peculiar conversation was taking place just outside the room between McMahon and Cmdr. Joseph Hernandez. McMahon had taken Joseph aside to plead with Joseph to surrender his command of the Col. Thomas S. Lubbock Camp and let the poor and much aggrieved ex-commander Mike Walker regain his position as commander of the Lubbock Camp. And then, Jose Hernandez could fall back into a position more commensurate with his limited abilities and experience as adjutant where he could labor as McMahon had in the San Angelo camp for nearly a decade till he could learn to grasp the delicate intricacies of the camp commander role which Walker had plainly stated to me when he was still the Lubbock Camp commander was much beyond Jose's comprehension.

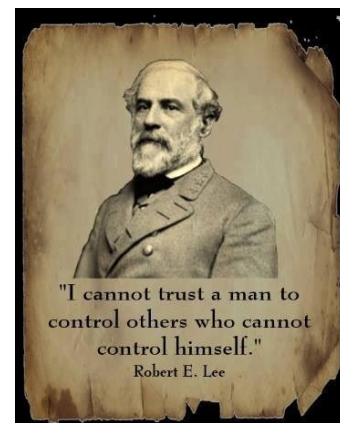
Now you might think that Walker was being too harsh in his assessment but then in the case of Mike Walker his previous statements which he made to Clarence Pope seems to indicate a certain mind set. Clarence got very interested in trying to recruit Hispanic "Sons" in the South Plains of Texas. He was using a book he had found, "Vaqueros in Gray" and tried to solicit the camps involvement and Cmdr. Walker's leadership for the proposed outreach. Unfortunately the response Clarence received was not encouraging; Walker's refrain was that if Hispanics were recruited that before long the camp would be meeting at Taco Bell. He was joking I'm sure. What do you think?

Just ponder this for a moment, compatriots, you are a newly elected camp commander and a friend of the man you defeated for the lead office in the camp approaches you asking you to resign because his feelings are hurt. What would you say? Well in this case I would certainly question if McMahon realizes how utterly foolish his proposition was. Also I wonder if McMahon realizes, even now, that he just validated the very thing he and Moore came to Lubbock to protest, the election of the man he has just asked to resign.

A short OCR meeting preceded the SCV meeting led by Walker's wife, Gail, bless her heart. Randy Alford, a Vietnam combat veteran who doesn't like Yankee flags in an SCV meeting and not realizing that this was an OCR meeting with different rules removed the little flag from off the head table placing it outside the place of meeting. This provoked a minor disturbance but order was soon restored. Somebody did have to tell Mike Walker to sit down and behave himself. So you see things were already in a festive mood and if looks were farts it's good nobody struck a match. Gail instructed the assembly to turn and face the US flag in the back of the room for the pledge. The pledge was led some doing the hand over the heart, some the military salute, two did the Bellamy salute, Clarence Pope and Randy Alford, and I did no salute nor did I recite the pledge. The OCR meeting was soon concluded and we moved on to the SCV meeting.

The Lubbock Camp Cmdr. Joseph Hernandez now stood up before the assembly and called the meeting of the Col. Thomas S. Lubbock #1352 to order and asked me to give the invocation. This was why Cmdr. Hernandez had insisted that I come. Their own chaplain Peter Griffith had resigned. After my prayer I sat down to my chicken fried steak. Cmdr. Hernandez then proceeded to the next item on the agenda and Joseph called for the swearing in of the panel of new officers which had been elected in February. The commander asked me to step forward and assist in the swearing in ceremony and we were in the process of gathering the inductees to an appropriate place in the room for this purpose when all of a sudden, as my camp commander, Sam Cornelius, said, "**All hell broke loose!!**".

As if some prearranged plan of action had been worked out by the men in the Yankee banker uniform suits, **McMahon and Moore** hit the floor competing with one another to see who could shout down the camp commander as he tried to conduct the business of his camp, the swearing of the new



officers. Remember these Division officers were there at this meeting to accomplish one thing, observe the proceedings. If anything, what had taken place that evening in Lubbock already and what the "Yankee bankers" were then doing, at the very least, gave new definition to the term "observation".

The **outburst of these two men** turned the whole of the meeting into chaos with several people standing up and arguing with each other. It was difficult to tell one from another. McMahon who was not far from where I was sitting and trying to make himself heard above the din seemed particularly offensive and disrespectful in his manner and tone. Shortly I decided as we were both guest and both Division officers, I was Aid de Camp for the Panhandle Region, I would take it upon myself to tell McMahon to sit down and stop interrupting the meeting and let Cmdr. Hernandez restore order. He responded by telling me to get out of his face which I refused to do just as he refused to get out of Cmdr. Hernandez's face.

