

**SONS OF UNION VETERANS OF THE CIVIL WAR
CIVIL WAR MEMORIAL FUND REQUEST**

(FORM CWM #62)

REQUESTOR INFORMATION

(Please print or type)

CAMP AND DEPARTMENT NAME: E.E. Ellsworth Camp 18 - Department of Texas

ADDRESS: 1501 Keswick Court

CITY: Richardson

STATE: Texas ZIP CODE: 75082

NAME OF CONTACT PERSON: Drake M. Peddie - Camp Commander

ADDRESS: 1501 Keswick Court

CITY: Richardson

STATE: Texas ZIP CODE: 75082

PHONE(S): 

MEMORIAL OR MONUMENT INFORMATION

NAME OF MEMORIAL: Pecan Grove Cemetery (Union Soldier Graves)

LOCATION: (Name and address of cemetery or other location description, such as, corner of 3rd and Lincoln Street)

Pecan Grove Cemetery

Corner of Industrial Blvd / Highway 5

McKinney, Texas, USA

WHEN WAS IT BUILT: Late 1800's

WHO OWNS IT: Private Non-Profit Corporation

WHO IS FINANCIALLY RESPONSIBLE FOR IT: E.E. Ellsworth Camp 18 (Dept of TX)

ARE MATCHING FUNDS AVAILABLE? No FROM WHERE: Camp Treasury

ARE OTHER SOURCES OF FUNDS AVAILABLE? Possibly FROM WHERE: Camp Treasury
Camp Treasury

AMOUNT BEING REQUESTED: \$350.00

WAS A GRANT PREVIOUSLY RECEIVED FOR THIS PROJECT? No

DATE RECEIVED N/A AMOUNT (\$) N/A

TOTAL COST OF RESTORATION PROJECT: \$500.00

DESCRIBE WORK THE FUNDS ARE NEEDED FOR (Be specific, use continuation sheet, if necessary)
Cleaning, leveling and restoration of 13 Union soldier monuments and markers in Pecan Grove
Cemetery in McKinney, Texas. (This is where the original GAR Camp 18 was located). The
markers are severe need of cleaning and are covered in mold, fungus, lichen, smoke, dirt, etc. etc.
baked into them over the past 100 years - Some are barely readable - legible.
(SEE ATTACHED DETAILED DESCRITPION / PROPOSAL)

WHO EVALUATED THE NEED FOR THE WORK, AND WHAT ARE THEIR QUALIFICATIONS? _____
Anyone can clearly see, work needs to be done - see the pictures attached and description.

WHO WILL DO THE DESCRIBED WORK, AND WHAT ARE THEIR QUALIFICATIONS: _____
E.E. Ellsworth Camp 18 Brothers - have done this type work before - some is complete.

WHO WILL RECEIVE THE FUNDS, *IF GRANTED?* (if other than requestor, provide complete mailing address) _____
E.E. Ellsworth Camp 18

FORM PREPARED BY: Drake M. Peddie
ADDRESS: 1501 Keswick Court
CITY, STATE, ZIP: Richardson, Texas 75082
SIGNATURE: _____

E.E. Ellsworth Camp 18 (Dept. of TX) Memorial Grant Request

Project Overview

E.E. Ellsworth Camp 18 is requesting a \$350 grant for the restoration and preservation of Union soldier markers located in Pecan Grove Cemetery in McKinney, Texas - a historic cemetery in the same city where our Camp is chartered and very near where the original GAR Camp 18 was located in North Texas. Many of the Union soldiers buried in Pecan Grove were most likely members of that original Camp 18.

Brothers of the Ellsworth Camp feel that our project is right in line with the first three (3) items in the stated SUVCW purposes.

- To perpetuate the memory of the Grand Army of the Republic and of the men who saved the Union in 1861 to 1865;
- To assist in every practicable way in preserving, and making available for research, documents and records pertaining to the Grand Army of the Republic and its members;
- To cooperate in honoring all those who have served our country patriotically in any war;

By restoring these markers, we easily accomplish all three. Several Camp Brothers have done this type of work before using approved resources and processes and the Camp has already expended \$150 in Camp funds to get the project started in Fall 2013.

Pecan Grove Cemetery History

Pecan Grove Historical Cemetery is one of the oldest cemeteries in North Texas. Located at the corner of Industrial Blvd. and Highway 5 in McKinney, Pecan Grove is the final resting place for many early Texas pioneers, from Governors to gunslingers. Heroes of the Texas Revolution are interred here, as are veterans of the Mexican War, the Civil War, and every war thereafter.

Pecan Grove's history began in the mid-1800s when the early pioneers of Collin County first arrived. In addition to the City's early families - Board, Dowell, Pope, Heard, Throckmorton, Rhea, Shain and Hill the headstones in Pecan Grove reflect the presence of 203 veterans from conflicts of the 1800s - 1 from the Texas Revolution; 7 from the Mexican War and 195 from the Civil War (193 Confederate and 18 Union). As well, a Twentieth Century Flying Ace lies in the cemetery and the man, General Royal Baker, who fought in World War II, the Korean War and Vietnam conflicts.

The property, consisting of 57 acres and was granted to Samuel McFarland by the Republic of Texas in 1845. It is a rustic and peaceful setting, largely undisturbed by the progress around it. Over 9,300 souls are resting there.

