



# THE PICKET LINE

**Albert Sidney Johnston Camp #983**

DECATUR TX

NOVEMBER 2022



## CAMP COMMANDER

**JIM COX**

Email: jimcox1630@gmail.com

## 1ST LT. COMMANDER

**BRUCE CUNNINGHAM**

## ADJUTANT

**BRANDON DAVIS**

## TREASURER

**RONEY RANGE**

## CHAPLAIN

**ROBERT COX**

## Christmas Dinner/Meeting



Our Camp Christmas Dinner and Meeting will be a very special and festive event this year for all our members and their spouses. We will be meeting and dining at Decatur Conference Center on Friday evening, December 2nd, at 6:30 PM.

We will be served a delicious meal of Bar-B-Q Brisket with all the trimmings and dessert. Everyone is encouraged to either dress in your confederate uniform or business-casual attire. Seating is limited to 32 tickets and you are encouraged to pre-purchase your tickets at \$20.00 per person before November 21. At press time there are several remaining tickets, please text @ 817-751-8202, if you are interested in getting more.

## The Rebel Mountain Story Teller

Our Special Dinner Speaker, Mark Vogl, has given presentations in eighteen states to scores of groups interested in the history of the Confederacy! Mark Vogl is a Distinguished Military Graduate of THE CITADEL, former Army combat arms officer, college professor, political aide, and well-known author.

Mark has six books published. The first book, Military Lessons of the Civil War, received the Jefferson Davis Historical Gold Medal from the United Daughters of the Confederacy.

Mark is the great-great-grandson of Private David Parks Walter, 33rd North Carolina Volunteers, part of the famed Lane's Brigade, Stonewall Jackson's Corps, Army of Northern Virginia. A member of the Sons of Confederate Veterans. Mark was awarded the Texas Division Confederate of the Year Award in 2009. He served as the 2d Lt. Commander and 1st Lt. Commander of the Texas Division.



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## 1<sup>st</sup> Lieutenant Commander's Report:

Our November speaker was Mr. David Bedford, education director of the Texas Civil War Museum of Fort Worth. Mr. Bedford is a former public school administrator with a degree from North Texas State University. He spoke of the many ironies and heros of the 1863 Battle of Gettysburg, which is considered by many historians to be the "high watermark of the Confederacy."

Mr. Bedford also described the many quality displays at the Texas Civil War Museum, which include



General Grant's coat, worn during the surrender at Appomattox

Presentation Sword of General U.S. Grant

The Sheridan Exhibit

Personal belongings of Jeb Stuart

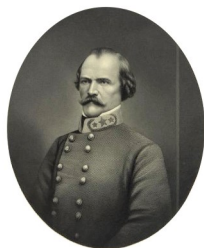
Confederate 6 Pound Smoothbore Cannon

Confederate States Safe

Scarlett O'Hara's Hat from the movie "Gone with the Wind"

The Texas Civil War Museum is open, Thurs. thru Sat. 10am to 5pm.

## SONS OF CONFEDERATE VETERANS



**ALBERT SIDNEY JOHNSTON CAMP #983**  
**DECATUR TEXAS**

## Camp Officer Election at December Meeting

The following camp members have agreed to serve the camp in 2023 as officers. There will be a vote for acceptance at the December Christmas Dinner/Meeting.

Commander	Jim Cox
1st Lt. Commander	Bruce Cunningham
Adjutant/Treasurer	Brandon Davis
Chaplain	Robert Cox

## THE CHARGE OF STEPHEN DILL LEE

"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 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*



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## Chaplain's Page



Lincoln was an unlikely leader during the War of Aggression. He often quoted the bible but never really identified himself as a Christian. On the other hand, Christianity was dominant within the South. Most politicians viewed Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior, often mentioning His sovereignty. The South viewed their Northern counterparts as sinning "infidels" who threatened their religious future and freedom. Viewing President Abraham Lincoln as more a deist than a Christian, many Southerners feared his beliefs. Deism is defined as "a belief in a God who created everything, yet has no distinct relationship with its world or the people in it." For the most part, Southerners were dedicated Christians who feared the North and its liberal practices within Christianity.

Often compared to President Thomas Jefferson, the late historian Edwin Gaustad writes the following regarding Lincoln: "Like Jefferson before him, Lincoln, though, remained aloof from institutional Christianity and displayed a restorationist sense of the impurity of all existing churches." Furthermore, Gaustad adds, "Lincoln was a seeking spirit, open to the religious experimentation that characterized the period's effervescent religious democracy." Lincoln's views were arguably in deep contrast with many Southern politicians who sought to establish Christianity as the "one true" religion. Comparing itself to the North, the South criticized their opposition by neglecting to rely solely on the Lord, the Creator found in the Bible. Lincoln had a reputation "for never embracing Christianity." On at least "eight occasions, mediums or sorcerers were known to visit the White House to provide prophetic visions." Gaustad wrote: That was particularly evident in the interest that he and his wife, Mary Todd Lincoln, took in spiritualism. That movement, in which mediums sought to communicate with the spirits of the dead, began humbly enough in Hydesville, New York, in the late 1840s with a series of mysterious knockings and rappings that many interpreted to be ghostly communications.

This would have been particularly alarming to the citizens of the South, some might even have called it blasphemous. So the tone was set for this great battle between brothers even before Lincoln took office. A lot of it was generated by fear, and by well meaning people believing they were doing the work of Christ. Most wars are started by fear. Fear of a foreign nation invading your own, fear of losing our freedoms in this once great nation. The list goes on and on. Yet, God has written "fear not" in the bible 365 times. That's one for each day. And we know that fear is not of God (2 Tim 1:7) and is actually the opposite of faith.