After about a minute Clarence Pope called for a closed meeting which was endorsed by the members who could hear him. This had little effect so Clarence now moved to disband the Lubbock Camp which got everyone's attention. The motion was seconded but was quickly tabled as members and guest were now leaving the meeting room.

The "Yankee bankers" were hanging in there for some reason evidently believing themselves exempt from the order to clear the room. After the third warning from 1st Lt. Cmdr. Pope, McMahon was still trying to ignore the order and, with an arrogant attitude, thought he could get by with the pretense of authority because he was a division officer. It didn't work. Cmdr. Pope finally physically escorted McMahon from the room and Clarence told McMahon that his actions had gotten way out of hand and had created this whole mess.

Moore remained in the room by leave of the camp commander and the members present because he agreed to sit down for a quiet conversation about the whole affair. Moore agreed that Joseph Hernandez was the legitimate commander of the Lubbock Camp and Walker should take himself and whoever might choose to follow him and reactivate the Plainview charter. This would allow for a peaceful separation of the two factions. Cmdr. Hernandez agreed to this proposal and that was that.

Of course for Walker, McMahon and Moore that was far from being simply that. I overheard McMahon saying while he was walking out 'We're going to court martial Rocky Sprott'. The other chief concern of McMahon's was that Walker still had possession of the camp check book. I didn't say Yankee Bankers for nothing.

Thus ended the skirmish that will either be the herald of a new day of peace and harmony or the opening salvo of a general and wide spread conflict. Let us hope and pray for the former while we prepare for the later.

AFTERWARD

Soon after Walker would resign as adjutant of the Lubbock Camp and transfer his membership to the Plainview Camp along with about half the members from the Lubbock Camp. McMahon would publish that 17 had transferred but that was not an accurate count. Somebody's arithmetic aint too good. Oh well, a feller can't be good at everything. Unfortunately, for McMahon, this was one of those situations where neither much wishful thinking nor hard work could turn fiction into fact. What I believe he wanted was the wholesale abandonment of the Col. Thomas S. Lubbock Camp that would have, by the deficiency of numbers, required that the Lubbock Camp be dropped from the roster of camps of the High Plains Brigade and, given its former commander, Michael Walker, a measure of personal satisfaction and public vindication.

So a separation of the two factions occurred with the reactivation of the Plainview Camp. The Lubbock Camp does not use the US flag and pledge while the Plainview Camp incorporates both in to their camp's protocol. This was what all this was about from the beginning and that should have ended the matter. Unfortunately Walker was so angry over the outcome of events that he filed some complaints against myself and several in the Lubbock Camp by way of recrimination.

In addition to filing complaints he began to call Lubbock Camp members telling them that the Lubbock Camp no longer existed and they would have to transfer to the newly

reactivated Plainview Camp. Only after some had done this did they realize that the Lubbock Camp was alive and well and growing.

Nonetheless hopefully both these two camps will grow and work to fulfill the Charge and put their differences aside so that there can be three active mutually supporting camps in the High Plains Brigade. That is what we all must begin to work toward but to make that possible all parties must learn to do as the Apostle Paul wrote "putting those things behind, I press on".

Unfortunately a festering spirit of malevolence had created an agenda of recrimination which motivates men like Walker, McMahon, Moore and Holley and it is this agenda that has the potential of doing great harm to the Texas Division and beyond. It will require the determination of men of true integrity and dedication to the Charge to salvage the Texas Division from the disunity, distrust, and strife which is becoming Holley and Company's legacy. True, they may, by bullying and intimidation and rule by fiat, force their policies upon the camps of the Division, even destroy a little West Texas camp in Lubbock and expel everyone who tries to stand up to them but then after all that, what will there be left of the Texas Division? And for that matter, what will be left of the SCV?

The agenda we ought to pursue as "Sons" instead sets us upon the path to celebrate the accomplishments and principles, principals and heroes of the Confederate nation. We are not obligated by any other consideration and we ought not be distracted by contemporary social and political forces that tend to compromise the sacred trust placed in our hearts by our fathers in gray and butternut.

There may be some confusion in the minds of some compatriots about who we are as "Sons" but we should never allow ourselves to become so disassociated from our roots that we can no longer vindicate the Cause with our whole hearts and sustain actively and publically the righteousness of the South's right to secede from the Federal Union and form a new republic, the Confederate States of America.

