

# THE GRIFFIN MESSENGER

OCTOBER 2013 VOLUME 1, ISSUE 2

COLONEL W.H. GRIFFIN CAMP #2235

ARLINGTON, TEXAS

UNRECONSTRUCTED AND UNAPOLOGETIC ABOUT OUR HERITAGE



## 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 represented to future generations.

Lt. General Stephen Dill Lee  
Commander-General  
United Confederate Veterans  
New Orleans, 25 April, 1906

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## OFFICERS AND STAFF

Commander: Jeff Western  
Lt. Commander: Jerry Puckett  
Adjutant: Don Brannon  
Chaplain: Bill Agerton  
Communications Officer: Jack Dyess  
Editor: Jerry Puckett

## Our Next Meeting:

Our next meeting will be Tuesday, October 1. It will be held at Don Cruz Seafood and Pasta, 3155 Denton Highway, Haltom City, TX. Meeting time is 7:00 P.M. We meet around 6 for dinner.

**THIS WILL BE A SPECIAL MEETING.** Division Commander Johnny Holly and hopefully Brigade Commander Calvin Allen will be there to present us with our Charter.

**Jack Dyess is going to give his program on the 2nd Battle of Sabine Pass as well.**

# COMMANDER'S REPORT

Hello Compatriots and Friends,

I would like to thank everyone for the great turnout at our first Saturday morning meeting. Larry Martin donated seven flags to the Camp for us to use at our meetings. In turn, the money I donated, plus what others had donated to go towards the flags, was used to help pay for the flags that we placed at the Birdville Cemetery. After the meeting seven of us joined Larry at the cemetery to learn and help chart out the cemetery. It was hot but very interesting on all that goes into it.

I would like to see as many that can, to wear uniforms to our October 1st meeting for our chartering. This not required at all. I do know we will have many out of town guests traveling in to attend and support us.

While in Canton Texas this past week I was able to get a sneak preview of the program on Sabine Pass that Jack is going present at our next meeting. Our Camp is very well thought of and supported by the Camps out that way.

Once again I would like to thank the members for everything they do. As I have said from the beginning when we first thought of forming the Camp, it belongs to every member and if you have any ideas on something you would like to see happen, just let us know.

Jeff Western  
Commander W.H. Griffin Camp #2235



# Lt. COMMANDER'S REPORT

## FLAGS!

Greetings Friends and Compatriots,

At our last meeting 3rd Brigade Guardian Larry Martin from the W.T. Lanham Camp in Weatherford gave a great program on the purpose of the Guardian Program along with basics on locating, recording the location, marking, and honoring the graves of our Confederate Ancestors.

After the meeting a group of us joined Larry at the Birdville Cemetery. There he showed us how he first sets up "camp" with his group of flags. Larry says a lot of times people will see them and stop to see what's going on. He has actually recruited new members this way. We managed to chart about 1/4 of the cemetery that day. Larry went back the next week and completed this task. We did honor all soldiers, even one Union who wound up buried between two Confederates!



I am attempting to "adopt" a local Arlington cemetery, Rehoboth. I placed battle flags on two graves recently and I'm sorry to report that one of them has been removed. I'm hoping it was because someone saw the "cool Rebel Flag" and decided they needed it. In the back of my mind I'm afraid they did because of what the "Confederate Flag" stands for, which brings up a subject of my report.

Until I joined the SCV I always associated the Battle Flag with the Confederacy. I thought that WAS the official Flag of the Southern States UNTIL I visited the Dixie Cemetery in Grayson County, just north of Whitesboro and saw these Confederate looking flags on a few graves. My Confederate Ancestor is interred there, my reason for going.

I took some pictures of his grave and those Confederate looking flags. Kyle Sims informed me they were Third National Flags. "Third"? I asked. Kyle gave me a brief history of the three different flags used by the South. Wow, I had NO idea. As I've said before, I never knew how ignorant I was, and still are, until I started learning.

Now, this is where I may step on some toes. I have a problem with us giving the pledge to the Battle Flag at meetings. I don't have a problem with it being displayed with pride, but I personally think we should be saluting either the First or preferably the Third National. The South never officially surrendered so the Third is still OUR Flag and I think that's the one we should be pledging at functions. Just my opinion, and you know what they say about opinions!

