



“The General’s Aide”

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



April 2024

Commander’s Briefing Room

Special Dates of Interest:

April 6, 2024—San Angelo Rodeo Parade.

April 4-6, 2024—Ft. Griffin Living History & Rendezvous.

April 13, 2024 - Crawfish & Cannons at Ft. Belknap.

April 18, 2024—Gen. Tom Green Camp meeting @ OQ8, 7:00 pm.

April 17-21, 2024—Cavalry Competition at Ft. Concho.

April 20, 2024—Frontier Day & Pancake Breakfast at Ft. Concho, 7:30 to noon.

April 27, 2024—San Jacinto/Confederate Memorial Day at Fairmount Cemetery, 10:00 am.

Greetings Compatriots. I hope everyone had a wonderful Easter. Are



you ready for Spring? Well I hope you are ready to hit the ground running. April will be a busy month. The San Angelo Rodeo Parade will be the 6th and

we will be meeting at the Girl Scout house and riding with the Ft. McKavett CSA Camp from Menard. Also that weekend, Ft. Griffin will hold its Living History and Rendezvous. Ft. Belknap will have its annual event, "Crawfish & Cannons" on the 13th. April 17-21, 2024 will be the Regional Cavalry Competition at Ft. Concho with that Saturday, the 20th, being 'Frontier Day' and the Pancake Break-

fast. The Camp be have a presence at Frontier Day at the Tom Green County Historical Commission table located at OQ1, 7:30 to noon. Anyone wishing to help for an hour at the table is welcome. Saturday, the 20th, also hosts the Texas Division Picnic at Blanco State Park. This is a "potluck" lunch starting at noon and the Park entry fee is \$5.00 per person, 12 years and up. There will be the annual San Jacinto/Confederate Heritage Memorial Veterans Day held at Fairmount Cemetery on April 27th. This memorial will honor the Texas Revolution and Confederate Veterans that are buried in the cemetery. Starting time is 10:00 am. If you wish to participate in the firing line, be there by 9:30 am. Confederate flags will be flying.

As announced in our last meeting, we will meet at Building OQ8 this month, due to the Fort's Regional Cavalry Competition. Also, we will have a guest at our April meeting. Our 2nd

(Continued on page 4)

Inside this issue:

Animosity and Assassination in Postwar Mississippi **2**

A Civil War Soldier's Letter Home **3**

Confederate Home in Ardmore, Oklahoma **5**

Chaplain’s Dispatch

Church Growth: Holed up in the fort or out on the trail?

It’s often said one should never discuss three things at a dinner party: money, religion and politics. However, it seems all three dominate the headlines of our news media. Yet, one is my vocational calling, religion. This week I read a Gallop News article about the decline of religious affiliation in the United States. The article stated the first time Gallop measured

church membership was in 1937. The question asked, “Do you attend a church, synagogue or a mosque?” In 1937 seventy-three percent of Americans answered yes. At the conclusion of World War



(Continued on page 3)

Animosity and Assassination in Postwar Mississippi by Laura Elliott

Bolivar, Mississippi, November 18, 1866

A former staff officer of Confederate general James Longstreet pulled his pistol, aimed it at the man standing in front of him, pulled the trigger, and killed him. The identity of the man who was killed has remained a mystery until now.

The former staff officer was Thomas J. Walton, born about 1834. As an early indication of his aggressive nature, by the time of his graduation from the law school at the University of Mississippi in 1857, he had already stabbed a man in the heart with a pen knife during a disagreement. In December 1860, Walton married Mary Ann Longstreet, daughter of William Longstreet and first cousin of James Longstreet.

Walton and Gilbert Moxley Sorrel served together as staff officers to Longstreet during the Civil War. In his memoirs, Sorrel recalled:

"Walton was quite a friend of mine and fond of me. Gifted with uncommon intellectual attainments, ... he was of the most uncertain, unexpected temper and exactions; he could be dangerous at times, and only the greatest firmness held him in check until the humor passed off and then he was all lovely."

Sorrel illustrates Thomas Walton's "unexpected temper" with an incident that occurred early in the war near Centreville, Virginia. A quarrel erupted between Walton and First Corps Medical Director, Dr. John Syng Dorsey Cullen. Walton struck the doctor in the face and General Longstreet intervened. Sorrel and another officer managed to talk Walton down, narrowly avoiding further violence. In November 1866, Walton's explosive rage would emerge again. This time, without the benefit of a mediator, the results would be deadly.