All these conflicting ideas factor into the debate that has recently flared up in the Lubbock Camp. The SCV is a voluntary Southern and Confederate heritage organization and the best way to sort out the question of the use of the US flag and pledge in the protocols of our local camps is to put it into the context our priorities. Of course the Charge is the defining statement of our priorities as an organization. So with that in mind, ask yourself the question what should be first in our affections? What symbols best represent the glorious heritage that is at the center of our focus, that inspires us, and continues to attract men from all over the world to join our ranks. It certainly is not the Stars and Stripes. Instead it is the blood stained banners that led the columns of countless thousands of Southern men and boys to fight to the death if necessary to bring an end to that vile league of the devil, the Federal Union, commonly called the United States of America. The Confederate veterans in the post war era did not sing the familiar refrain for nothing, "I am a good old rebel, that's just what I am, and for this Yankee nation I do not give a damn...". One hardened Confederate soldier from South Carolina, expressed the sentiments of many when he said, "I get up early in the morning and stay up late at night just to hate'em!".

What would such men say to so called compatriots like Mike Walker who told me that, "The war is over, it's just a part of our past and we can't refight the war and we have to move on." Such statements reflect a malignancy of spirit, a lack of boldness, a fearful temerity that our own beloved President Jefferson Davis would be very sorry to hear. President Davis would argue in contrast that the struggle is not in fact over because he would point out that "In a republic, no political question is ever settled by force of arms and the issues of his day would continue to arise in the future."

So getting back to "Our Current Dilemma" in the Texas Division, the great divide that is opening up in the ranks of our men and camps has its roots in the question "Shall we remain true to the spirit and substance of the Cause we are supposed to vindicate or shall we allow ourselves to become reconstructed in our thinking and allow the fires in our rebel bellies be extinguished forever?"

If Holley and Co, are going to pour this much energy into the beating into submission of one little camp in West Texas because they refuse to follow the reconstructed policies of the Texas Division leadership. If these good men in the Panhandle camps are going to be exposed to lies, slander, libel, character assassination, have their camps invaded by bullies sent out from Division HQ, be poked and prodded till they are forced

to react in their own defense, then compatriots, there is definitely something wrong with our Division.

In my estimation Holly and Co. are afraid of something. That has to be the only thing that could produce such a violent attack on the camp in Lubbock and on anyone who would rise to their defense. **There is one thing that I personally know and that is the boys in West Texas are definitely not afraid or intimidated by the likes of men like Holley, McMahon, Moore, Beal, and Walker.** And maybe, just maybe, my dear compatriots, that is exactly what has instigated and continues to drive this assault upon the men of the High Plains Brigade.

This assault was taken up by the Texas Division Chief of Staff, Dennis Beal who published a scathing and extremely offensive denunciation of myself and some of the men in the Lubbock Camp where he characterized our actions as "despicable, vile and detestable" and that was just for openers. Now as transparently prejudiced and hateful as this vivid depiction of events that occurred in the Lubbock Camp meeting was, it would seem to anyone reading Beal's account that he had a front row seat.

In response to this salty account rendered with so much colorful enthusiasm by one apparently intimately familiar with his subject, I penned the following in a letter dated May 22, 2014:

Not only, my dear Compatriot Beal, are you guilty of listening with a willingness to believe the worst of these unconfirmed allegations against myself and others but you recklessly and without any twinge of conscience vomit up these evil depictions of people and events which you have no possible ability to substantiate personally. The simple reason for this is, my dear compatriot, you were not there.

So Dennis, you have settled yourself into a seat in the jury box, listened to the complaints lodged by your buddies, then rushed over to occupy the empty seat of justice, rendered up a decision upon the accused in the absence of the same and without any testimony for the defense and without the slightest sense of injustice, pronounce the verdict, guilty as charged. Then sparing no energy you hammered together a makeshift scaffold and drug us, the condemned, verbally abused and ridiculed, over the trap, pulled the hood and noose tightly over our heads and neck, then reached out without the slightest hesitation and yanked the lever of execution that sent us falling earthward but not quite.

For you, Dennis, and others like you, this is all in a day's work. You saved the Texas Division from rabble like us. You've swept away any threat to the political ambitions of your friends in the leadership. You've saved the SCV from the undue influence of the "too confederate" and you've saved the Texas Division from the awful embarrassment before our friends in the American Legion, the NAACP, the radical wing of the Democratic party and a politically correct society. Most importantly you've given reassurance to our benevolent Federal government that we are not the evil agents of sedition and terrorism because we will waive the US flag and dutifully say the pledge just like the **Marxist Bellamy** taught us. Oh yes, this is truly a great day.

