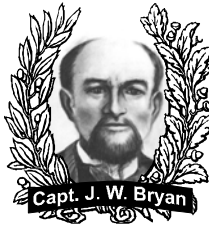


# THE CALCASIEU GREYS



Capt. James W. Bryan  
Camp 1390  
Sons of Confederate Veterans  
Lake Charles, Louisiana



Lt. Isaac Ryan  
Chapter 205  
Military Order of the  
Stars and Bars



**December 2004**

*Winner of the 1992-95 Dr. Paul Jon Miller National Newsletter Award  
Winner of the 1997 Harvey Hutchinson State Newsletter Award  
<http://www.geocities.com/scv1390>*

## Annual

### Christmas Party Next Meeting

Captain James W. Bryan Camp 1390 will have its annual Christmas Party for the December meeting. It will begin at 6:30 p.m. with a social and then supper at 7 p.m. Tuesday, Dec 14, at Cmdr. Tommy Curtis' house, 1928 21st St. in Lake Charles.

Tommy is providing the meat - ham and turkey. Please call Diane McCarthy at 439-2788 or email her at [Theatre4you@aol.com](mailto:Theatre4you@aol.com) to RSVP the number you are bringing, and to let her know if you can bring a side dish or dessert.

Don't miss this wonderful social gathering for the Christmas season.

### Officers Elected For 2005

The following officers were elected, according to the requirements of the by-laws of Captain James W. Bryan Camp 1390, Sons of Confederate Veterans, for the year 2005:

Commander: William Thomas Curtis

1st Lt. Cmdr.: Bruce Tarver

2nd Lt. Cmdr: Jack Christ

Adjutant: Donald Tarver

Quartermaster: Doug Myers

Chaplain: Nathan Curtis

Editor: Michael D. Jones

Color Sergeant: Benjamin W. Burns

Surgeon: Dr. John K. Griffith Jr.

Sergeant-At-Arms: Wesley Beason Sr.

### Condolences to Allen Smith Jr. Family

Captain James W. Bryan Camp 1390 extends its condolences to the family of Compatriot Allen Smith Jr., who lost their daughter, Jan Gwatney Robinson. She

died 20 Nov. in a Houston hospital. A native of Lake Charles, she was a graduate of Barbe High School, and LSU. She was employed as Senior Management of Communications Strategy with AT&T Wireless Services. Survivors include her husband, Rick Robinson of Dallas, Texas; her parents, Shirley Ann Chumley Smith and Allen L. Smith, Jr. of Lake Charles; Jimmy L. Gwatney of Lake Charles, and brother Jon S. Gwatney of Lake Charles.

Cmdr. Tommy Curtis provided a floral memorial from the camp.

### Historical Marker Under Attack

CAMERON — the NAACP has demanded that the Cameron Parish Police Jury remove a State Historic Marker honoring a young hero of the Battle of Calcasieu Pass from its premises. This marker, with text approved by the State Department of Historic Preservation, honors Pvt. William Guehrs of Creuzbauer's Battery, 5th Texas Light Artillery, who was the recipient of the Confederate Medal of Honor was dedicated 4 September of this year in front of the Cameron Parish Courthouse.

The Louisiana Society Order of Confederate Rose sponsored the marker and among the contributors was Captain James W. Bryan Camp 1390. If you would like to encourage the police jurors to keep the marker at its present location of honor in front of the courthouse, please respond with polite, informative letters or telephone calls. Bitter or angry responses would be counterproductive. Our best response is an educational one that will teach the true history of the battle and of the noble sacrifice of Pvt. Guehrs. It would also be helpful if you know Cameron Parish residents, to encourage them to talk to their police jurors about it.

Johanna Pate, La. Society OCR president, requested "courteous and informative" letters and phone calls. Please contact the Police Jury at:  
Cameron Parish Police Jury  
P. O. Box 1280  
Cameron, LA 70631  
Office - (337) 775-5718 Fax - (337) 775-5567  
Parish Administrator - Earnestine "Tina" Horn  
Secretary-Treasurer - Bonnie W. Conner  
Road Superintendent - Ellis Nunez

The names of the Police Jurors are listed below:

Police Jurors            4 Year Terms  
Magnus "Sonny" McGee  
District 1 121 Alvin Lane  
Cameron, LA 70631 H: (337) 569-2359  
W: (337) 569-7614

Steve Trahan, President  
District 2 657 West Main St.  
Hackberry, LA 70645            H: (337) 762-4717  
W: (337) 762-3111 ext.232  
P: 297-1063

Charles Precht III  
District 3 159 W. Precht Road  
Sweet Lake, LA 70630            H: (337) 598-4652  
W: (337) 598-2745

