

*THE MARSHALL GUARDIAN*



**IN MEMORIAM**



Dedicated to the memory of the **Sergeant William Williston Heartsill** Company F 2nd Texas Cavalry, C.S.A.

**Next Meeting...**

**Tuesday,**

**March 16, 2021**

**6:30 P.M.**

**SPEAKER**

**J.C. Hanna, Commander  
Army of the Trans-  
Mississippi, SCV**

**Dinner Belle Restaurant**

**4803 East End Blvd.  
South**

**Marshall, TX 75672**

**Phone:**

**903-923-9678**

**Bring a Friend**



**W. W. Heartsill**



Compatriots:

Well why I am sorry we did not have a Feb. meeting but I hope all survived the record breaking weather we had. I would like to welcome a new member to our Camp. Jeff Norgard became an official member on 2/11/21 joining under his GG-Grandfather Joseph L. Brooks, Co .E, 3<sup>rd</sup> GA. Cavalry. It all started from a Compatriot in Alabama calling me on Jeff's behalf to help him join our Camp. Jeff is retired and lives in Waskom, welcome to the SCV. I hope to discuss with the Camp on us going as a group on a Saturday and touring the Old City Hall museum. They are open 2 Saturday's a month so let's go and see some of the History of those who served from Harrison County. For our April meeting we will have Mrs. Tami Hurley, President of the Texas United Daughters of the Confederacy as our speaker. I look forward to seeing all on March 16<sup>th</sup>. Stay safe, wash your hands and wear your mask if you wish.

**Bill Elliott**



## February Camp Meeting



I am sorry we did not get to have our meeting but we all had good and bad days during the week of our meeting. We made history for the records but we all survived. I hope all went well for you. I did not lose lights, water or heat but did lose a 20x20 car cover.



**Hard to believe it has been back in Aug. 2019 when State Senator Bryon Hughes came to address our meeting.**

## Home Town Hero: Major John Nathan Coleman, Co. A. 3<sup>rd</sup> Texas Cavalry



### Maj. Coleman's grave, NW section of Marshall Cemetery.

### His Obituary, October 1880

John Nathan Coleman was born on Sept. 19<sup>th</sup>, 1835 in Hancock County Georgia and departed this life on October 16, 1880. He came to Texas in Dec. 1854 and settled in Marshall. He entered into a mercantile business in which he was successful until the breaking out of the war in 1861, when like so many of the thousands of southern hearts that loved their native heath he responded to the call of his native country, and on June 13, 1861, he left his home with the renowned 3<sup>rd</sup> Texas Cavalry Regiment, Co. A. commanded by Captain T. W. Winston for the field of contest. He entered as a Private, but soon was appointed commissary of his regiment, and was afterward promoted to the commissary of Gen. Whitfield brigade, (better known towards the end of the war as Gen. Sul Ross's brigade), which position held, with the rank of Major, until the final surrender. Major Coleman was a gallant soldier and a faithful officer, and was away from home for four years and two days. Thus we find that he was among the first upon the battlefield and the last to leave it. Soon after his return he was united in marriage to Miss Jennie (Virginia Eliza Adkins 1845-1932) daughter of the late Judge G. B. Adkins, of Marshall, and entered again into some business relations, in which he was doing well until he had the great misfortune of losing both his lower limbs. Having a growing family on his hands this was a sad calamity to him, and from that time until his death he was a great sufferer. Yet his energy never abated. He struggled on, using and appropriating every opportunity that presented itself to maintain his family, and when his release came he was holding an honorable position in the general offices of the T&P railway company. Major Coleman leaves a wife and six children, with two brothers and three sisters to lament his departure. We deeply sympathize with the bereaved, and direct them to Him who has said, "I will never forsake thee nor leave thee comfortless".



## **John and Jennie's story:**

John Nathan Coleman was born in Hancock County, GA. on Sept. 19, 1835. He moved to Harrison County Texas in Dec. 1854. John established J.N. Coleman & Co. and soon became a wealthy merchant. In the turbulent years of the early 1860's, as Texans moved closer to seceding from the Union, John became active in meetings on the secession crisis. However, despite his ardent secessionist leanings, the census of 1860 reveals that Coleman owned no Slaves. Coleman enlisted in the Third Texas Cavalry (then known as the South Kansas-Texas Regiment) on June 3<sup>rd</sup>, 1861 and was quickly promoted to Commissary Sergeant after proving himself in battle. He was granted several furloughs and returned home to Marshall at least twice during the course of the war. John was promoted to Captain and Assistant Commissary of Subsistence on May 10, 1862. He received his final promotion to Major and brigade Commissary commander on Dec. 8, 1863. John served four years and two days in the Confederate army and was paroled on May 15, 1865.

John returned to Marshall and married Virginia Eliza "Jennie" Adkins at the Methodist Church on August 2, 1865. Jennie was the daughter of Judge George B. Adkins, her brother George Jr. was also enlisted in Co. K. 17<sup>th</sup> TX Inf. (died in Mansfield, buried to the right of John Coleman) The Adkins family enjoyed a slightly higher standing in society due to her father's position and wealth gained through his occupation as a hotel keeper (Adkins's House that was later replaced by the Capitol Hotel built after the War), but Jennie was still subject to the same rigors of frontier living that affected the lower social classes. Jennie continued to participate in the social activities available to her during the wartime, including balls, socials, and concerts, often with an escort from the officers corps stationed at Marshall during the later years of the war.

The vagaries of sending letters during the war led to a number of episodes of jealousy on John's parts that are revealed throughout the collection of letters. Often, the letters from Jennie led him to despair of their "secret engagement" ever becoming official. But letter from home at just the right time would serve to rekindle the fires of romance, and Jennie wrote tenderly of her affection for her "dear absent one".