Compatriot Rudy Ray, commander of the Palestine camp, would also respond to Beal's summery judgments, applying the same standard to the representatives of the Texas Division leadership, saying that based on reports that had reached him, "...that Division Lt. Cmdr. **David McMahon and Division JAG Officer Mike Moore also displayed "despicable, vile and completely detestable behavior" as they physically sought to block entrance into the meeting place of two prominent SCV men and an accompanying lady who had been invited by the camp commander to come and they were then out of order in the meeting and disrupted the meeting with loud and angry words and when asked by the local camp for them and all others who were not members to leave so that only camp members could deal with the issues, McMahon refused to leave and had to be escorted out. And if indeed the local men's "abhorrent behavior warrants severe consequences", so does the "abhorrent behavior" of Division Officers McMahon and Moore. And it would be unconscionable to not address such "disrespectful and threatening" behavior coming from a Division Officer who was sent there to resolve and settle the issue but who instead by his "immature" and "threatening" and "disruptive" behavior and attitude rather than resolving the situation greatly escalated it and indeed pretty much blew it up.**" End of quote.

If we allow these men currently in the Division leadership to succeed in their assault on hard core Confederates, then I fear that no individual or camp will be secure from the cold and discompassionate plotting to enforce the subjective and prejudicial agenda of a

reconstructed minority in control of the Texas Division Command which intends to reduce our liberty to tyranny, **our Confederate traditions to Federal corruption**, our local camp autonomy to a top down domination on the division and national levels.

If you doubt this threat please take note of the blatant attempt by the Texas Division command to bypass the Texas Division Constitution in the matter of charges being filed against certain individuals who are refusing to be cowed by their rude assumptions of power in West Texas, which was on display at the Texas Division Reunion in Houston Texas in June 2014.

I and many of my compatriots in the Texas Division and beyond are deeply concerned by what we see happening to our beloved SCV. But the question remains. Was any of this necessary? Absolutely not! Was it avoidable? Absolutely! Was the Holley administration prepared or capable of acting in an objective manner in response to the Lubbock affair for the good and unity and peace of the Texas Division? I am sorry I do not believe it was ever possible with these men in charge.

My conversations with many of my compatriots across several state lines convey to me a common sense that what is at stake in the Lubbock Affair is not simply the fate of a small West Texas SCV camp but a larger battle whose smoke and fury is pouring off the Cap Rock and being driven East before the hot summer winds of the South Plains. That fire is the fire of a Confederate revival. That fire is burning away the dross of compromise and conciliation with the enemies of our Southern heritage. If God wills, from the cauldron of this smelting pot will pour forth men of courage and determination who refuse to bow before the Yankee idols and "swallow the Yankee dog".

The core principle which is at stake in this Confederacy wide conflict is the question, will the Sons of Confederate Veterans truly commit to fulfill the Charge and as a part of that will our compatriots "vindicate the Cause ". Or shall we allow ourselves to be so reconstructed in our view of our Southern and Confederate heritage that we can no longer affirm the justice or righteousness of the South's struggle for independence? In the mind of some of our compatriots the inordinate attachment to the US flag and the obsession with the pledge creates a conflict of priorities. To these compatriots who sense this conflict, their consciences require as a part of honoring the Charge that they abstain from pledging allegiance to the symbols of the Yankee Empire..

Some of our compatriots cannot or will not take the Charge and the duty it imposes upon us seriously. Though I am always optimistic that such men can grow in their understanding about who we are and what we ought to do as "Sons", I also believe that some of our number are not really "of us" and will always be an obstruction and a hindrance to the work, as well as disruptive of the peace and unity of our camps, brigades, and divisions. Somehow I am convinced that this dynamic is playing a part in fueling this persistent controversy that seems determined to create an unbridgeable rift in the ranks of the Texas Division.

The philosophical, cultural, spiritual, and political differences that mark the faction represented by the men of the current Texas Division leadership and the lowly shit kicking hard core Confederates of the burned out, windswept, plains of the Llano Estacado and those of their brand, are as distinguishable as the band box elite troops of Banks's 19th Corp in the "Overland Campaign" on the Bayou Teche in '63 from Richard Taylor's Texas and Louisiana swamp rats.

With that comparison in mind perhaps you may sympathize with my realistic appraisal that little hope ever existed of a conciliatory response to the Lubbock Affair from Holley and Co. Knowing what I know now the deteriorating sequence of events beginning with the now infamous February election in the Lubbock Camp was not only predictable but inevitable.