Douaine Conner  
District 4 P.O. Box 81  
Creole, LA 70632    H: (337) 542-4766

Scott Trahan, Vice President  
District 5 P.O. Box 235  
Creole, LA 70632    H: (337) 542-4745  
P: (337) 437-5094  
W: (337) 542-4563  
E-mail: [satrahah@camtel.net](mailto:satrahah@camtel.net)

James Doxey  
District 6 174 Francis Circle  
Cameron, LA 70631 H: (337) 775-8251

Darryl Farque  
District 7 10690 Hwy 384  
Lake Charles, LA 70607            H: (337) 598-5896  
H: (337) 598-5659



The Pvt. William Guehrs State Historical Marker at the Cameron Parish Courthouse. From left are Mary Pace and Johanna Pace, both of the Louisiana Society Order of Confederate Rose, and Tina Horn, Cameron Parish administrator.

## The Story of Pvt. William Guehrs

A soldier who was mortally wounded 140 years ago at the Battle of Calcasieu Pass was posthumously awarded a rare Confederate Medal of Honor at the 1994 Louisiana Division, Sons of Confederate Veterans Reunion held in Lake Charles.

The soldier, Pvt. William Guehrs of Creuzbauer's Battery, 5th Texas Artillery, was recognized for "personal bravery and self-sacrifice above and beyond the call of duty" in the battle, which occurred May 6, 1864.

The medal and citation will be on permanent public display at the Imperial Calcasieu Museum in Lake Charles. A monument honoring Pvt. Guehrs is in Waldeck Cemetery, Fayette County, Texas, where he is buried. And a Louisiana State Historical Marker honors Pvt. Guehrs in front of the Cameron Parish Courthouse, which is part of the battlefield where he received his mortal wound.

The medal was sponsored by Captain James W. Bryan Camp 1390 of Lake Charles.

Gregg S. Clemmer, national chairman of the Confederate Medal of Honor Committee, said the medal was, at the time of its award, one of only 41 that have ever been issued by the organization. A 42nd Confederate Medal of Honor has been awarded to the "Unknown Confederate Soldier."

The Confederate Medal of Honor was created by the Congress of the Confederate States of America, but no

awards were made before it went out of existence in 1865.

The SCV, a historical organization founded in 1896 by Confederate veterans and their sons, revived the award and created a committee to examine applications for the medal, which must show incontestable proof of extraordinary merit.

Pvt. Guehrs, pronounced "Gears," was 23 years old at the time of the battle, a native of Germany and resident of Fayette County, Texas when he enlisted in the Confederate Army on Oct. 12, 1861. He died as a result of his wound Sept. 3, 1864.

His battery was stationed at Fort Griffin, Sabine Pass, Texas at the time of the battle. The battle was fought between a detachment of Confederate infantry, cavalry and artillery from the Sabine Pass garrison, about 40 miles west, and two Union gunboats, the U.S.S. Wave and U.S.S. Granite City, which were anchored at Calcasieu Pass about two miles inland from the Gulf of Mexico.

After a bloody 1-hour battle, both gunboats were captured and their surviving crews made prisoner.

The citation of Private Guehrs' distinguishing action reads:

"Pvt. William Guehrs was mortally wounded in action 6 May 1864 in the Battle of Calcasieu Pass, Louisiana.

"He was wounded in the leg from the first shot of an enemy gunboat, which also killed one of his comrades.

"Although medical attention was near at hand at a field hospital, where three Confederate surgeons were stationed, Pvt. Guehrs chose to stay with his gun, which was short of men.

"His wound was so severe and he was in so much pain that he had to perform his job as Number 2 man on his gun from a kneeling position. Pvt. Guehrs made this self-sacrificing choice at a critical time in the battle when his gun had come under a deadly cross fire from two enemy gunboats.

"His job as Number 2 man required him to load the gun and worm it (clean out the barrel) in between rounds, a difficult job under any circumstances but especially hard for a man severely wounded, in pain and unable to stand, and under fire from the enemy.

"His self-sacrificing act was critical to the Confederate victory in the battle because his battery went into the fight already short of men. His commanding officer, Captain Edmund Kreuzbaur, had to perform a function normally performed by a junior officer. Losing men as

soon as the enemy opened fire only aggravated the shortage.

"Pvt. Guehrs extraordinary gallantry was recognized by his fellow battery members at the time of the battle and is described in a letter written just four days after the battle by Cpl. C. Walter von Rosenberg, who was a gunner on his artillery piece, as being "heroic."

"Pvt. Guehrs' actions were in the best tradition of the Confederate Army, were clearly self-sacrificing and above and beyond the call of duty," according to the citation.