The Cemetery is a private non-profit, self sustaining cemetery, managed by a volunteer Board of Directors with but two full-time employees, charged with mowing, maintenance and providing day-to-day burial services. Many of the original plot owners are deceased and many others have moved from the McKinney area - There are less than 30% of the total lot owners still living in the area to share interest and provide support to the cemetery overhead. Managing individual marker issues is not something the cemetery budget can handle, nor do the two full-time employees have time for.

The Soldiers

The Cemetery claims there are 18 Union soldiers buried there (a lot for a Texas cemetery). To date, we have identified, located and mapped 13 of these. We decorate all 13 of these every Memorial Day in May. We are currently researching and trying to locate the other 5 soldiers. For our current restoration project, here is our working list of the confirmed Union soldiers buried in Pecan Grove Cemetery in McKinney, Texas that we will be working on:

- David F. Gerrish (1824-1911) - 1st Asst. Engineer - US Navy
- George H. Gerrish (1847-1933) - Fireman 1st Class - US Navy
- Sylvester Bowlby (1811-1887) - Private - Company E - 31st New Jersey Infantry
- Hugo E. Smith (1847-1908) - Private - 52nd New York Infantry
- William L. Boyd (1843-1899) - 1st Lieutenant - 5th Missouri Cavalry State Militia
- Turner T. Emerson (1845-1907) - Private - Company B - 31 Wisconsin Infantry
- Andrew J Krause (1843-1899) - Major - 108 US Connecticut Infantry
- Adam B. Eller (1847-1905) - Private - Company B - 2nd North Carolina Mounted Infantry
- W. B. Carter (1848-1899) - Corporal - Company E - 13th Tennessee Cavalry
- Oscar M. Calhoun (1845-1890) - Private - Company C - 117th Illinois Infantry
- John H. Allen (1844-1919) - Private - Company I - 61st Illinois Infantry
- William J. Higgins (1850-1927) - Private - Company H - 152 Illinois Infantry
- James P. Duncan (1844-1932) - Private - Company E - 2nd Tennessee Cavalry

The Project

We have decided to break the project down into three discreet phases that will be spread out over several months. We have already started on the cleaning and restoration phase, having spent \$150 of Camp funds for chemicals to get started with. Attached, you will find a selection of some of the current pictures of 7 of the 13 markers to be cleaned and restored. They are typically either marble or granite, with varying degrees of "life" growing on them. The mold actually eats the calcite in the marble and destroys the surface of the stone over time. Stopping this destructive process is important to maintaining these markers of our patriot ancestors for the long term. To date, several of the markers have been cleaned and fully restored. We have attached pictures (Before/After) of two of them for your evaluation. In person, they appear to be good as new now! Our group is VERY pleased with the outcome so far. What follows are additional details of what our plan is and how we will proceed. Quotes from local restoration services run about \$100/monument - just for the cleaning and restoration. For our project, our camp members will be doing the work to save money. We only need the funds for supplies and a few specialized tools to do the work ourselves.

- **Gravestone Cleaning/Restoration** - We will clean/restore each marker (13) to its original condition as best we can - this involves using special chemicals (approved by the Texas Historical Society) to remove the fungus, black mold, lichen, smoke, dirt, rust, pollution, etc. baked into the stone for over 100 years. We have done this successfully before and have received instruction/training from a local tombstone restoration expert. The chemicals will not harm the stone and are "green-friendly" in that they will not harm the surrounding environment. Most of the stones will require multiple treatments over several weeks (particularly those overgrown with black mold as all the marble ones are). These special chemicals cost about \$50/gallon. One gallon will clean several stones. The cemetery is fully aware of our cleaning efforts and has given us approval to work on the previous list of Union soldiers.

- **Gravestone Raising/Leveling** - With shifting terrain and severe droughts in the Texas summers, many of these markers are leaning severely and/or the earth around their foundations have eroded to the point where it is a threat to the monument. The cemetery is not financially able to take care of individual issues like this. We would bring in loads of dirt/gravel and cement as needed to fill in and secure these markers while raising and leveling them as required. We would work with the cemetery to make sure that nothing else is disturbed and have their approval in advance for each task we plan.
- **Gravestone Marking/Dedication** - Once the marker has been restored and its environment stabilized, we would like to officially mark the soldier's grave and dedicate his site next Memorial Day or late Spring with the local newspapers and TV stations in attendance.

Summary

We have already started the project while the weather is good in North Texas this Fall and have spent Camp funds to get going. Additional funds will be required soon to continue the work and move on to the next phase of the project. The longer we wait, the worse shape the markers and the surrounding environment will be in. Further deterioration of both will continue without our efforts. We strongly feel our project is in line with stated goals for the SUCVW and for guidelines of the Memorial Grant Program. E.E. Ellsworth Camp 18 (Dept. of Texas) requests a \$350 grant for the successful completion of the project and to help preserve the memory of our Union ancestors at Pecan Grove. Please let us know if there is any other information that you require.

Best Regards,

Drake M. Peddie
Camp Commander
E.E. Ellsworth Camp 18
Department of Texas (Including Louisiana and New Mexico)

Pecan Grove Cemetery Union Soldiers Markers (BEFORE) – McKinney, TX



Pecan Grove Cemetery Union Soldiers Markers (BEFORE / AFTER) – McKinney, TX