It is true not only from casual observation but also from Biblical revelation as well that men generally are what they are and rarely do they change. Thus when we hear and observe the conduct of the leadership of the Texas Division, alias Holley and Co., we can justifiably render a judgment about the kind of boys were dealing with.

For the future of the Texas Division and our beloved Confederacy, for its health spiritually and its effectiveness practically there must be a change in the direction toward which we are currently being led. Let us pray with all our hearts, with the spirits of our Confederate ancestors watching us, that the electoral process open to us in 2015 will provide

sweeping changes for the restoration of the unity, peace, fellowship, and fraternity which has been denied to the compatriots and camps of the Texas Division by the destructive measures and policies of the Holly administration.

Respectfully, I remain your most humble and obedient servant in the Cause of the South.

FORWARD THE COLORS !!!!

**Rocky Jim Sprott
Adjutant and Chaplain
High Plains Brigade
Texas Division, SCV**



Confederate President

Jefferson Davis

“Nothing fills me with deeper sadness than to see a Southern man apologizing for the defense we made of our inheritance.”

Wilmer L. Jones, *Generals in Blue and Gray*, Volume 2 (Stackpole Books, 2005), 34.

After the March DEC meeting, when it became clear that Joey Hernandez and his Camp weren't going to cave in to Division pressure, Johnnie Holley stopped responding to Commander Joey Hernandez's e-mails and answering his phone calls.

Below are two correspondences Joey sent to Division Commander Johnnie Holley to try to communicate and work with the Division Leadership, to no avail. **They were ignored.** Instead a Division officer had to be barred from further interference.

10 MARCH 2014
Col. Thomas S. Lubbock
Camp #1352
Sons of Confederate Veterans

After the D.E.C. Meeting Mr. Mike Walker and Mr. David McMahon, upon their bond, swore to Mr. Joseph Hernandez that the Lubbock Camp Constitution was void since the 1980's and thereby Mr. Hernandez could no long use the Constitution as a viable defense from their attacks.

A deal was struck to have another vote that was predicated on the condition that the Lubbock Camp had no Constitution. Nominations would be held in March and Election In April.

The following Monday, a call was made to Bryan Sharp at National Headquarters; who pulled the records indicating the Lubbock Camp indeed has a valid Charter and Constitution. **This proves yet another lie that was perpetrated by Mr. Walker and Mr. McMahon.**

The Executive Council, by the power of the Constitution (Article VI Section 1 Part C '*Rule on all questions affecting the election, eligibility, and conduct of members.*') The Executive Council made a decision that the election was valid and there will be no need for a second election.

Rule on all questions affecting the election..... is taken directly from the Sample ByLaws provided by Nationals and was amended to the Lubbock Camp Constitution on February 2014.

The Executive Council further derives its authority from the following:

From the National SCV Constitution,
All Camps shall have the full enjoyment of the right to govern themselves, provided that they shall be subject to this Constitution and the Standing Orders of the Confederation. Each Camp shall be the judge of its own members, subject to the provisions of this Constitution and Standing Orders.

From the Texas SCV Constitution,
All Camps shall have the full enjoyment of the Right to Govern Themselves.

If we in fact have the Right to Self Govern then the Executive Council stands by their decision that Mr. Joseph Hernandez is the Commander of the Col. Thomas S. Lubbock Camp.

Executive Council
Col. Thomas S Lubbock
Camp #1352
Sons of Confederate Veterans

24 March 2014
Johnnie Lee Holley
Commander
Headquarters Texas Division
Sons of Confederate Veterans

Dear Sir,

As the Commander of the Lubbock Camp, I have the following to report.

Prior to the meeting of 20 March, I was approached by Mr. David McMahan. He surprised me for I was under the impression that he was barred from attending. I agreed to meet with him, for this was the first time that he seemed to be willing to communicate with me. But he, in no uncertain terms, insulted my intelligence and leadership capability. After I heard enough, I slammed my hand on the table, rose to my feet and proceeded to the meeting.

Rapping my knuckles on the table, I called for the meeting to open. Not a single 'point of order' was called for, thereby those present accepted me as the Commander of the Camp. After the invocation, I proceed to call for the installation of officers. No sooner then the words left my mouth, Mr. Mike Moore and Mr. McMahan rose to their feet and began shouting across the room; members of the camp in turn, responded in kind in the defense of the camp.

