

“The General’s Aide”

**Gen. Tom Green Camp #1613
Sons of Confederate Veterans**



February 2024

Around The Camp

Special Dates of Interest:

February 14, 2024—
Valentine’s Day.

February 15, 2024—
Gen Tom Green Camp
1613 meeting @ Ft. Con-
cho LHSC—7:00 pm..

February 23-25, 2024
School of the Piece—
Artillery Training at Ft.
Concho.

March 30, 2024—
Memorial for Steve Par-
nell, Ft. Chadbourne.

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Greetings Compatriots, I hope all are doing well. We have entered a new month and with it we have new changes coming to our Camp. First, I will remind all you fine Southern Gentlemen that Valentine’s Day is fast approaching so take care of your Valentine. We would not want you to miss the meeting because you were in the dog house.

For those who were not able to attend the January meeting, we held a special election for Commander and Lt. Commander to fulfill the rest of the current term. Steve Melton was elected as your new Commander and Richard Stone as your new Lt. Commander. These two gentlemen will be sworn into office at the February meeting. Show your support for them by attending the meeting.

Inside this edition you find information about the Memorial planned for our friend and Compatriot Steve Parnell. You can also learn some history about The

Pledge of Allegiance and the 14th US State that never was.

The Camp is planning to participate in the San Angelo Rodeo parade coming April 6th, so mark your calendar. We are submitting the application for a float in the parade. There will be updates and more information coming.

Charles Westbrook gave us an update on the Fairmount Cemetery Board of Director’s meetings from December and January. For those who are not aware, the ‘Board’ put forth a new policy that allows “only official U.S. flags” to be displayed in the cemetery. Charles asked the ‘Board’ how they will accommodate the coming San Jacinto Day celebration in April since their policy prohibits Texas flags.

So, sit back and enjoy ***The General’s Aide*** and we will see you at the next meeting.



The Chaplain’s Dispatch

On February 21, 1861, through an act of the Confederate Congress, the Confederate Navy was born. At its inception, the Navy was comprised of about 30 ships, of which only half were seaworthy. Over the course of the war, it grew to over 100 ships. My knowledge of the CSN is limited but growing. Most of my family has roots in the modern US Army and Confederate units in Tennessee and Georgia.

However, I have always been fascinated by the mystique of the Navy and the mystery of the sea.

This last summer I read a book titled, “The Admirals, The Five Star Admirals that Won the War at Sea.” The book chronicles the lives, careers and battles of Admirals Leahy, King, Halsey and Fredericksburg, Texas’

(Continued on page 5)

Franklin, 14th State, 14th Star

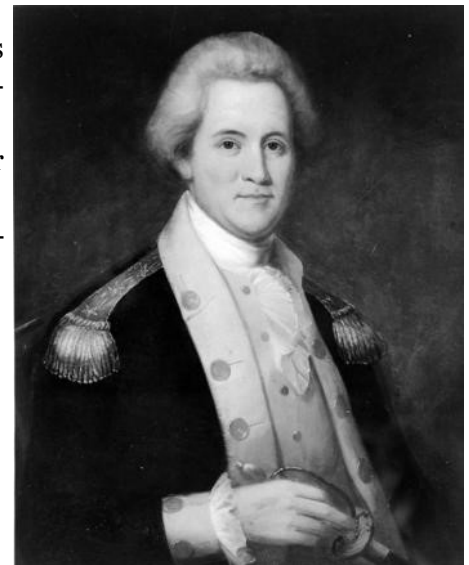
Editor's note: They did not teach me this in public school...

At the end of the American Revolution, North Carolina's western lands stretched from the crest of the Appalachian Mountains to the Mississippi River. In the area of the Watauga and Nolichucky rivers, three county governments and several thriving towns served the needs of perhaps as many as 5,000 inhabitants. These people were separated from North Carolina by the rugged terrain of the Unaka Mountain and the distance to the seat of government made the population there an afterthought to the state government. North Carolina legislatures did not want the responsibility and expense of providing militia security for the region. The legislature voted for cession these outlying lands to the U.S Congress to help offset the U.S war debt incurred fighting the War for Independence.



In April 1784, the state of North Carolina voted to give Congress the 29,000,000 acres (45,000 sq miles) lying between the Allegheny Mountains and the Mississippi River to help offset its war debts. Rapidly increasing dissatisfaction with North Carolina's governance led to the frontiersmen's calls to establish a separate, secure, and independent state. On August 23, 1784, about 50 frontier leaders met in Jonesborough and signed a document declaring themselves independent from North Carolina. Within months they had formed a loose government that had set up a court system and a militia, presided over by John Sevier, who had been one of the heroes of the Battle of Kings Mountain four years earlier.