As we go forward in our country, we see a lot of "wrong" things happening. It's easy to see that our country doesn't love God the way we used to and that there are actually evil forces working against America and even God Himself. And yet Jesus Himself said "in this world, you will have troubles. But FEAR NOT for I have overcome the world" (John 16:33). Compatriots, we must keep the faith. And fear not, because He is with us.

Blessings,

Chaplain Robert Cox





# THE PICKET LINE

**ALBERT SIDNEY JOHNSTON CAMP 983 IS GROWING!**



*Welcome to another New Member, Bob Cox, sworn into camp by Camp Chaplain Robert Cox (his father) at right, with Camp Adjutant Brandon Davis on far left, and Camp Commander Jim Cox.*



**Pictured at right are the three (3)  
latest members to be  
sworn in since  
September.**

**From left to right are:  
Bob Cox, Keith Hulse, and  
Rodney Kilgore.**

**Our Camp has had the privilege  
to have five (5) new members  
join since July.**





# THE PICKET LINE

**Compatriot Rodney Kilgore submits this letter written by his GG Uncle, the brother in law of his Silcox ancestor. It provides an interesting prospective on the war “in the trenches.”**

## Battle for Marianna, Florida

*Another member of the company, M.L. Lassiter, wrote years later that he was chased from the scene at Hard Labor Creek in a running skirmish that continued all the way to Vernon: ...On our way to Marianna we met a company of Federals, near Hard Labor Creek, and Jones company was captured and taken to Ship Island Prison. I made my escape on horseback and outran them. I was pursued all the way back to Vernon and shot at many times but escaped without injury. In either the initial melee or the running fight that followed, Captain Jones and ten of his men were captured. Four of these men, Andrew and James Gable of the 6th Florida Infantry and H.R. and B.A. Walker of the 1st Florida Re-organized Infantry, were Confederate regulars home on leave who volunteered to fight with the home guards. Also captured were Enoch Johns, Shadrick Johns, John Nelson, Cary Taylor, Freeman Irwin and Nathaniel Miller. Irwin had represented Washington County at Florida's secession convention in 1861 and Taylor was a former Washington County sheriff. The Federals pursued the remnants of Jones' company on into Vernon, but the rest of the Confederates managed to escape. The raiders halted in the town to rest for a few hours, but moved on later in the night and continued their march to Point Washington on Choctawhatchee Bay. The stories of the prisoners are quite tragic. Carried away by the Union troops, they were shipped to prison camps first at New Orleans and then Ship Island, Mississippi, before finally reaching the disease-ridden compound at Elmira, New York. Cary Taylor and Enoch Johns died there of small pox on December 27, 1864, less than two months after the Battle of Vernon. Shadrick Johns and Cary Taylor tried to secure their freedom by offering to swear oaths of allegiance to the United States government. They both said they had been “conscripted, ordered out by the Governor to resist a raiding party, and had been captured the same day.” Although they were seriously ill and over 50 years old, their request was denied and both men remained at Elmira until the end of the war.*







**At the October camp meeting, members approved the initial purchase of 100 challenge coins. These beautiful coins have arrived and each camp member will receive one. The Coins will be offered for sale to camp members at a donation of \$10.00 each This will cover the cost of the coin and provide funds for the camp treasury.**



ASJ Christmas Dinner/Meeting	December 2, 2022
“Pink” Brooks Camp-Graham Memorial Dedication	December 3, 2022
ASJ Camp Meeting ( <i>Officer Installation</i> )	January 12, 2023
ASJ Camp Meeting	February 9, 2023
ASJ Camp Meeting	March 9, 2023
ASJ Camp Meeting	April 13, 2023
R.E. Lee Camp Confederate Heritage Banquet	April 29, 2023
ASJ Camp Meeting	May 11, 2023
SCV Texas Reunion ( <i>Lubbock</i> )	June 2-4, 2023
ASJ Camp Meeting	June 8, 2023
ASJ Camp Meeting	July 13, 2023
SCV National Reunion ( <i>Hot Springs AR</i> )	July 19-22, 2023
ASJ Camp Meeting	August 10, 2023
ASJ Camp Meeting	September 14, 2023



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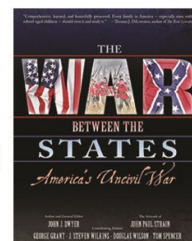
**SPECIAL GUEST SPEAKER, AUTHOR, PUBLISHER AND HISTORIAN JOHN J. DWYER**  
**PRESENTING "THE WAR BETWEEN THE STATES - AMERICA'S UNCIVIL WAR"**



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**LOCATION: SPLASH DAYZ BANQUET ROOM, 8905 CLIFFORD ST. WHITE SETTLEMENT, TX 76108**

**APRIL 29, 2023 AT 6:00 PM - DOORS OPEN AT 5:00 PM**

**BUSINESS CASUAL DRESS OR UNIFORMS REQUESTED**

**TICKET PRICE: \$30**

**TICKET SALES END APRIL 16<sup>TH</sup>, ORDER YOURS TODAY AS SPACE IS LIMITED!!**

**WE ACCEPT CASH, CHECK & CREDIT CARD**

**MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO: R.E. LEE CAMP 239**

**CHRIS WEBB 817-739-8300 EMAIL: ADJUTANTCAMP239@YAHOO.COM**

**MAIL CHECKS TO CHRIS WEBB 720 NICHOLE DR., BURLESON, TX 76028**