A call was made for a closed meeting and for all visitors to leave at once. As the dust settled, Mr. Moore was the only outside influence to remain. I engaged Mr. Moore in a somewhat civil fashion. We agreed we were beyond the issues of constitution and elections, and on the table is a split camp. Although a split is a misnomer, for over half of the camp along with the Executive Council is backing me as the Commander.

Mr. Moore and I came to the agreement that I will remain as the Commander of the Lubbock Camp and Mr. Mike Walker is welcome to take over the Plainview Camp; this is contingent on Mr. Walker accepting the terms.

There are plenty of eyes watching the events unfolding within this camp. I did not ask for this fight, but a fight is what I have and I will not back down.

Joseph Lee Hernandez
Commander
Tom S. Lubbock Camp #1352
Sons of Confederate Veterans

David McMahan
3rd Lt. Commander
Headquarters Texas Division
Sons of Confederate Veterans

Sir,
This letter is to inform you that as of now you are barred from ever attending a meeting of the Lubbock Camp. Your outburst, constant disruption and unwarranted attacks upon this camp will no longer be tolerated.

Joseph Hernandez
Commander
Col. Thomas S. Lubbock Camp
Sons of Confederate Veterans

The Division Commander and those of his staff who have chosen this course of action have wasted precious time and energy pursuing this vendetta. It has also created anger and ill will across the division and resulted in the loss of respect and confidence by many compatriots for the leadership. Furthermore, it has instilled a lack of trust in the leadership to fairly administrate issues. They have interfered with local camp affairs without authority. They have deliberately misled a camp about the status of its charter in order to change the leadership, even telling the newly and properly elected commander that he did not have enough experience as a member to be a camp commander. These actions are most improper and they deserve to have charges brought against them for conduct unbecoming by the DEC or the Convention.

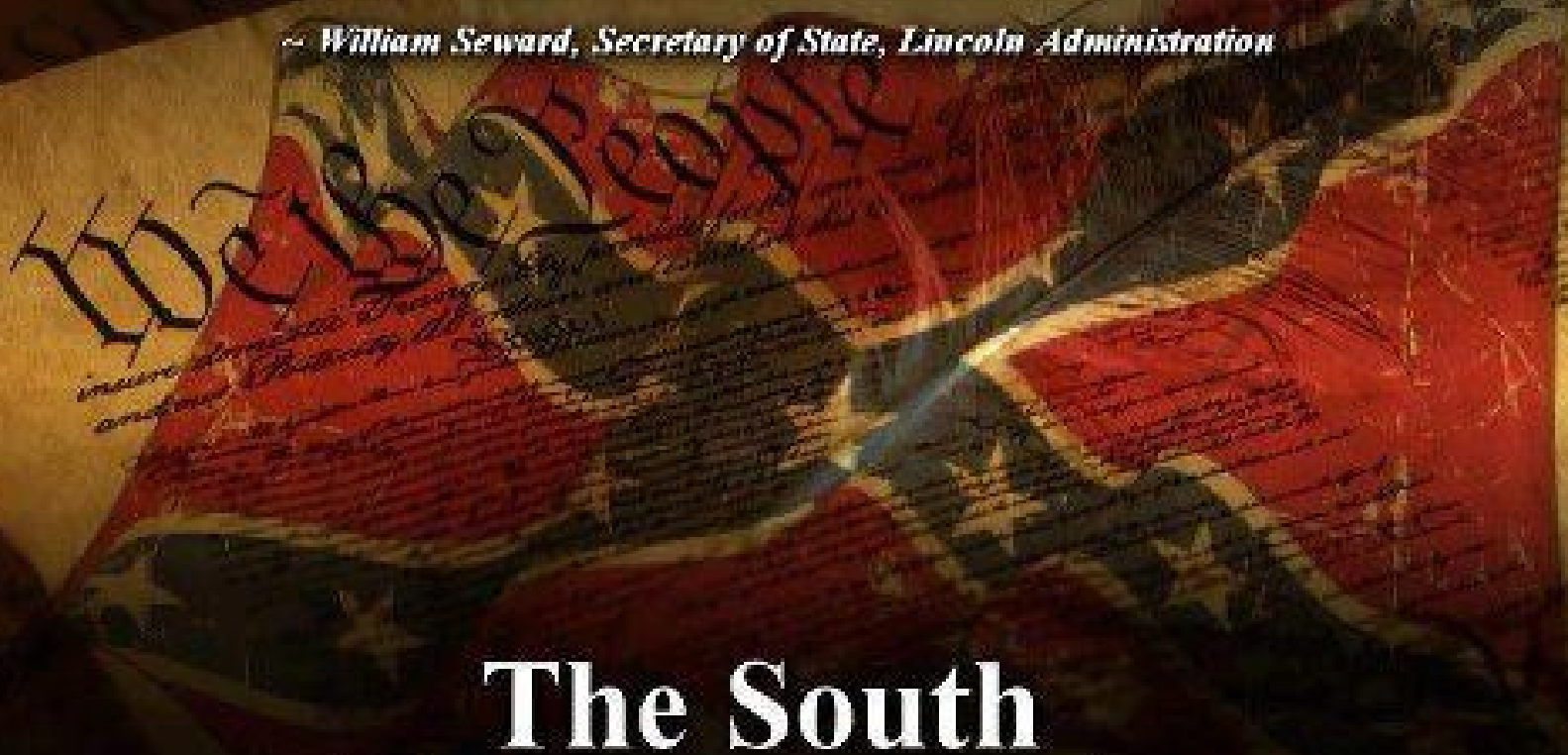
In questions of power, let no more be heard of confidence in man, but bind him down from mischief by the chains of the constitution.

