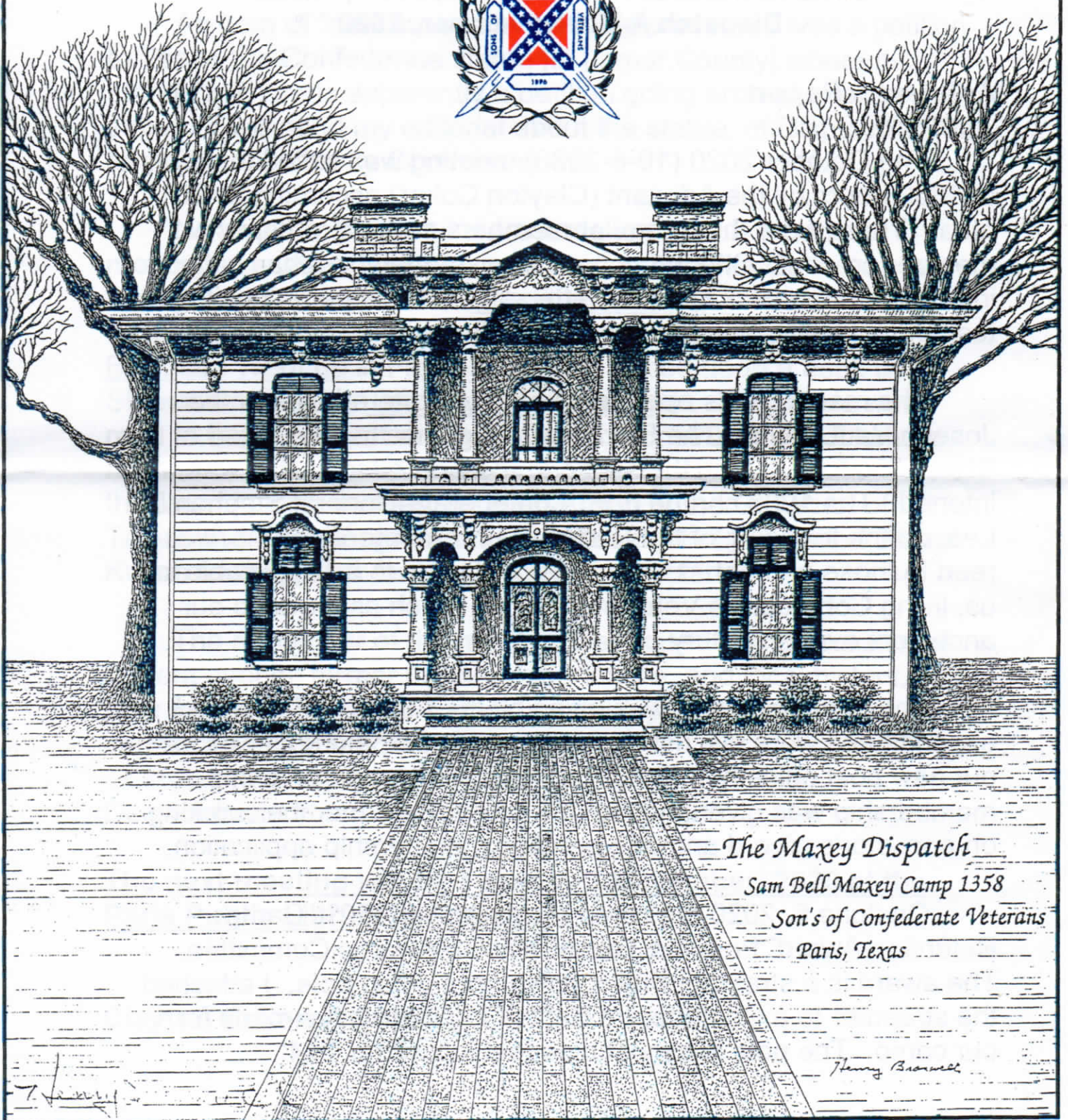


TEXAS



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

*Henry Braswell*

*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 # 304 November, 2020**

**Adjutant's Report:**

The October 2020 (10-6-2020) meeting was called to order at 1800 hours by the Adjutant (Clayton Coker) according to SCV ritual. There were three regular members and one prospective member present. One of our "never miss" members had called to inform us that he would not be attending because of a "positive" test for Covid-19. We all wish him a full and quick recovery.

The meeting was opened by a prayer offered by member Joseph VanDeaver. 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. The charge continues to be applicable to us, living Confederate Veteran Sons, as much as it was to our ancestors over a century ago.

The financial report was given by the Adjutant. Projected expenditures were discussed (the monthly Dispatch) as well as our new post office box (P. O. Box 1658). A report on camp membership was given; noting one prospective member working on ancestor's record and one pending membership application.

On June 6, 2020 the camp received the "100% Camp Retention Award" from the Texas Division Awards Committee. The award is a streamer that is flown from a flag pole. I attached the streamer to a Confederate Battle Flag that I have made for our camp. The pole is almost nine feet tall with a 4'x4'

Confederate Battle Flag. The flag has a streamer that reads "Gen. Sam Bell Maxey Camp 1358". This new addition is our first award streamer. Hopefully there will be many more.

An item of "new business" that was presented was a petition to "leave the Confederate statue [in Lamar County] where it stands". There is apparently a petition going around to move the statue. I will send my editorial about the statue, of Dispatch # 302 to the Lamar County Commissioners.

No one had prepared a presentation for this month's meeting. However, our prospective member, Jim Coker, came through with an article from The Roxton Progress dated 1 October, 2020. The article was a column titled The Night Brenham Went up in Flames and was based upon a book by Sharon Brass titled The Burning of Brenham. The article was read to those present and was about reconstruction problems in Brenham, Texas in 1866 that eventually were resolved (in favor of the former Confederates) by intervention of the Governor of Texas, the U.S. Congress and the President of the United States. Kudos to Jim Coker for the presentation material.

The remainder of the meeting was passed by discussion of current events, former military experiences, and local history. The hour long meeting went by fast, was enjoyed by all and was concluded at 1900 hours.

Deo vindice.

**The next meeting will be Tuesday 3 November, 2020 at the Paris Public Library at 6:00 pm.**

**Clayton Coker: Adjutant**

## **Editorial:**

During our October meeting I gave all those present a piece of hardtack that I had made. I also provided a recipe and various eating "options".

Hardtack is a simple type of biscuit or cracker made from flour, water, and salt. Hardtack is inexpensive and long-lasting. It was used for sustenance in the absence of perishable foods, commonly during long sea voyages and military campaigns. Along with salt pork, hardtack was a standard ration for many militaries and navies from the 17th century to the beginning of the 20th century. It is known by other names including pilot bread, sea biscuit, sea bread, ship's biscuit, molar breakers, sheet iron, tooth dullers, armor plates and worm castles.

Un-moistened hardtack was almost inedible and "nearly dense enough to stop a musket ball". To soften, hardtack was often dunked in coffee, or some other liquid, or cooked into a skillet meal. With insect infestation common in improperly stored provisions, soldiers would break up the hardtack and drop it into their morning coffee. This would not only soften the hardtack but the insects, mostly weevil larvae, would float to the top, and the soldiers could skim off the insects and resume consumption.

During the American Civil War, hardtack was shipped from Union and Confederate storehouses. Civil War soldiers generally found their rations to be unappealing as some of this hardtack had been stored from the 1846–1848 Mexican–American War.

## **Quasi Editor - Clayton Coker**

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