



Clarion Call

Texas Society, Military Order of Stars & Bars

Volume 11, Issue 1,

February in the Year of Our Lord 2015

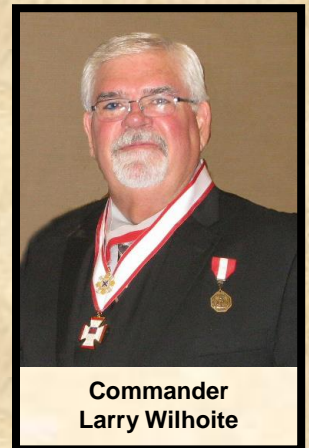
THE TEXAS SOCIETY COMMANDER'S REPORT

Larry L. Wilhoite, Commander

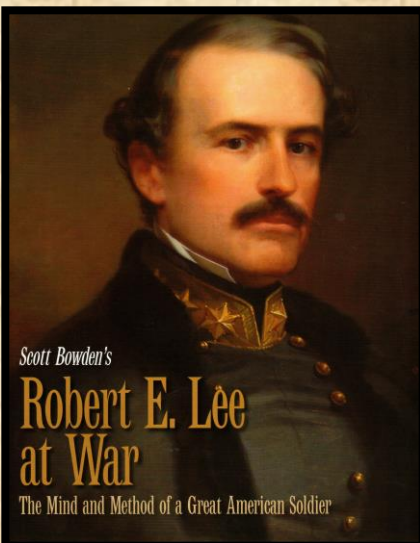
Greetings Compatriots:

This will be my last chance to address you before my term as commander concludes with the 2015 Convention. It has been a great honor to serve these past two years. I have had the opportunity to meet many of our compatriots from across the state and have enjoyed it tremendously.

Our convention will be held April 24-25 at the Homewood Suites by Hilton, 6350 Overton Ridge Blvd., Fort Worth. The guest speaker will be Scott Bowden, co-author of *Last Chance for Victory: Robert E. Lee and the Gettysburg Campaign* and author of *Robert E. Lee at War: The Mind and Method of a Great American Soldier*.



Commander
Larry Wilhoite



A limited number of suites have been blocked so please make your hotel reservations before April 3rd. We have negotiated a rate of \$99 for a King Suite and \$109 for a double Queen Suite. A free full hot breakfast is included. Reservations can be made by calling 817-585-1160 and asking for the MOS rate. I am looking forward to a great turnout. [See pages 8 and 9 for more information and registration.]

As you know, last year the Texas Society awarded its first ever college scholarship. We will have a raffle again this year with all proceeds going directly to the Texas Society Scholarship Fund. If you would like to donate something for the raffle, please bring it with you. This should be great fun and go to a worthy cause.

We will be electing new officers for the 2015-2017 term so you will want to be present to participate. Please see the column on Election 2015 for details if you wish to run for commander or lieutenant commander. [See page 7.]

Our numbers have been dwindling over the past few years. In order that the Texas Society can grow, we need to come up with innovative methods to recruit and retain more compatriots. We also need to reach out to those

who have left our ranks and encourage them to renew their membership. Please help your leadership grow our ranks.

I look forward to seeing you in April.

Deo Vindice!
Larry Wilhoite, Commander



TEXAS SOCIETY OFFICERS

Commander: Larry Wilhoite, l.wilhoite@sbcglobal.net

Chief of Staff: Bob Davidson, graycirce@gmail.com

Adjutant: Jay Dean Bowden, jaygdyr@yahoo.com

Genealogist: Jim Templin, hjtemp@sbcglobal.net

Communications officer: Glenn Toal, glennsuzy@gmail.com

Chaplain: Jim Templin, jtemp@sbcglobal.net

Inspector General: Steve von Roeder, steve.vonroeder@austinenergy.com

Color Sergeant: Pat Fogerson, sulrossrebel@yahoo.com

Clarion Call Editor: Jack Dyess, jplsail@earthlink.net

Parliamentarian: Gary M. Loudermilk, gmlidl@harrisbb.com

Webmaster: Gary L. Loudermilk, mosb264@valomet.com

TEXAS SOCIETY CHAPTERS

#5 Albert Sidney Johnston – Houston, Commander: John Burdine, jtburdine@gmail.com

#68 Felix H. Robertson – Ft. Worth, Commander: Charles Patrick Fogerson, sulrossrebel@yahoo.com