I have a flagpole mounted over my garage door and I love flying different flags. Some are whimsical, some to make a statement, but mostly different Confederate Flags I enjoy flying. I'm sure my neighbors are confused. Currently I have the American Flag flying. Probably the next one to go up will be the Flag of the Trans Mississippi. I figure the reversed colors really confuses the uninformed.

What flags do you fly at your home? If not, why not? It's another way to show your Southern Pride!

Sincerely,  
Jerry Puckett  
Lt. Commander and Editor

# September Meeting



New member Fred Wells (L) was sworn in and received his membership certificate.



New member Jim McDaniel (R) and one of our founding members Mike Brazell

New associate member Charles Harrison, new auxiliary member Zoe' Harrison and the beautiful Miss Phoebe Harrison



The Brannon Family was well represented. Don (L) is our Adjutant as well as a founding member of the new Camp. Center is new member Nic Brannon. Right is new auxiliary member Celia Brannon.

# UPCOMING EVENTS

**Oct. 1:** W.H. Griffin meeting. See announcement on front page for more information.

**Oct. 5:** Memorial dedication, Oakwood cemetery, 701 Grand Ave, Ft Worth. 10:00 AM. This is a big ceremony with people flying in from out of State. We need men in uniform to help with Color Guard and a musket volley.

**Nov. 2:** W.H. Griffin meeting. This will be a Saturday morning meeting AND we will nominate and vote on officers for 2014. Be there to cast your vote!

**Nov. 2:** Statewide Mech Cav gathering at the Little River Cemetery, 421 FM 979 "Jones Prairie", in Milam County. Cemetery sets off of Hwy. 979 between Belmena and Cross Roads. This is to honor Confederate Veteran Manon S. Jolly. "Manse" rode with JEB Stuart's Cavalry under Wade Hampton. He was the epitome of the Unreconstructed Rebel. Because he was wanted in his home State of S. Carolina he relocated to Central Texas. Unfortunately, at the age of 29, he and his beloved horse Dixie drowned in the flooded waters of the Little River. All SCV members and friends are invited.

**Nov. 16:** 9:00 AM - 4:00 PM, Johnson County 150th Anniversary, Cleburne Courthouse.

**Nov. 17:** Douglas / Hubbard Memorial, Oakwood Cemetery, Tyler.

## AREA CAMP MEETING DATES

**Patrick R. Cleburne Camp #436** meets 1st Monday, 7:00 PM at the United Co-operative Service Building, 3309 N. Main, Cleburne.

**Gen. W. R. Scurry Camp #606** meets 2nd Monday, 6:30 PM at the China Star Restaurant, 1024 Central Fwy, Wichita Falls.

**Albert Sidney Johnson Camp #983** meets 2nd Tuesday, 7:00 PM at the Wesley Center, 201 E. Main St., Decatur.

**Middleton Tate Johnson Camp #1648** meets 2nd Thursday, 7:00 PM at the Division St. Diner, 1800 W. Division, Arlington.

**R. E. Lee Camp #239** meets 3rd Monday, 7:00 PM at the Ol' South Pancake House 1509 S. University Dr., Ft Worth.

**Gov. W. T. Lanham Camp #586** meets 4th Monday, 7:00 PM at Granny's Kitchen, 1802 S. Santa Fe, Weatherford.

**Col. E. W. Taylor Camp #1777** meets 4th Thursday, 7:00 PM at Catfish Co. Restaurant, 900 Airport Fwy, N. Richland Hills

# BIRDVILLE CEMETERY CEREMONY



The 21st Texas Color Guard

# The Journey of Henry Harrison Nelsons Grave Marker

By

Larry Martin

Texas Division, 3<sup>rd</sup> Brigade Guardian

Treasurer and Graves Registrar

Governor Samuel W T Lanham Camp 586

Weatherford Texas

Henry H. Nelson was born on 25 Feb 1842 in Pulaski County Missouri. He grew up there, married Malinda Ann Story in 1861 and joined the Union Army on 3 January 1863 and was assigned to Company H, 25th Missouri Infantry. On 22 November 1863 he was transferred to Company M 1<sup>st</sup> Missouri Engineer Regiment and assigned as an Artificer. An Artificer is a craftsman whose skill allows him to design and build whatever is needed for the mission. After the war he and his wife moved to Cooke County Texas and began a new life, and soon moved to Newport, Texas in northern Jack County until his death on 31 March 1923.