In 1865, Major Walton was paroled and returned home to McNutt, Sunflower County, Mississippi. Another man from a prominent Mississippi family had been back home in the same vicinity since January or February 1865.

Capt. Harold Bellamy of Company I, 48th Mississippi Infantry lived at Bolivar, about 30 to 40 miles

from Walton's home. The young captain was the son of Edward and Ann Croom Bellamy.

Something happened that spring between Walton and Bellamy. Perhaps Bellamy was accused of cowardice and/or desertion for his early return home? Maybe Captain Bellamy threatened to expose information that would damage Walton's reputation? It seems either was possible. Whatever caused the disagreement, the two men were to engage in a duel on May 17, 1865. "The affair of honor ... was prevented by the arrest of Capt. Bellamy." No additional information about the cause of the conflict or the arrest has been found. But the duel was prevented—temporarily.

Eighteen months later, Bellamy was on horseback near the family home when two men approached. One of them was Maj. Thomas Walton. He and Bellamy both dismounted, drew their pistols, and fired simultaneously. Walton received a serious wound to the right shoulder. Both men cocked their pistols again, and Bellamy was shot through the heart. The wound was mortal, but Bellamy supported himself against a fence panel and fired twice more. The 24-year-old captain fell dead on November 18, 1866.

Walton fled to New Orleans, temporarily, where he practiced law. He returned to Mississippi a few years later and accepted a professorship at the University of Mississippi Law School. He eventually became a judge, a Republican, and a U.S. District Attorney. In 1878, a yellow fever epidemic ravaged several areas of the state. Walton provided personal assistance to the afflicted in his community, but caught the disease and died in Grenada, Mississippi, in August 1878. Apparently, he is buried in an unmarked grave somewhere—perhaps Grenada.

Harold Bellamy was likely brought home to Bolivar and buried in the family graveyard on the grounds of the Bellamy plantation.



Harold Bellamy standing left. Picture courtesy of the Gary Stier Confederate Collection.



Chaplain's Dispatch (con't)

(Continued from page 1)

Two that number rose to seventy-six percent. It hovered in the 70s until 2000 where it has been steadily decreasing to forty-seven percent in 2020.

From time to time the issue of growth and decline arises in all our houses of worship whether they are a church, synagogue, or a mosque. Speaking from the position of a Christian priest, growth or decline is vital to the health and life of a church. In a former parish where I served I presided at fourteen burial services in eight years. Twelve were highly active members. The baptism and confirmations were half that during the same time. This frequently caused lament and worry among folks and inspired some to see the church as only a place to seek solace. While at times that is necessary, it is not the sole reason for the church. The church does not exist to support itself. Its mission is to bring people back to God and serve God's people in the world.

While a greater systemic solution to declining religion is necessary, I'd like to use the metaphor of the frontier army post or "fort" for inspiration. How

many westerns have we seen where the cavalry is holed up inside a fort? It's an image that is backwards. The fort isn't supposed to protect the cavalry. The cavalry is supposed to be out scouting, protecting, and exploring new territory. It should only come back to the fort to re-supply, rest, and refit.

In the case of a Christian church, and other religions, if its members are metaphorically holed up inside the church from the world, then they are not living into the call to worship God and serve God's people. We come to church, first to worship God and second to rest and re-supply. Then, we must leave that comfortable place and go out among our co-workers, friends, families, and the world. No matter the size of the congregation, if its people are out in the world and bringing people to know Jesus Christ through thought, word, or deed then they will be attracted to God's grace and love and the question of growth will take care of itself.

Blessings and God's Speed,
The Rev. Christopher Roque, Camp Chaplain



A Civil War Soldier's Letter Home by Michael Kirschner

Letter from a Union soldier's perception.

On July 14, 1861, Charles E. Brown penned a letter to his mother. Only 45 days earlier, the 21-year-old had enlisted with the Second Wisconsin Infantry Regiment. The poorly trained soldier was now heading into battle. The regiment would begin a slow march the next day to confront the rebels at Manassas Junction. Charles had heard that his mother was doing poorly, and he wrote to comfort her, explain why he enlisted, and deter his married brother from enlisting.

