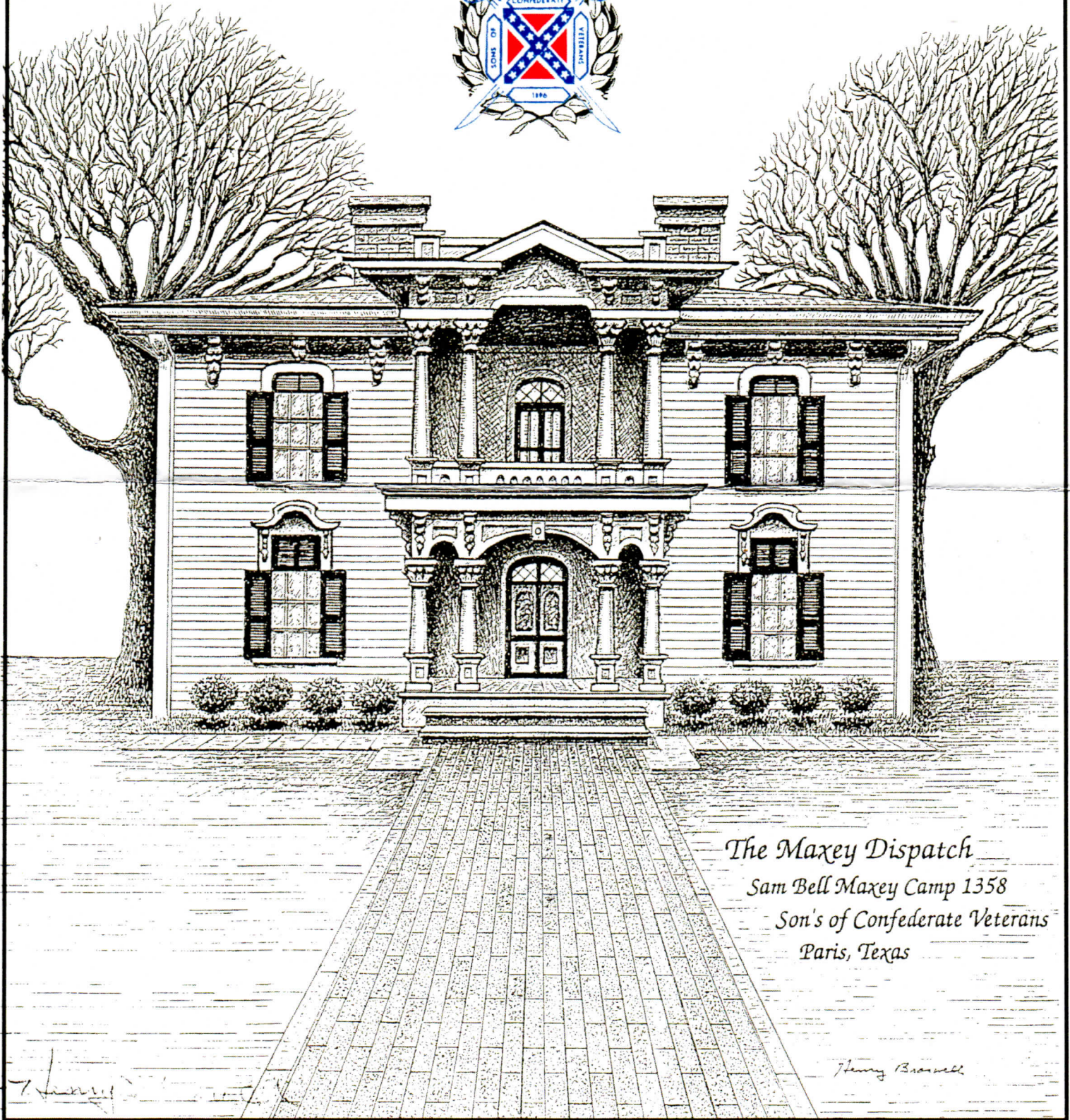


TEXAS



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

Sam Bell Maxey House - Paris, Texas - By Judge Henry Biaswell

THE MAXEY DISPATCH
The Newsletter of the Gen. Sam Bell Maxey Camp 1358
Sons of Confederate Veterans, Paris, Texas
gensambellmaxeycamp1358@gmail.com.
Dispatch # 327 December, 2022

Adjutant's Report:

The November 2022 (11-1-2022) meeting was called to order by the Adjutant according to SCV ritual at 6 p.m. The opening prayer was offered by member Jim Coker. 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 three regular members present (all Cokers).

We visited together for an hour and discussed local and national issues, future meeting topics, and Confederate veteran graves identification and maintenance. It is becoming obvious that it is difficult to have a significant face to face monthly meeting for our camp. Our camp needs to seriously discuss this issue. A good time of fellowship was had by all in attendance and the meeting was adjourned at 7 p.m.

Deo vindice.

Clayton Coker- Adjutant/Commander

The next meeting will be Tuesday 6 December, 2022 at the Paris Public Library at 6:00 pm.

Editorial:

This month's editorial addresses the cultural/political status of the Northeast Texas counties of our camp's area during the Civil War. The counties of Lamar, Fannin, Hunt and Hopkins (and later Delta County created in 1870) were experiencing their own personal "Civil War" during the conflict.

Texas was one of the original seven Confederate states to secede from the Union in 1861. Texas was the only state to put the issue of secession to a public vote. When a Texas convention was finally called in January of 1861 to allow a statewide discussion on the matter, George Wright, Lem Williams and William H. Johnson were selected to attend from Lamar County. Wright was an old-line Whig and Unionist. All three voted against secession, following the lead of Governor Sam Houston, a man Wright originally met back in 1834. Only five others cast a negative vote with Lamar Countians.

Lamar County and the other surrounding counties were comprised of an almost 50% to 50% mixture of both Upper and lower southerners. Upper southerners were originally from the "southern" boarder states and had Unionist sentiments. The Lower southerners were staunchly Confederate.

When the vote was taken the citizens of the county were mostly in concurrence with their delegates. Lamar County was one of only 19 counties in Texas voting to stay in the Union. However, when secession came, Wright and the other two delegates joined in the Confederate cause. Lamar County voted against secession during the Civil War, but the people took to the Confederate cause and joined General Sam Bell Maxey's Lamar Rifles and many other Confederate units were formed in the area.

However, those who did not want to fight for the Confederacy had to make a choice. Some fled north; some fled to Mexico; and some took to the "thickets" of the Sulphur Forks watershed (now Delta County) and became the "Brush Men".

There was continual conflict between the "Brush Men" and the remaining Confederate "Home Guard". The Home Guard was comprised mostly of boys under or about sixteen years of age and old men whose age and decrepitude made them unfit for regular service in the Confederate army. The other element, and the most feared, was the "vigilantes". These were the men who had personal grudges and scores to settle with the "brush men". There were several lynchings during this period that were brought to court during the reconstruction era.

Many Confederate veterans migrated to Texas after the war because it suffered the least devastation and destruction of any of the Confederate states; at least from Union forces. The troubles in our area were Texan on Texan. Many families were known to have left their homes with a placard tacked up with the letters G.T.T. on it- "Gone To Texas".

For more information read Brush Men & Vigilantes-Civil War Dissent in Texas by David Pickering and Judy Falls.

Editor - Clayton Coker

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