Thomas Jefferson

The best course of action, then, is for the Texas Division officers to **RESIGN NOW** and turn **over the leadership** of the Texas Division to men who can restore confidence in the Division. In doing so, we can move forward with fulfilling the **CHARGE**.

"A written Constitution is dangerous to us in the North. The South is using it like a shield."

~ William Seward, Secretary of State, Lincoln Administration



The South

Fighting for the Constitution since 1861

An adventure-filled, Christ-centered,
week-long encampment for young folks
in the beautiful Texas Hill Country...

Sam Davis Youth Camp Clifton, Texas



Attention! Young Ladies & Gentlemen!

The Texas Division Sam Davis Youth Camp will be held

Sunday July 27th to Friday August 1st.

Three Mountain Retreat, 1648 FM 182, Clifton, TX 76634.

The deadline for applications is Monday Jul 21, 2014.

The Sam Davis Youth Camp offers an adventure-filled and Christ-centered week-long encampment for youth ages 12 thru 18, in a beautiful Texas hill-country setting. Sponsored by the Texas Division of the SCV, the 2014 camp is accepting applications. This annual event is comfortably hosted at the top of the Hill Country in central Texas at the beautiful Three Mountain Retreat, a scenic 260 acre privately owned Christian Conference Center near Clifton... all of which reflects the beauty of God's creation.

Why should your son or daughter attend the Sam Davis Youth Camp?

In a survey conducted by the Center for Survey Research and Analysis in 2000, 65% of college seniors failed to pass a high school equivalent American history test:

Only 23% correctly identified James Madison as the "Father of the Constitution."

Yet, 98% knew that "Snoop Doggy Dog" is a rapper.

Just over half, 52% knew that George Washington's Farewell Address warned against establishing permanent alliances with foreign governments.

Yet, 99% correctly identified Beavis & Butthead.

What to do?

Today, General Cleburne's words ring all too true. There is no question that the youth of today must run a terrible gauntlet, and that many are struck down along the way by one or more of the politically correct influences which flourish in our schools. Sometimes these youths are from the best homes, with strong families and religious training. With even the most conscientious parenting though, oftentimes in high school or college, even these best & brightest finally succumb to the liberal, politically correct view of history.

This summer, you can help turn the tide. For one week, our Southern young men and ladies (ages 12-20) will gather to hear the truths about the War for Southern Independence. This camp (named for the great young Confederate Sam Davis) will combine fun and recreation with thoughtful instruction in Southern history, the War Between the States, the theology of the South during the War, lessons on Southern heroes, examples of great men of the Faith, and special programs and sessions for our Southern ladies!

We urge you to take advantage of this great opportunity. It is our responsibility to teach our Southern history and culture to the future generations.

Great Activities

Morning Prayer & Devotions
Christian Values & Education
Motivating Guest Speakers
Safe & Friendly Environment
Fine Christian Fellowship
Comfortable Accommodations
Delicious & Nutritious Meals
Cannon & Musket Training
Swimming
Scenic Hayride
Horseback Riding
History Classes & Field Trips
Period Music & Dancing
Confederate Ball & Cotillion

... the week that I spent at the SDYC was one of the most enjoyable weeks of my life! ...

I will be going back again and again.

Andrew Dixon
Mountain View, Missouri

3 Easy Steps to Register!

1

Fill Out
Registration
Form

2

Contact
YOUR Camp
Commander

3

Email
Registration
to SCV
Headquarters

...OR if you are unable to pay & wish to apply for a SDYC Scholarship...