## **News from the Commander-In-Chief**

COLUMBIAN, Tenn. — In order to prevent illegal proxy voting [as specified in Article XX, Section 6], the Commander-in-Chief has directed the following General Order:

Any member who transfers between camps will be ineligible to serve as a delegate to the General Convention for either camp for a period of twelve (12) months.

Exceptions will be made for members who transfer to camps chartered within that twelve-month period. Exceptions will be considered on a case-by-case basis for compatriots that can prove a verifiable change of residence of over 100 miles in distance.

Applications for exception should be made to the Adjutant-in-Chief.II. This order is issued under the authority of the SCV

Constitution, Article VII, Section 1.III. Camps are requested to notify all members of this order.

By Order of Denne A. Sweeney, Commander-in-Chief, SCV

James Dark

Adjutant in Chief, SCV

## **Vets Elect New Roads Man Head Of State Body**

(From Newspaper Reports of 25, Oct. 1929)

LAFAYETTE — Confederate veterans of Louisiana, at the closing session of their reunion here today, elected Judge L.B. Claiborne of New Roads as commander of the Louisiana division.

The new leader who has been serving as lieutenant colonel and chief engineer on the staff of Commander W.T. Laseter, was elected by a margin of four votes over Lieutenant Colonel M.H. Achord of Baton Rouge, color bearer for Commander Laseter.

Alexandria was selected as the 1930 reunion city, following receipt of an invitation extended by Mayor Lamkin.

Abbeville also invited the veterans, the invitation being extended by Gustav Mouton, of this city, at the bequest of Cap. B. Broussard, of Abbeville, who spoke at the opening session of the reunion Thursday morning.

Commander-elect Claiborne announced the re-appointment of James A. Pierce, of New Orleans, as adjutant general and chief of staff. Other staff appointments will be made later. Four brigadier generals are also to be chosen.

A resolution was adopted, signed by the resolutions committee, composed of Chairman L.B. Claiborne, J.A. Rascoe and W.A. Downs, expressing appreciation to Lafayette citizens and organizations for the hospitality extended, and also urging all Confederate veterans, their sons, daughters, grandsons and granddaughters to attend the grand reunion at Biloxi next June.

Other resolutions adopted included one presented by Joseph St. Clair Favrot, of Baton Rouge, past division commander of the Spanish war veterans, in behalf of a committee from the Baton Rouge camp, headed by H.C. Lockett as chairman, urging an increase in the pensions of Louisiana Confederate veterans and their widows to \$60.00 a month.

## Robert H. Bailey, Aged Veteran of Civil War, Dead

(From newspaper reports of Nov. 5, 1929)

LAKE CHARLES, La. — Robert H. Bailey, one of Lake Charles' Confederate Veterans, died this morning at the home of his daughter, Mrs. G.S. Cole, north of the city. The funeral service will be held Tuesday afternoon at 3 o'clock at the Burke & Trotti funeral home, followed by interment in Graceland cemetery. The Daughters of the Confederacy will have charge of the services.

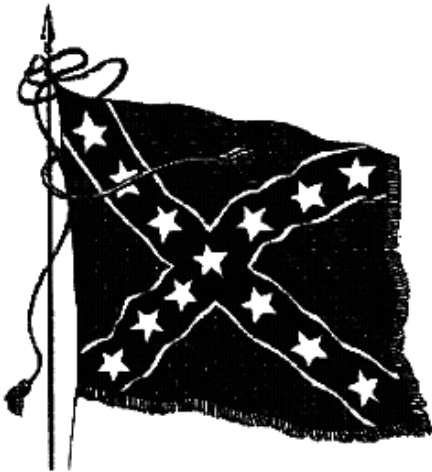
Mr. Bailey was 83 years old having been born July 26, 1846, at Haynesville, La.

When he was only 18 years old he entered the Civil War, serving for two years (in Co. C, 3rd La. Cav.). In 1873 he married Miss Harriet Chisholm of Haynesville. He settled in Lake Charles in 1882 and has lived here since, taking an active part in the early activities of the city.

One sister, Mrs. Sarah Pearce, of Post, Texas, survives. She is 94 years old. There are four children living: Marshall T. Bailey of Los Angeles, Calif., E. Claude Bailey of Houston, Texas; Mrs. G.S. Cole and Mrs. R. Goodman of Lake Charles. There are eight grandchildren and four great grandchildren.

Until his health failed, some time ago, Mr. Bailey attended every Confederate veteran's meeting, traveling to reunions in distant cities and always being present at the local entertainments given in honor of the veterans. It was a matter of great pride to him that he never missed a reunion.

Michael D. Jones, Editor  
Calcasieu Greys  
P.O. Box 1318  
Iowa, LA 70647



# FLY THE FLAG!



The South's Defenders