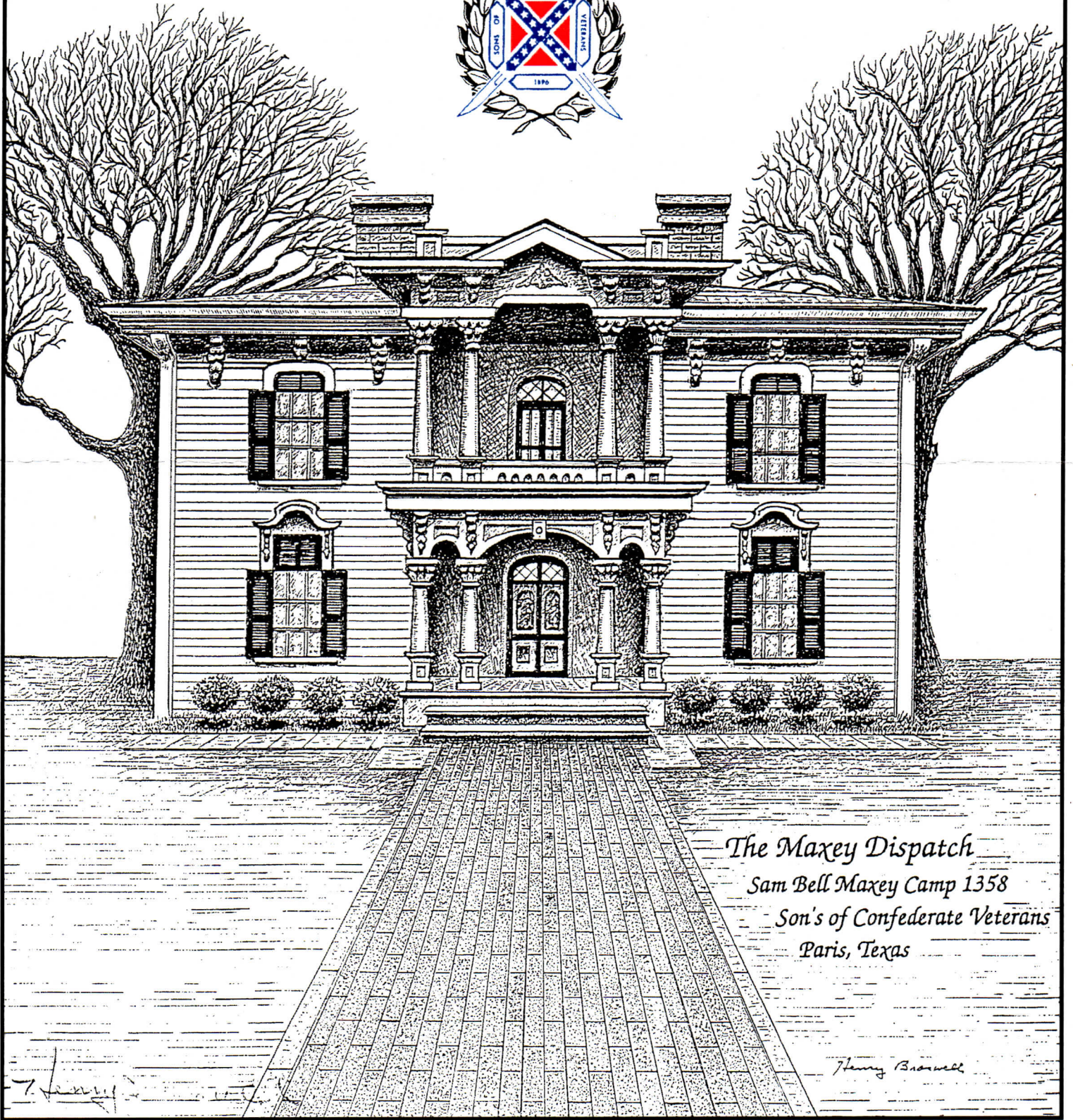


TEXAS



*The Maxey Dispatch*  
*Sam Bell Maxey Camp 1358*  
*Son's of Confederate Veterans*  
*Paris, Texas*