#121 Haley-Holt – Midland, Commander: James Evetts Haley, ehjrbeefeater@att.net

#184 Lawrence Sullivan Ross – San Antonio, Commander: Max Strozier, maxstrozier@gmail.com

#261 Col. Richard Bennett Hubbard – Tyler, Commander: Dennis Brand, hobobrand@gmail.com

#264 Major John Loudermilk – Comanche, Commander: Gary L. Loudermilk, gldesign@airmail.net

#273 Colonel W. H. Parsons – Ennis, Commander: Larry L. Wilhoite, l.wilhoite@sbcglobal.net

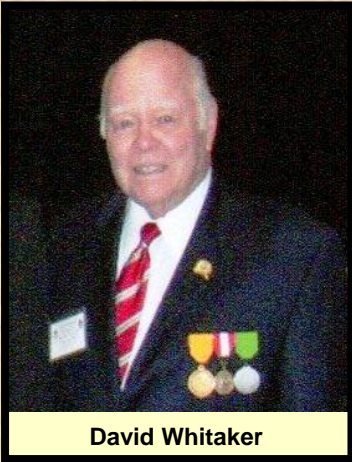
#276 Colonel Benjamin H. Norsworthy – Orange, Commander: Granvel J. Block, granvelb@gt.rr.com

#279 Colonel Benjamin Morris-Ft. Worth, Commander: William R. Morris, 817-626-9039



THE SOUTHERN HERITAGE BALL

David Whitaker



David Whitaker

The 48th annual Southern Heritage Ball celebrated the 208th birthday of General Robert E. Lee on January 24, 2015 at the River Oaks Country Club in Houston, Texas. The celebration was attended by 250 compatriots of Southern history all decked out in black tie for this event. The Debutante Ball is a fundraiser with the purpose to raise money for worthwhile projects and causes to preserve our Southern history and heritage. In the past ten years, the Ball has raised \$180,000 for this purpose. All the Southern heritage organizations are represented on various committees.

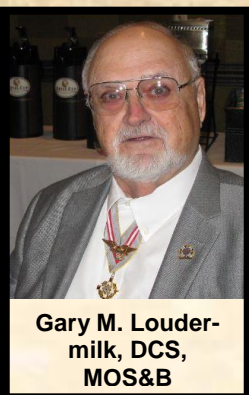
Those in attendance read like a who's who of Texas Compatriots. Those in attendance from the Military Order of the Stars and Bars were Don Lee, Dr. Robert Griffon, Raymond Holder, Paul Wait, Jim Templin, John Moncure, Glenn Toal, Jack Dyess, Captain Mickey Casterline, Dr. Jon Burdine, Mark Strong (President of the Ball), Shelby Stocks and David Whitaker.

The Military Order of the Stars & Bars provided the Color Guard as they have in previous years. Pictured below, left to right are Jack Dyess, Tom Jones, Glenn Toal and Jim Templin.



MAJOR JOHN, CSA

Gary M. Loudermilk



**Gary M. Loudermilk, DCS,
MOS&B**

This is an account of one of the many thousands of patriots who stepped forward when their homeland was attacked. For now this soldier will be known simply as "John." All the pertinent information contained in this article about John was obtained from the National Archives in Washington D.C. and/or the Georgia State Archives in Atlanta. This is his story and, in many ways, the story of a multitude of men just like him.

John was born in Knox County, Tennessee in 1829. His family moved to Union County (now Bartow County) Georgia ca. 1840. On April 30, 1854, John married Susan Smith and they settled in Cassville, Ga. Cassville at the time was one of the thriving trading centers in northwest Georgia. The town boasted 3 colleges among numerous other enterprises.

In 1861 John, now 32 years old, and Susan had settled down to a pleasant and satisfying life. Their family had grown and they now had two young sons, Tate and Hardy, and would soon expect a third son who they would name Walter. John had become a successful local businessman. Records indicate he owned and operated a hotel, livery stable and other related establishments. He is also known to have speculated in land in and around Cassville. John, like 95% of the population in Union County, owned no slaves. There were only a handful of planters in the area whose operations were large enough to use slave labor. However, at their owner's request, John did sometimes employ slaves in his hotel or stables during the "off-season" when there was minimal work available on the farms. This allowed the slaves to earn a little money to spend as they chose.