He was buried in Post Oak cemetery and in time his wife and one child were buried next to him in this quiet cemetery. A civilian marker of a higher quality was placed on his grave and his time on earth was over. Sometime in 1963 a relative ordered a Veterans Marker in Marble, inscribed to denote his service to the U S in the War Between the States.

It was shipped to County Judge J.F. Middleton of Jack County sometime in 1964 and from there its own journey began. Normally Veterans stones are placed by the local Funeral home or Monument Company but this did not happen to Private Nelson's marker. Nope it never was installed; it resides in its original wooden crate in my shop right now, still on its journey to its rightful place. Somehow when Judge Middleton passed away it was sold in a garage sale to a couple who sell at flea markets and they began offering this "Civil War" marker for sale.

Years pass and there were no takers until recently. Compatriot Tim Scott of the Lee-Bourland Camp 1848 of Gainesville Texas was at the Second Monday trade days in Bowie Texas and spotted the stone still in its crate, for sale. He inquired about its past and then introduced himself as a Denton, Texas Police Officer. During the conversation Tim told the couple about the Federal penalties for possession of, and for selling VA Markers. And the couple generously donated it to the Lee Bourland Camp. The camp adjutant Joe White was telling 3<sup>rd</sup> Brigade Commander Calvin Allen about it and Commander Allen called me.

After speaking to Joe White I contacted Compatriot Tim Scott and drove up to meet him in Decatur and picked up the stone and brought it home with me.

Last week I drove to Post Oak Cemetery and found Private Nelsons grave, planted a flag in his honor and began planning a dedication ceremony for this man. I will go install the stone in the next few days and survey the Cemetery at the same time.

I will be contacting the Sons of Union Veterans to have them participate and of course all SCV members will be invited too. This should get media attention that is favorable for the SCV and also spur those with Confederate roots in Jack County to join us.

It has been an interesting journey for this man's VA Marker, he earned it and deserves it and it will be on his grave where it belongs. I hope every camp in the Texas Division who can make it will be there, alongside our Sons of Union Veteran friends. This will demonstrate to the community at large that we are a heritage organization, that we respect and honor all Veterans and that we are indeed Gentleman of the South by showing our respect.

As 3<sup>rd</sup> Brigade Guardian, I always place the appropriate flag on ALL Veterans graves, U S Flag, Texas Flag and Confederate Flag and I only purchase American made ones, as a show of support for our countrymen. I honor "The Charge" when I survey a cemetery, I honor "The Charge" when I assist a fellow Compatriot sign up to guard a Confederate Heroes grave, and I honor "The Charge" when people stop by the graveyard I am in to ask about the flags I fly in honor of our heroes. I tell them the truth about the War, about how they need to research the family tree and see how many of their family served the South and how honoring them, even in today's wired society is still worth doing.

Deo Vendice and FORWARD THE COLORS!

Larry Martin.

# SEPTEMBER MEETING MINUTES

## Colonel William H. Griffin, SCV Camp #2235 Arlington, Texas

### Minutes: Meeting #4 Second Regular Meeting Camp #2235, 9/7/2013

- Commander Western called the meeting to order at 9:36 AM at Don Cruz's.
- The total attendance was 16 including nine members:

Bill Agerton  
Don Brannon  
Mike Brazell

Dorothy Casten  
Ken Casten

Jack Dyess  
Jerry Puckett

Jeff Western  
Freddie Wells

- Chaplain Bill Agerton led the invocation.
- Pledges were made to the U. S. Flag led by Don Brannon and Texas flag led by Jerry Puckett and the salute was made to the Confederate flag led by Mike Brazell.
- Commander Jeff Western read the Charge to the Sons of Confederate Veterans, as given by Lt. General Stephen D. Lee at the April 25<sup>th</sup>, 1906, reunion of the United Confederate Veterans.
- Commander Western recognized seven visitors:

Mercedes Agerton  
Celia Brannon  
Nic Brannon

Charles Harrison  
Zoe Harrison  
Larry Martin

Jim McDaniel

- Treasurer Jack Dyess administered the SCV Oath of Membership to Freddie Wells.
- A program was presented by Larry Martin concerning Cemetery Surveys.
- The adjutant's report was given by Adjutant Don Brannon which indicated we now have 16 members including five auxiliary members.
- The treasurer's report was made by Jack Dyess. Both checking and savings accounts were opened at Frost Bank for a total monthly service charge of \$5.00.

The beginning balance in the checking account on August 1 <sup>st</sup> was	\$580.00	
Received	\$585.00	
Transferred to savings	<u>\$500.00</u>	
Balance in the checking account as of August 31 <sup>st</sup>		\$665.00
The beginning balance in the savings account on August 1 <sup>st</sup> was	\$0.00	
Received	\$500.00	
Expended	<u>\$0.00</u>	
Balance in the savings account as of August 31 <sup>st</sup>		<u>\$500.00</u>
Total balance in all accounts as of August 31 <sup>st</sup>		\$1,165.00
Accounts payable:	\$175.00	
Accounts receivable:	<u>-( \$215.00 )</u>	
Funds Available:		<u>\$910.00</u>

- Announcements:
  1. Kirt Barnett's father died and his funeral will be held next Tuesday. More details as to time and place will be emailed as soon as they are known.
  2. We have received our new charter reflecting the name "Colonel William H. Griffin Camp #2235."

3. Larry Martin will conduct a Cemetery Survey training session at the Birdville Cemetery immediately following the meeting.
4. Texas Division Commander Johnnie Holley will conduct a Chartering Ceremony at our meeting on Tuesday, October 1<sup>st</sup>. Dinning will begin at 6:00 PM with the program beginning at 7:00 PM.
5. Jack Dyess will present a power point presentation concerning the Battles of Galveston and Sabine Pass including the role of our camp's namesake.

- Previous business: None

- New business:

1. Motion made, seconded and passed to approve five membership applications. Each of the following individuals were approved by secret ballot:

- Nic Brannon – regular member (new SCV member)
- Jim McDaniel – regular member (transfer from camp #1648)
- Charles Harrison – associate member
- Celia Brannon – auxiliary member
- Zoe Harrison – auxiliary member

*[This brings our total membership to 21 including seven auxiliary and one associate.]*

2. Motion made, seconded and passed to make the following individuals honorary members in recognition of their advice and assistance in forming the new camp:

- Johnnie Holley, Commander, Texas SCV Division
- Gary Bray, Lieutenant Commander, Texas SCV Division
- Calvin Allen, Commander, 3<sup>rd</sup> Brigade, Texas SCV Division

**[NOTE: An Honorary Membership is a limited membership to recognize an individual who has provided exception service and assistance to the Colonel William H. Griffin Camp #2235. It provides no benefits and privileges of camp membership other than the right to participate in camp functions and activities, It does **not** include the right to 1) serve on any committee 2) discuss any issue at any meeting, 3) vote on any issue, 4) hold any office in the camp, or 5) attend special called meetings.]**

3. Commander Jeff Western appointed the following members to serve on a "Christmas Party Planning Committee" to make plans for and coordinate preparations for a Camp Christmas Party:

- a. Diane Dyess, chair
- b. Celia Brannon
- c. Zoe Harrison

- Benediction led by Chaplin Bill Agerton.

- Meeting adjourned by Commander Jeff Western at 10:47 AM

-

# A Disease in the Public Mind: A New Understanding of Why We Fought the Civil War

BY TERRY HULSEY

Dramatically written, Thomas Fleming's book just published in May of this year will be one of the easiest and liveliest reads you'll have. Fleming, president of the Rockford Institute, lives up to his well-known reputation as a defender of tradition, and to the slur of being a "neo-Confederate," in this book that documents the compelling reasons that the War Between the States was fought.