John and Jennie settled in Marshall after the war and lived together until John's death at age 45 on Oct. 16, 1880. Despite their relatively short period of marriage, their brief time as husband and wife produced six children, listed in the 1880 census as George, Thomas, John Jr., Willie, Virginia Jr., and Mary. Jennie received a Confederate pension in 1914 (giving oath were Dr. E. B. Blocker & C.J. Cellum) and lived out her remaining days at her daughter's home in Palestine. She died March 1, 1932 and is buried here in Marshall.



## **Explaining the story of Major and Mrs. Jennie Coleman**

When I first joined our Camp I went to Marshall Cemetery to try and find our Confederate Soldiers buried there. I found Maj. Coleman's VA stone and the combination of bricks and cement it was mounted on. I took a picture of it and when I came home I first GOOGLED his name. It came up under Texas History website. It stated that his and Jennie's love letters from the War years had been donated to the Baylor College Library so a lot of info there. While looking up his service records in Fold3 there are 27 pages of records with a bunch of letters from Maj. Coleman addressing supplies needed and payments requested for supplies. There are also service records for his Brother William Sidney Coleman who also served in Co. A, 3<sup>rd</sup> TX Cavalry. W. S. Coleman came back to Marshall became an attorney, then City attorney and State Legislator. He became a loud leader and opponent against a Bond issue for the Railroad to build the Shops here in 1880. He became upset over an article printed against him in the Marshall Messenger and he went after the reporter. Guns were drawn shots were fired and W. S. died in the streets on June 11<sup>th</sup>, 1880. At the time of W. S. death he was living with his wife as a boarder in the home of Mrs. M. D. Ector, the widow of Gen. Matthew Duncan Ector also of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Texas Cavalry who died on Oct. 29, 1879.

Needless to say there is a bunch of history on the Judge George B. Adkins Family. While chasing down info on a CSA vet George B. Adkins Jr. I found where his body was returned for burial at Marshall Cemetery after dying as a POW at the Battle of Mansfield. I also found in Jennie's Family Tree records that on April 4<sup>th</sup>, 1881 she was billed by G.W. Rains & Co. for John's burial on October 16, 1880, \$35.00 for coffin & case, \$10.00 for use of the hearse, and \$ 5.00 for digging and closing of the grave for a total of \$50.00 for his services.

Judge George B. Adkins left Mobile Al. in 1836 and came to Harrison County arriving at Swanson's landing and settling in the Caddo Lake area. By trade he was listed as a brick mason, brick maker, builder and lawyer. In 1839 he was appointed as the 1<sup>st</sup> Chief Justice of Harrison County by Texas President Mirabeau B. Lamar this title was what is now known as County Judge. With his Brick mason skills he trained 2 of his slaves to make bricks and to lay bricks. They built the Adkins House which later became the Capital Hotel. He later with his skilled slaves built the Methodist Church (1<sup>st</sup> Methodist now).

# In Memory of the Confederate Companies from Harrison County, Texas

2nd Texas Cavalry Co. F “Walter P. Lane Rangers”	Captain Samuel J. Richardson
3rd Texas Cavalry Co A “The Texas Hunters”	Captain T. W. Winston
1st Texas Infantry Co. E “The Marshall Guards”	Captain F. S. Bass
7th Texas Infantry Co. D “Bass Greys”	Captain K M Van Zandt
7th Texas Infantry Co. H “Texas Invincible”	Captain W. B. Hill
17th Texas Cavalry Co. E “Hendricks Company”	Captain S. B. Hendricks
17th Texas Cavalry Co. K “Clough Rangers”	Captain Gil McKay
14th Texas Infantry Co. B “Clough and Hill Avengers”	Captain W. L. Pickens
14th Texas Infantry Co A. “Marshall Mechanics”	Captain N. S. Allen
14th Texas Infantry Co. H “Cypress Tigers”	Captain John Miller
28th Texas Cavalry Co. F “Harrison County Lancers”	Captain Phil Brown
1st Cavalry Regiment Partisan Rangers	Captain Hec McKay
1st Cavalry Regiment Partisan Rangers	Captain S. W. Webb







### Upcoming National and Texas Division Reunions

**2021 Texas Division Reunion: May 28-30 at Waco Texas. Info can be found on the Texas Division Website SCV TX Div.**

**2021 SCV 126<sup>th</sup> Annual Reunion: July 21-24 at Kenner, LA. Info can be found on the SCV website or at the Beauregard Camp 130 site, WWW.SCV-BCAMP130.org**



For our Irish ancestors

### 2021 Camp Leadership

**Bill Elliott**  
**Camp Commander**  
(903) 263-9092  
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**Pete Craig**  
**1st Lt Commander**  
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**Robb McMahan**  
**2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. Commander**  
**Camp Chaplain**  
(301) 490-4341  
robb@lastrebel.net

**Frank Crisp**  
**Adjutant**  
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**Dick Brassell**  
**Chaplain**  
479-544-3717  
Pennyb2@hotmail.com

**T.J. Henigan**  
**Sgt. at Arms**  
(903) 407-2185

### How Do I Join The Sons of Confederate Veterans?

The SCV is the direct heir of the United Confederate Veterans. Organized at Richmond, Virginia in 1896, the SCV continues to serve as a historical, patriotic, and non-political organization dedicated to ensuring that a true history of the 1861-1865 period is preserved. Membership in the Sons of Confederate Veterans is open to all male descendants of any veteran who served honorably in the Confederate armed forces. Membership can be obtained through either lineal or collateral family lines and kinship to a veteran must be documented genealogically. The minimum age for full membership is 12, but there is no minimum for Cadet Membership.