Scholarship

Application
Form

2

Contact
YOUR Camp
Commander

Mail-in

SDYC Registration
Post Office Box 59
Columbia, TN 38402

All Application Forms can be found here:

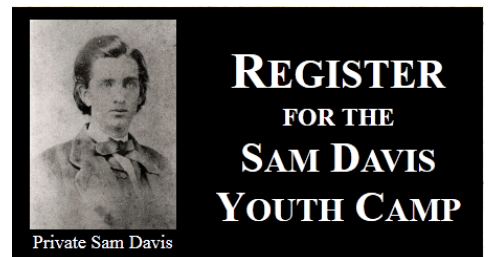
[Application Forms](#)

Scholarships may be available thru your SCV Home Camp.

Follow us on [Facebook](#)

For more information please contact:
The Texas Division Sam Davis Youth Camp Coordinator
Bruce Cunningham bvcunningham@gmail.com
(940) 394-6114.

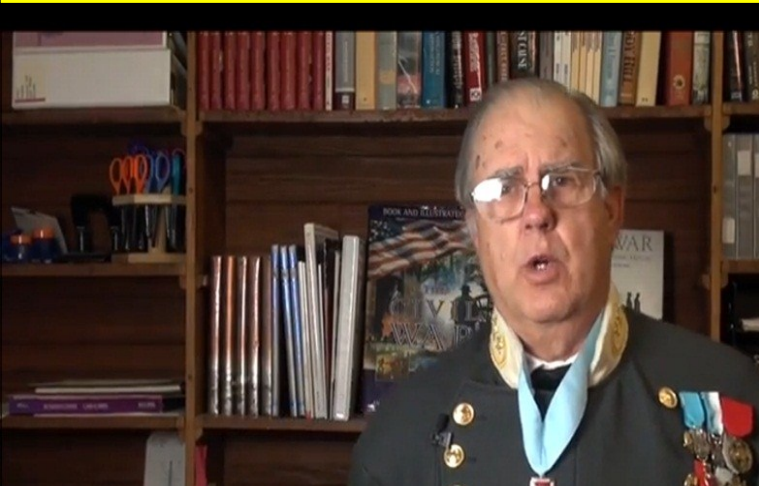
http://scvtexas.org/Sam_Davis_Youth_Camp.html



NEW Sam Davis Youth Camp Documentary Available



Confederate Documentary Producer Tom Ridenour has created an outstanding new video to promote the Sam Davis Youth Camp program. It makes an excellent stand-alone presentation that can be used at camp meetings to inform members about the benefits and opportunities for our youth at the SCV Sam Davis Youth Camps. The video can be viewed and downloaded at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=snuT8MgGbtK>



Do you have an ancestor that was a Confederate Veteran?

Are you interested in honoring them and their cause?

Do you think that history should reflect the truth?

Are you interested in protecting your heritage and its symbols?

Will you commit to the vindication of the cause for which they fought?

If you answered "Yes" to these questions, then you should "Join Us"

Membership in the Sons of Confederate Veterans is open to all male descendants of any veteran who served honorably in the Confederate armed forces regardless of the applicant's or his ancestor's race, religion, or political views.

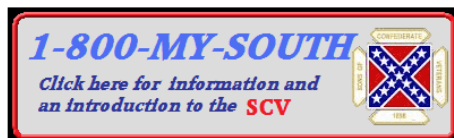
How Do I Join The Sons of Confederate Veterans?



The SCV is the direct heir of the United Confederate Veterans, and the oldest hereditary organization for male descendants of Confederate soldiers. Organized at Richmond, Virginia in 1896, the SCV continues to serve as a historical, patriotic, and non-political organization dedicated to ensuring that a true history of the 1861-1865 period is preserved.



Membership in the Sons of Confederate Veterans is open to all male descendants of any veteran who served honorably in the Confederate States armed forces and government.



Membership can be obtained through either lineal or collateral family lines and kinship to a veteran must be **documented genealogically**. The minimum age for full membership is 12, but there is no minimum for Cadet Membership.

<http://www.scv.org/research/genealogy.php>

CHARGE TO THE SONS OF CONFEDERATE VETERANS

"To you, Sons of Confederate Veterans, we will commit the vindication of the cause for which we fought. To your strength will be given the defense of the Confederate soldier's good name, the guardianship of his history, the emulation of his virtues, the perpetuation of those principles which he loved and which you love also, and those ideals which made him glorious and which you also cherish." Remember it is your duty to see that the true history of the South is presented to future generations".

Lt. General Stephen Dill Lee,
Commander General

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