His unique understanding is that the War was fought between a Puritan minority that resented Southern ascendancy and a South that deeply feared a repetition of the slave revolts of Haiti in 1791–1804. Of the first group, Fleming says:

Perhaps the most amazing — and dismaying — aspect of this raging final stage of the abolitionist disease in the public mind was the relatively small number of men who perpetrated it. One of slavery's best historians [David Brion Davis, *The Slave Power Conspiracy*, p.62] estimates that the paranoid phase of the campaign was launched by little more than twenty-five people. [p.179, hardcover]

This "paranoid phase" began in the 1830s when William Lloyd Garrison decided to demonize the South as the land of laziness, violence, and interracial sexual lust, and as "The Slave Power" that would enforce these vices on all of America.

As for Southern motivations, Fleming comes to terms with the apparent oddity of virtually all Southern men being willing to fight to the death for institutionalized slavery when only 4% of the white population owned slaves. Fleming's percentage is the lowest I've read, and of course the percentage varied by state, but in any case everyone agrees that nowhere near half of white Southerners owned slaves. This seems astounding. Why was it so? Fleming:

[V]ery few understood why the southern poor men were fighting so ferociously: their fear that black emancipation would be a prelude to a race war. [p.302]

Citing newspapers, politicians, and other contemporaries, Fleming gives evidence that the bloody Haitian slave revolt of 1791–1804 (usually referred to as "San Domingo" or "St. Domingo" or "Saint-Domingue"), the slave uprisings in the South (Denmark Vesey, 1822; Nat Turner, 1831), and the intention to cause and arm a slave revolt of John Brown in 1859, all inspired fear of a race war, especially in states like South Carolina where the proportion of whites was smallest:

Slave patrols [a nightly feature of Southern life since the early 1830s] are convincing evidence that Thomas Jefferson's nightmare — the dread of a race war — had become a fixture in the southern public mind. [p.160]

If abolitionists were such a tiny minority, why couldn't the majority fashion a compromise over the issue of slavery? Of course they did try. Some of the readers of this journal will be dismayed that Fleming places Lincoln in the group of moderates that tried to do just this. Of course a compelling alternate view is that Lincoln was no moderate, but rather a consummate politico with his finger in the wind. Here were some of the proposals that tried to avert the disaster:

- In 1786, Thomas Jefferson wanted no slavery in any new state formed after 1800. [p.49]
- During the Constitutional debates in 1787, a committee introduced a compromise to allow slavery until 1808, when Congress would decide to end or keep it. [p.53]
- In 1816, two Presbyterian clergymen formed the American Colonization Society, organized to send slaves back to Liberia. By 1830, only 1,500 blacks had emigrated under its auspices, and in any case the abolition of slavery was never a part of the society's program. [p.89]
- At various times lawmakers suggested that Congress had the authority to regulate slavery in the states, so could end it as they chose fit, regardless of any states' rights. But if that were true, said in Jefferson around 1820, "all the whites south of the Potomac and the Ohio must evacuate their states, and most fortunate will be those who can do it first." That is, to do so would unleash a race war. [p.94]
- Jefferson and Madison, out of office, came to support "diffusion," the notion that the wider slavery was spread, the better able the country would be to finance emancipation, which both agreed must come. In this they were influenced by fellow Virginian St. George Tucker. [p.94] Ex-president John Tyler also came to support "diffusionism." [p.165]
- The new president of Haiti, Jean-Pierre Boyer, offered to pay the transportation of any American slave to settle there. About 6,000 blacks took up this offer, far more than the American Colonization Society. [p.96]
- The British government abolished slavery in the West Indies in 1831 by paying 20 million pounds to free 850,000 slaves. [p.110] This idea of compensated emancipation was taken up by several parties in America, including Lincoln, who proposed it in a House bill in 1846, which never made it to the floor. [p.173] He proposed it again in the middle of the War, in 1862, offering compensated emancipation to any state, even if in rebellion, that would abolish slavery gradually by 1900. [p.297]
- Thomas Jefferson Randolph, grandson to Thomas Jefferson, proposed gradual emancipation. Starting July 4, 1840, all slaves born in Virginia were to become state property when they reach maturity. They would be hired out to pay for their deportation outside the United States. [p.123]
- Stephen A. Douglas of Illinois introduced the idea of "Popular Sovereignty" in 1854. It would allow each state to decide the question of slavery for itself. The problem was that proponents of both sides would flood the would-be state with its partisans, as for example when the abolitionists financed men like John Brown to settle in Kansas when

the issue was before that legislature, providing the weapons he used to murder and terrorize communities in that state. [p.195]