After watching many of his younger relatives and friends join the Confederate forces, on June 14, 1861, John enlisted as a private in Company K, 18th Regiment, Georgia Volunteer Infantry, Army of Tennessee. The 18th Infantry Regiment had been organized during the spring of 1861 with slightly more than 750 men. Its companies were recruited in the counties of Cobb, Newton, Stephens, Jackson, and Dooly. The regiment was ordered to Virginia and first served under General Wigfall, then was brigaded under Hood, T.R.R. Cobb, Wofford, and DuBose. John enlisted at Etowah, Ga. and his enlisting Officer was Colonel Wofford. One of his brothers, Henry Clay, enlisted with him in Company K. John saw no battle action during the short time he was with the 18th but his brother Henry Clay remained with that unit until he lost a leg at Cold Harbor and sat out the rest of the war. Many more of John's brothers and other relatives served in the War, primarily in Georgia and North Carolina regiments.

John was appointed Regimental Sergeant of the 18th Regiment on October 2, 1861. Then, on March 11, 1862, he left the 18th and formed Company D in the 36th Infantry Regiment. The 36th Regiment had been organized at Dalton, Georgia, during the winter of 1861-1862 with many officers and men from the Dalton area. Records show that it was sent to Tennessee, and then moved to Mississippi where it served in T.H. Taylor's Brigade, Department of Mississippi and East Louisiana. The regiment fought at Champion's Hill and was captured at Vicksburg on July 4, 1863. After being exchanged and brigaded under General Cummings, it fought with the Army of Tennessee from Chattanooga to Nashville, and ended the war in North Carolina.

The unit was organized with 930 men, reported 43 casualties at Chattanooga, and totaled 267 men and 213 arms in December, 1863. In January, 1865, when it was consolidated with the 56th Georgia Regiment, 232 were present for duty. Few surrendered on April 26. The regiment was commanded by Colonels C.E. Broyles and Jesse A. Glenn, Lieutenant Colonel Alexander M. Wallace, and Major John. John was first elected Captain of Company D and his chain of command consisted of Colonel Broyles, Regimental Commander; Brigadier General Cummings, Brigade Commander and Major General Stevenson, Division Commander. In John's Company were two of his brothers, Robert and William (Doc.). In addition, his nephews, George, Allen and James and cousins Thomas and Seamore served in Company D with John.

Over the next four years, John fought in battles ranging from small skirmishes to major engagements. These are the battles in which he was known to have participated: June 18, 1862, Cumberland Gap; Oct. 8, 1862, Perryville and Dog Walk; Feb. 22-27, 1863, Dalton; May 16, 1863, Baker's Creek (Champion Hill); Sept. 18, 1863, Pea Vine Creek (Part of the Chickamauga battle); Nov. 12 1863, Missionary Ridge; Nov. 23-25, 1863, Chattanooga; Nov. 24, 1863, Lookout Mountain (Part of Chattanooga battle); May 5-7, 1864, Tunnel Hill; May 7-13, 1864, Buzzard Roost; May 8, 1864, Dug Gap; May 13-15, 1864, Resaca; May 16, 1864, Rome; May 17, 1864; Adairsville; May 18, 1864 Cassville; May 25- June 2, 1864, New Hope Church

On May 16, 1863, John and one of his brothers, Lt. William (Doc) were captured during the battle at Champion Hill (Baker's Creek,) Mississippi. Their division was under the command of General Pemberton at the time. Doc spent the rest of the War in five different Union prisons, including Johnson Island. However, John escaped shortly after his capture and reported to General Joe Johnston in Jackson MS. He was assigned to the staff of a Colonel Wilson. During his absence from Company D, Lt. W. A. Deweese was in command of Company D and they remained and fought in and around Vicksburg from May through July of 1863.

This is Lt. Deweese's official report of that period of time:

"This company was in the battle of Baker's Creek on 16 May 1863 and with the besieged Army at Vicksburg, Miss, from 18 May to 4 Jul 1863. Left Vicksburg, Miss, May 3, marched to Big Black River distance

of 20 miles. Camped at forks of Halls Ferry Road and Warrenton Rd. Left on night of 12th, arrived at Edwards Station on 13th, remained there until the night of the 15th, marched 8 miles, engaged General Grant's Army early in the morning of the 16th May 1863. On the evening of the 16th, our Army fell back to Big Black River where we remained until about morning. Engaged the army about two hours, then fell back to Vicksburg, Miss. Went into the trenches 18 May. Was continuous siege from the enemies' lines until the 4th day of Jul 1863. Marched out on the 12th to Enterprise, Miss, distance 150 miles. Left Enterprise the 24th.