Arlington Heights, July 14, 1861
Dear Mother,

I now for the first time, sit down, with an unsteady hand but strong heart, to pen a few words to you before starting for Manassas Junction. I did not intend to write to you or father, until I received an answer to the first one I wrote him, but hearing that you was very unwell, and might be worrying on my account, I thought it my duty, and a sacred one, to write to you, to let you know that I am still in the land of the living, but how long I shall be so God only knows, we intend to have some pretty sharp fighting tomorrow or next day. We have got everything ready to march.

Mother, I am now a Soldier, and am proud to say

so, and I hope you are not ashamed to acknowledge me as such and your son. Although when I enlisted I had no very great degree of Patriotism, still, I thought it was my duty to enlist, and fight for this, our glorious nation, and if it be my lot to be shot, remember that I must some day die, and that to die on the battle field for our countries freedom, is no shame to be sure. Parents, and friends, are dear and to be with them in the hour of Death, is a great consolation, but I have no fears of Death, although I have always been a pretty wild youth. I hope you think no less of me. I expect to arrive safe and sound at home, within a year, for I do not think, nor does any of us, that this war will last, to exceed one year, but still it may.

The rebels are backing off as fast as we advance. They number about 15,000 at Manassas Junction, while the number that will advance upon them, is, and will exceed twice that number. But they have the position, and you know that is one great point in war, but conquer we must, for in God is our trust. We will be accompanied by Shermans Battery, and you know that is not altogether weak, but, on the contrary, is capable of doing considerable damage, I think we shall be able to conquer them, without much loss of blood, on our side.

(Continued on page 4)

Commander's Briefing Room

(con't)

(Continued from page 1)

Brigade Commander, Bob Hazelwood, will be in attendance and he will be presenting a program. Please make arrangements to come and see his program and meet him if you have not in the past. The March meeting also had a program about five brothers, each entering the War Between the States as they reached age, well almost. It seems the 13 year old was the first to join the army. The family of one of the brothers moved to San Angelo, Texas in

the mid 1920's.
See you at the April meeting.
Commander Melton



A Civil War Soldier's Letter Home (con't)

(Continued from page 3)

I believe I written all I can think of now. I might write more, if I had time, but as I have Orderly Wades, and my own things to pack, I believe I must, although reluctantly stop writing. For this time Orderly is out on Battalion Drill, but he said give his

can't, give my love also, tell them to write as often as they can, and you do the same.

Tell my brother, God bless him, for he is the only brother I have got, to give up the idea of enlisting and stay to live with his Dear Wife and parents, and be an honor to you all. I want him to practice all he can so as to play pretty nice, when I come

home, and now Good by, God protect, and heaven bless you all from your affectionate son Charlie [.] I think that one out of our family is quite enough at least at present.



One week later, between the hours of 3 and 4 in the afternoon on July 21, Charles was killed at the battle of First Bull Run, Virginia. Brown's prediction that the Union would win the battle without much bloodshed was tragically wrong—

900 men were killed and 3,000 wounded, making it the bloodiest day in the history of America to that point. Brown was one of the first men of the Second Wisconsin to be killed or mortally wounded, a fate to be shared by 20 percent of the men who joined that bloody regiment.

Depiction of the First Battle of Manassas | NPS

best respects and well wishes to my much adored parents, and that he hoped we should all live, to meet again in Old Wisconsin, and that is also my sincere wish. Give my love to all those you think would be pleased to hear from your absent son. To you my Deer Mother and Father, except the most sincere love of your absent, and I hope respected son[.] To Gramma, Eva, and Ada, God bless them all, for I





Commander: Steve Melton
Lt. Commander: Richard Stone
Adjutant: Howard Wilson
Editor: Steve Melton
Newsletter E-mail:
gentomgreen1613@gmail.com

National website: www.scv.org
Texas Division website:
www.scvtexas.org
Camp website:
www.generaltomgreen.org

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**

Confederate Home in Ardmore, Oklahoma

"The General's Aide" is a publication of the General Tom Green Camp #1613, Sons of Confederate Veterans. All content is produced by the Editor and authorized by the Camp Commander. All material is copyright by General Tom Green Camp #1613©2024. If you have a news article or photos (high quality jpg) for consideration, email them to the Editor. Photos must not be embedded in articles. Send all as attachments to the Editor at:
gentomgreen1613@gmail.com.

To "unsubscribe", send email to
gentomgreen1613@gmail.com with
UNSUBSCRIBE in subject heading.



In 1910 Oklahoma provided funds to establish the Confederate Soldiers Home in Ardmore, Carter County.
The home was built by 1911 and was in use for Confederate soldiers and their wives until 1942.