- David Wilmot's Proviso of 1846 stipulated that there would be no slavery in lands acquired from Mexico after the Mexican-American War (1846-1848). Though not offered as such, it is the conceptual opposite of diffusionism: It would allow the slave population to grow in slave states until those states were forced to deal with the issue. [p.172]
- Many politicians proposed extending slavery to the Pacific along the old Missouri Compromise line of 36'30", which would permanently divide the United States into a slave-free North and a slaveholding South. [p.260]

Of all the above proposals, just one or two addressed the problem of emancipation in a serious way. Probably compensated emancipation stands out as most promising. Most of the others would not have freed a single slave. This blindness is actually not surprising, considering the fact that virtually none of those proposing emancipation considered the black an equal, including the abolitionists. Everyone was caught between the moral self-righteousness of the North, refusing to consider the practical result of emancipation; and the fear of armed blacks murdering families in the South, unable to think that any proposal would keep them safe. There was no statesman large enough to overcome the contending passions: The blind passion of the mind and the fearful passion of the heart.

Author: Thomas Fleming.

Publisher: Da Capo/Perseus Books Group.

Paperback: \$16.19, Amazon.

Hardcover: \$15.85, Amazon.

ISBN: 0306821265.

### **Distinguished Camp #2235 Supporters**

The following individuals are greatly appreciated and deserving of special recognition as they have gone beyond what is expected by making financial donations to support the many activities and programs of our camp during the period of June 1, 2013 and August 31, 2014.

Dixie Donor: \$5.00 - \$24.99  
Terry Hulsey Mike Brazell David Soriano  
Marvin & Shirley Applewhite

Rebel Donor: \$25.00 - \$49.99  
Bill Agerton Celia & Don Brannon

Birthright Donor: \$50.00 - \$74.99  
Diane & Jack Dyess

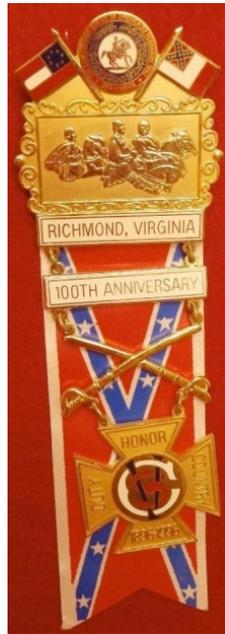
Heritage Donor: \$75.00 - \$99.99

Legacy Donor : \$100.00 or more  
Jeff Western Jerry Puckett

# The Collector's Corner

## SCV 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Medal

By Don Brannon



The medal pictured here is one of only two that I have ever seen. Its theme illustrates the founding of the SCV. Richmond was the site of the founding of the Sons of Confederate Veterans, and also hosted the organization's 100th Anniversary Convention. Organized in 1896 in Richmond, Virginia, the Sons of Confederate Veterans is the oldest organization for male descendants of Confederate soldiers. The medal has a brass cross on the bottom, with enameled letters SCV in the center. Also on the cross are the words, Duty- Honor- Country. The cross is suspended by cavalry sabers, and two bars with the founding city Richmond, Virginia, and 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary on them. The top has a band of cavalry troopers, I believe them to be General Lee and his troopers. In addition, the top includes an enameled Confederate States seal, flanked by the first and last flags of the Confederacy. The back drop ribbon is reminiscent of British military medals, and is the Confederate Naval Standard. This is a very sharp and hard to find medal, and it stands out from other convention medals because of its uniqueness. At this year's National Convention a medal like this was being offered for sale at \$150.00. I am sure that this medal was given to those who attended the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary in Richmond, but I have not been able to find any proof of this.