John eventually rejoined his Company and records show they were stationed back in Atlanta by August of 1863. The regiment had returned to Atlanta for some much needed rest and recovery time and on July 29, 1863, John submitted the following letter requesting leave in order to be home when his son was born:

*"Col, I have the honor to apply through you to the Genl Comdg for a leave of absence for, 20, twenty days to visit my home in Cass County, Ga. I belong to the 36th GA Regt of Gen Pemberton's Army. Was taken prisoner at Bakers Creek, afterward made my escape and reported to Gen Johnston, and was assigned to duty on Col Wilson's Staff. I have been in the service of the Confederate States for 28 months and have never had but one furlough of five days, since my enlistment. I received a letter from my wife yesterday informing that her condition requires my immediate presence. The facts are stated as they are, and I earnestly request that this application may meet with the approval of the Genl Comdg. I have the honor to be Col very respectfully your most obt Serv't.
Capt, 36th GA Regt."*

The leave was approved and John was home in Cassville when their son, Walter, was born on August 10, 1863. John reported back to his Company and there is no record that he ever saw his family again.

During the period from March 17, 1864 through April 29, 1864, John and Lieutenant J.W. Gray, Adjutant of the 8th Georgia Battalion attempted to form a company or battalion of Cavalry to operate behind enemy lines. They submitted their request to General S. Cooper and the Georgia archives contain an interesting series of letters supporting the request. They received letters of support and praise from Major C. E. Broyles, Lt. Colonel Z. W. Walters, Brig. General Wofford, Brig. General States Right Gist, Brig. General A. Cummings, Brig. General C. Stevens, Major General W. W. Smith and the Honorable Warren Akin, Member 2nd Congress, CSA. These are copies of two of the letters:

"Bull's Gap Tennessee, March 17th, 1864, To Genl S. Cooper, Adjt and Insp General Learning that the Capt of the 36th GA Regt and Lieutenant, Adjt of the 8th GA Battalion intended to make application for authority to raise a Battalion of Cavalry and being well acquainted with both of these officers, I take pleasure in recommending them to favorable consideration of the Department as gentlemen of great energy and courage. Very respectfully your Obedient Servant, W. G. Wofford, Brig Genl."

"Head Qrs 36th Ga Reg., April 14, 1864

From long and personal acquaintance with the Capt & Adjt, I take pleasure in recommending them as good energetic officers and from a knowledge of the country and material from which they proposed to raise a Cavalry Regt, I feel certain of their success and that much good can be gained in the service by awarding them the privilege.

C. E. Broyles, Maj., Commanding"

In the end their request was approved but for infantry instead of cavalry due to the shortage of personnel at that time. However, the two men never had the opportunity to form the new unit.

On April 28, 1864, John was appointed to Major. His appointment was made official on July 6, 1864 and final confirmation of rank was dated January 5, 1865. However, John did not survive to formally accept his promotion. Fighting just a few miles from his Cassville home, he was shot in the head during the Battle of New Hope Church on June 1, 1864. He was taken by train via Marietta to Field Hospital Number 2 on the Fair Grounds in

Atlanta where he lingered until he “crossed over the river” on June 9, 1864. Major John sleeps with his comrades in the Confederate Section of Oakland Cemetery in Atlanta, Georgia; Row 2, Grave 46.

The war was over for John but not for his wife and children back in Cassville. What follows is a brief account of some of their ordeals which mirror the misfortunes of the Southern families left to W. T. Sherman’s whims. It was researched and written based on archival records.

History tells us it was cold (just above freezing) with a light rain falling in Cassville, Georgia, November 5th 1864. John’s wife Susan was finding life very difficult. She was alone with three young boys, no money and no food. The invading forces had occupied Cassville since May. The Yankee soldiers had taken everything from their unwilling Southern civilian hosts. The only Southern occupants of the town were women, children and men too old or too injured to fight. There was no livestock to be found, even an unattended horse could become food for the starving. Life just couldn't get worse. Then it did. There was a sudden rap at the door about an hour after dark. It was Yankee soldiers from the 5th Ohio Regiment. "You have 20 minutes to get out then we are setting your house on fire." Yankee General Sherman had issued an order to burn Cassville. The order read in part, "*.. Destroy the town by fire, that not a house within the limits of the incorporation, except churches be left standing.*". Apparently Sherman waited until after dark to make things just a little worse on his victims. So, what do you do? You have 20 minutes, no horse, no wagon, no help, three young kids including a baby in arms.