William Cocke, one of the authors of the new Constitution, was appointed the rather difficult task of going to Washington and convincing the Continental Congress to admit Franklin as a state. In the spring of 1785 William Cocke made his presentation to Congress. The request for statehood



John Sevier, 1st Governor of Franklin

failed the 2/3 requirement with only 7 states voting to admit. The failed attempt to form the state of Franklin did, however, have an important outcome: it was one of many incidents that proved, beyond a shadow of a doubt, that the government established by the Articles of Confederation did not work.

Originally consisting of three counties, by the end of 1786 Franklin had eight: Greene, Sullivan, Washington, Sevier, Blount, Spencer, Caswell and Wayne. These counties were formed because the population was growing so fast: in the latter part of 1785 and the first part of 1786, an estimated 10,000 families migrated from North Carolina and Virginia into the state of Franklin. The most extreme example of this growth was White's Fort, a community started in early 1786 which, by the end of its first year of existence, had more than 2,000 people living there. This community later became known as Knoxville, Tennessee.

This article is comprised of online information from North Carolina History Project (State of Franklin, written by Michael Toomey), Tennessee History for Kids and Wikipedia. This short story only scratches the surface of the history of this subject. Investigate for yourself, and like Mark Twain said, "Never let school interfere with your education."



Memorial for Steve Parnell

For those who wish to pay their respects to Steve Parnell, the date for his Memorial has been set for March 30, 2024 at Ft. Chadbourne. Please come and show your support and love to Tre and the Parnell family.

The ceremony will begin at noon and be presented by Good's Light Artillery and Company H, 7th Texas Infantry. Participants may be military or civilian in period dress.

Those who would like to participate should be onsite by 11:00 am. Soldiers should have a Black ribbon tied to their upper left arm. Infantry will need at least three (3) rounds and their bayonets.

There are plans to have lunch catered for participants. If you plan to attend or want more information contact either Ray Johnson, for Good's Light Artillery (325-642-8853) rayb.johnson49@yahoo.com or Harold Johnston for Co. H, 7th Texas Infantry (210-559-1588) hwjohnston52@gmail.com.

Please express your appreciation to Lana & Garland

Richards, owners of Ft. Chadbourne for allowing us to remember our friend and Compatriot at the fort.



Tre and Steve Parnell at the 2018 SCV Reunion in Franklin, Tennessee.

Fort Sumter



Here you have it. This could be the first photograph of the War for Southern Independence, if not, one of the first.

The local Charleston firm of Jesse Bolles managed to get a photographer, Alma Pelot, to Fort Sumter just one day after Union forces departed.

Notice the cannon tubes, stacked cannonballs and a soldier holding a cannon ball. A soldier holding a bucket, broken windows, hotshot furnace, shelling damage, old flagpole and makeshift flagpole on the derrick with First National CS flag. Can you find the photobombers in the upper window? [National Archives].

From Gary Aldeman's Civil War Page.



The Pledge of Allegiance

In the *Confederate Veteran* magazine, November/December 2023 issue, there was a letter in "Dispatches From the Front", titled "Why the Pledge of Allegiance?" This letter spurred more letters to the editor in the January/February 2024 edition with responders slashing and attacking each other. My first thought was, "great, one more thing to divide us." Then I figured we should investigate this "Pledge". This article is to inform, not cause one to choose between "to say or not to say."

The Pledge of Allegiance was written in August 1892 by a Baptist minister Francis Bellamy (1855-1931). Not only was Bellamy a minister, he was a devout socialist. So much so, his congregation forced him out of the church. Bellamy then went on to work at the children's magazine, *The Youth's Companion*, which had a subscription rate of 500,000+ readers. His pledge was originally published in *The Youth's Companion* on September 8, 1892. There was an effort by *The Youth's Companion*, to distribute American flags to every school in America. The 'Pledge' was to accompany the flags in an effort to promote patriotism and to celebrate the 400th anniversary of Columbus' landing in America. It was said there was a "low ebb" of patriotism in America. A few sources claim this unpatriotic ebb came from the era of The War Between the States. Remember this was the early 1890's. "Remember the Maine" was the battle cry two years earlier. Thousands of Southern men enlisted into the United States military. Putting their life on the line proved their patriotism. If there was a sense of unpatriotic sentiment in America, it came from something else, not the South.

In its original form the Pledge read:

"I pledge allegiance to my Flag and the Republic for which it stands, one nation, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all."

The first National Flag Conference, the American Legion, and the Daughters of the American Revolution all recommended changes to the Pledge of Allegiance intended to clarify its meaning when recited by immigrants. These changes addressed concerns

that as written it failed to mention the flag of any specific country. Immigrants to the United States might feel that they were pledging allegiance to their native country, rather than the American flag. So, in 1923, the pronoun "my" was dropped from the pledge and the phrase "the Flag" was added, resulting in, "I pledge allegiance to the Flag and Republic, for which it stands, one nation, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all." A year later, the National Flag Conference, in order to completely clarify the issue, added the words "of the United States of America," resulting in, "I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all."