*Sam Bell Maxey House - Paris, Texas - By Judge Henry Braswell*

**THE MAXEY DISPATCH**  
**The Newsletter of the Gen. Sam Bell Maxey Camp 1358**  
**Sons of Confederate Veterans, Paris, Texas**  
**Dispatch # 315 October, 2021**

**Adjutant's Report:**

The September 2021 (9-7-2021) meeting was called to order by the Adjutant according to SCV ritual at 6 p.m. The opening prayer was offered by member Bill Milling. The Pledge of Allegiance to the United States flag followed by the salute to the Confederate flag was intoned. The 1906 charge from Confederate General Stephen Dill Lee, on the founding of the Sons of Confederate Veterans, was read to those present. There were six regular members present, including our new member, Charles Dunagan, who transferred his membership to our camp last month from 13th Texas Infantry Camp #1565 in Angleton, Texas. Welcome aboard Charles.

There was no formal program for the meeting and those present just engaged in conversation about ancestors, old friends, and current events. The hour passed quickly and there was a lot of great information shared. The meeting was adjourned at 7 p.m.

Deo vindice.

**Clayton Coker: Adjutant**

**The next meeting will be Tuesday 5 October, 2021 at the Paris Public Library at 6:00 pm.**

## Editorial:

There were six battles in the month of October, 1861 but only one of these was considered a major engagement. This was the Battle of Ball's Bluff.

The Battle of Ball's Bluff was fought in Loudoun County, Virginia, on October 21, 1861, in which Union Army forces under Major General George B. McClellan suffered a humiliating defeat. The operation was planned as a minor reconnaissance across the Potomac to establish whether the Confederates were occupying the strategically important position of Leesburg. A false report of an unguarded Confederate camp encouraged a raid, which resulted in a clash with enemy forces.

On the morning of October 21, the Union raiding party discovered the mistake made the previous evening by the patrol; there was no camp to raid. Opting not to recross the river immediately, the men deployed in a tree line and sent a messenger back to report to command and get new instructions. The messenger returned with orders that the remainder of the 15th Massachusetts (another 350 men) would cross the river and move to his position. When they arrived, the raiding party was to turn back into a reconnaissance and move toward Leesburg.

While the messenger was going back with this new information, Union Colonel and U.S. Senator Edward D. Baker showed up at the Union camp to find out about the morning's events. Baker was instructed to go to the crossing point, evaluate the situation, and either withdraw the troops already in Virginia or cross additional troops at his discretion.

On the way upriver to execute this order, Baker met the messenger coming back a second time to report that the Union

force had encountered and briefly engaged the enemy, one company (Co. K) of the 17th Mississippi Infantry. Baker immediately ordered as many troops as he could find to cross the river, but he did so without determining what boats were available to do this. A bottleneck quickly developed so that Union troops could only cross slowly and in small numbers, making the crossing last throughout the day.

Meanwhile, the initial Union forces (now about 650 strong) remained in its advanced position and engaged in two additional skirmishes with a growing force of Confederates, while other Union troops crossed the river but deployed near the bluff and did not advance from there. The forward Union troops withdrew around 2:00 p.m. and met Baker, who had finally crossed the river. Beginning around 3:00 the fighting began in earnest and was almost continuous until just after dark.

Col. Baker was killed at about 4:30 p.m. and remains the only United States Senator ever killed in battle. Following an abortive attempt to break out of their constricted position around the bluff, the Federals began to recross the river in some disarray. Shortly before dark, a fresh Confederate regiment (the 17th Mississippi) arrived and formed the core of the climactic assault that finally broke and routed the Union troops.

The engagement is also known as the Battle of Harrison's Island or the Battle of Leesburg.

**Editor - Clayton Coker**

**Stand firmly by your Cannon  
Let ball and grapeshot fly  
And trust in God and Davis  
But keep your powder dry!**