What do you take? How will you survive? A neighbor boy named Johnny Milhollin wrote about that night years later. He said they took blankets and boards and went over to the cemetery where there was a rock fence. With the blankets they made make-shift lean-to tents which "almost" kept the rain out. He then recalled that they went days without food before finally finding a haven.

No other details of Susan’s life are known except that she died sometime before 1870. It is not known when or where she died or where she is buried. However, it is possible to trace the lives of the three young boys. In the 1870 census of Union/Bartow County, three boys named Tate, Hardy and Walter are listed in the household of the family of Susan’s sister, Polly Smith. It is known that they also lived at times with John’s brother, Doc.

Two of John’s brothers, Robert Carroll and Henry Clay, migrated to Texas in the years following the war as many families did. They settled in Comanche County and with their Uncle’s encouragement John’s three boys joined them. Hardy came to Texas in the 1870’s and Tate followed him in the early 1880’s. Walter, at age 20, joined his brothers in 1883. All three men became successful merchants and farmers, active in state and local politics and agricultural movements. Tate served a term in the Texas State Legislature from 1916 to 1918.

John was Major John Loudermilk, my great grandfather, and Walter was my grandfather. I am extremely proud of them and of my heritage.



Major John Loudermilk's grave, Oakland Cemetery, Atlanta, GA



Major John Loudermilk



GG Grandson Ewell and
G Grandson Gary



78th Annual General Convention

Thursday, July 9 -- Saturday July 11, 2015
Alexandria, Virginia

Arlington National Cemetery, a short ride from our headquarters hotel, is the burial site of over 400,000 military heroes and their families, including 482 Confederates: 46 officers, 351 enlisted men, 58 wives, 15 southern civilians, and 12 unknowns. They are buried in concentric circles around the Confederate Monument designed and sculpted by the world-renowned Moses Ezekiel, a VMI graduate who as a cadet fought with the Cadet Corps at the

Battle of New Market. The graves are marked with headstones that are distinct for their pointed tops. Legend attributes these pointed-top tombstones to a Confederate belief that the points would "keep Yankees from sitting on them."



**Confederate Memorial Statue at Arlington
National Cemetery**



And of course, Lee Mansion is located on the grounds of Arlington National Cemetery as well as the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier.

The Changing of the Guard at the Tomb is an experience never to be forgotten. An impeccably uniformed relief commander appears on the plaza to announce the Changing of the Guard. Soon the new sentinel leaves the Quarters and unlocks the bolt of his or her M-14 rifle to signal to the relief commander to start the ceremony. The relief commander walks out to the Tomb and salutes, then faces the spectators and asks them to stand and stay silent during the ceremony



ELECTION 2015

Compatriots, as alluded to in my Commander's Column, this is an election year. The two open positions in the Texas Society are Commander and Lt. Commander. Any member wishing to be considered for either position must be interviewed by the Nominating Committee on Friday afternoon prior to the Convention on Saturday. Their names cannot be placed into nomination in the general session unless this requirement is met. A time and room for the interview will be posted at the hotel. Should you have any questions, please let me know and I will assist you accordingly.



**MILITARY ORDER OF THE STARS & BARS
2015 TEXAS SOCIETY CONVENTION
AGENDA**

Friday April 24

5:30 – 7:30 pm Commander's Reception (guests welcome)

Saturday April 25

9:00 am Opening (guests welcome)

9:30 am Annual Business Meeting

**11:00 am Historical Program (guests welcome)
Robert E. Lee at War
Presented by Scott Bowden**

11:45 am Catered Luncheon (guests welcome)

12:30 pm Raffle, door prizes

Adjournment

**Afternoon On Your Own Tour
Texas Civil War Museum
760 Jim Wright Freeway N.**

**Attire Commander's Reception - Casual
Business Meeting – business casual (coat
and tie optional)**



MILITARY ORDER OF THE STARS & BARS

TEXAS SOCIETY REUNION

APRIL 24-25, 2015 Fort Worth, Texas

REGISTRATION FORM

Name: _____

Guest: _____

(Please list member and guest names as you wish them to appear on name tags)