The Bellamy Salute

All during this time in conjunction with the 'pledge', there was the "Bellamy salute", which called for students to cross their right arm over their chest with their hand, palm down, and extending the arm out in front after saying, "I pledge..." The salute was dropped in the 30's as it resembled the Nazi salute of Germany. In 1942, placement of the right hand over the heart while saying the pledge was officially instituted.

To combat the rise of Communism, the words "under God" were added making the phrase, ...one nation under God ... Notice there is no comma or pause in that phrase, something 99% of Americans do misquoting the Pledge of Allegiance.

Sources: ThoughtCo.com, History.com, USHistory.org, Wikipedia, & ffrf.org. There are many more sites than these to draw from.



The Chaplain's Dispatch (con't)

(Continued from page 1)

own Chester Nimitz. It was exciting to read about these men, their careers, and their battles. The most valuable insight I received from this book was regarding the amount of effort which went into a battle before it was fought. Thus, the training, planning, and most importantly, the stockpiling of valuable supplies, ammunition, and fuel.

During this time the U.S. Navy perfected "underway replenishment" or replenishment at sea. Carriers, battleships, cruisers, and destroyers would "come along side" a tanker or supply ship to refuel or resupply while under way at sea. Thus, keeping the fleet fueled and supplied while at sea and maintaining its effective combat readiness. The same can be applied to our Christian life and ministry. We spend most of our Christian life in a routine walk with God. We go to church on Sunday, worship, sing, pray, hear God's Word and fellowship with other Christians. Perhaps during the week, we might say our daily prayers, pray at dinner or read our Bible before bed. All in all, we are not typically in a state of war. We have more of a peace time posture. However, there are indeed times when life's circumstances call us into the "heat of battle" whether it be intense

prayer for yourself and others or responding to a traumatic life event. In our busy lives we are "at sea" most of the time. We are always on the move, "on patrol" or active in our daily routine lives. Therefore, it's important to be well supplied in a relationship with God and well fueled in God's word, so that, we can maintain an "effective combat readiness" when life's trials and tribulations come our way.

As a priest in the Episcopal Church, I'm regularly in tune with the liturgical seasons of the Church. February 14th is Ash Wednesday and the beginning of the Season of Lent. Many times, we "give up" something for Lent as a means of personal devotion. Perhaps this year we can take on a new practice instead of giving something up. During Lent maybe we can "come along side" God to refuel, rest and replenish. Strive to find ways to replenish yourself, whether it be 10 minutes a day in prayer or finding a daily bible devotion to read. As the Letter of James, Chapter 4, verse 8 says, "Draw near to God and God will draw near to you" especially in times of need.

God's Speed,

The Rev. Christopher Roque

Camp Chaplain



School of the Piece

"School of the Piece" hosted by the Loyal Train Chapter will be held at Fort Concho. The class is nearly full so if you want training for proper canon procedures, call now to hold your seat! We have 52 attending this class and 60 students is the cutoff. The class will be February 23, 24 & 25. If you would like to attend, notify Major Ray Johnson ASAP. (325)-642-8853 .





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Gen. Tom Green Camp #1613 Texas Division, 2nd Brigade 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."

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

Reunion 2024

National and Division Reunions are around the corner. It is time for you to start planning your trips.

The National Reunion is sponsored by Secession Camp #4. The reunion will be held in the beautiful state of South Carolina July 16-21, 2024. You can find all the information you need online at the National website: <https://scv.org>. You will find information on hotels, schedules, tours, and registration. Look for the picture link on the banner at the top.

The Texas Division Reunion will be in San Antonio June 7-9, 2024. This year the Hood's Texas Brigade Camp #153 will be host. Information and registration can be found on the Texas Division website: <https://www.scvtexas.org/state-reunion>.

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Texas Divison Confederate Heritage Month Celebration and Picnic!



Come Celebrate Confederate Heritage Month!



- Blanco State Park is located to the South of Blanco, TX at 101 Park Road 23, Blanco, TX 78606
- Location is 1 hr drive from SA, and Austin, 2 hrs from Waco, 3.5 hrs from Houston, and 4 hrs from Dallas.

April 20, 2024

Save the Date!

Blanco State Park
Blanco, TX
Lunch at 12 Noon

- The historic CCC built Picnic Pavillon sits on the banks overlooking the beautiful spring fed Blanco River
- Enjoy the Texas Hill Country in the Spring time.
- Hiking, fishing, and bird watching!
- Camping and RV Hook Ups are available
- Pavillon features a playground, kitchen with stove, refrigerator, and large bbq grill on site.
- Bring your favorite Dish for an old fashioned potluck!
- Important Note: \$5.00 entrance fee per person is required for entry to the park (children under the age of 12 are free).