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

MOS&B Chapter & number: _____

Phone number: _____ Email address: _____

Registration (for MOS&B Members Only) _____ @ \$25.00 ea. \$ _____

Late Registration (after April 1, 2015) _____ @ \$30.00 ea \$ _____

(Meals not guaranteed after April 1st)

Commander's Reception-Friday, April 24th _____ @ \$20.00 ea. \$ _____

(5:30 to 7:30p.m Beer, Wine & Hors d'oeuvres served)

Barbeque Luncheon Saturday _____ @ \$25.00 ea. \$ _____

Total Enclosed: _____ \$ _____

Please make checks payable to: Texas Society, MOS&B

Mail Payment to: Larry Wilhoite, MOS&B Reunion 2015
502 Northgate Dr, Waxahachie, TX 75165

Saturday afternoon on your own: Texas Civil War Museum
760 Jim Wright Fwy., Fort Worth, TX 76108
[7 miles from Hotel]

Accommodations: Homewood Suites (Ask for MOS convention)
6350 Overton Ridge Blvd., Fort Worth, Texas
817-585-1160 Rooms available until April 3
Rates: \$99 King Suite; \$109 Double Queen
Full Complimentary Breakfast



TEXAS SOCIETY CHAPTER REPORTS:

COLONEL RICHARD BENNETT HUBBARD

Chapter 261

The Col. Richard B. Hubbard Chapter held its Lee-Jackson Birthday Party on Saturday, January 21, 2015 at the Potpourri House in Tyler. In attendance were Texas Society Commander Larry Wilhoite, and his wife Pam, plus three Texas Society past commanders and their wives. Prior to the installation of new officers, Commander Tom Clinkscale initiated SCV Texas Division Commander Johnnie Holley and Dr. James Newsom as new MOS&B and Chapter members.



Left to right: Glen Toal, Jim Templin, John Threadgill, Larry Wilhoite, James Graham, David Whitaker, Jack Dyess, Larry Martin, Bobby Davidson, Cooper Goodson, Johnnie Holley, Charles Hayes, Dennis Brand, Tom Clinkscale, John Haynes, James Newsom



Commander Clinkscale initiates new members Johnnie Holley and James Newsom.

The members then presented plaques to outgoing Chapter Commander Tom Clinkscales and Lt. Commander Dan Horton in recognition of their many years of service to the Hubbard Chapter.

Dr. James Newsom, new member and history professor at the University of Texas, presented the program. Commander Larry Wilhoite commissioned Dennis Brand as the new Chapter 271 Commander, Jack Dyess as Lieutenant Commander and John Haynes as Adjutant.

For weeks in advance of the meeting, the Chapter sold drawing tickets for an 1851, replica, .44 caliber, Navy Revolver. Bill Woodard was thrilled when his ticket was drawn as the winner.

Our membership now numbers nineteen and the paperwork of two prospective members is currently being verified.

We will hold our next meeting in April at a time and place to be determined. Each of you are cordially invited to attend. For time and place, contact Commander Dennis Brand, hobobrand@gmail.com, 903-566-3132 (home) or 903-360-7090 (cell).



Commander Wilhoite swears in Dennis Brand, Jack Dyess and John Haynes



COLONEL W. H. PARSONS Chapter 273

The Col. W. H. Parsons Chapter 273, Ennis has welcomed two new members this year, Larry Johnson and Jim Redd. Jim Redd joins the MOS&B on the Confederate service of Captain Isham G. Hearn, Co. G, 27th Tennessee Infantry.

Our chapter continues to meet quarterly and have moved our meeting place to Cancun's Ameri-Mex Restaurant in Waxahachie. We had an outstanding program in January as retired Waxahachie Fire Chief and local historian David Hudgins spoke on Confederate submarines. He was presented with a bust of General Robert E Lee.



Commander Larry Wilhoite
and Jim Redd



David Hudgins

Our next meeting will be the 4th Tuesday in April at 6 pm. Dr. Richard Lee Montgomery of Denton will present our program. Everyone is invited to attend.

Many of our members are making plans to attend the State Convention in Fort Worth and look forward to seeing our compatriots there.

Once again, we plan to join the women of the UDC and place about 100 flags on the graves of Confederate soldiers buried in Myrtle Cemetery. On Memorial Day, after a short memorial in the cemetery, we will enjoy a picnic at the beautiful home of Jim Templin.

