

CONFEDERATE GAZETTE



Confederate Gazette

Is a monthly publication of the

Major Robert M. White
Camp #1250
Sons of Confederate
Veterans
Temple, Texas

Web Site:
www.rootsweb.com/~tx1250

Greg Manning
Commander
Rt. 1 Box 1737
Kempner, TX 76539

John C. Perry
Editor
P.O. Box 794
Salado, TX 76571

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Camp #1250
Sons of Confederate Veterans
Temple, Texas

GRAVE REDEDICATION CEREMONIES HELD

The Major Robert M. White Camp #1250 honored the memory of seven Confederate soldiers buried in the South Belton Cemetery on Sunday afternoon, April 29th.

On a sunny Sunday afternoon a crowd of about 50 attended the event that was co-sponsored by the United Daughters of the Confederacy chapter in Belton.

Honored at the event were: Capt. Henry E. Bradford, 6th Texas Infantry, Pvt. William P. Cox, 26th Texas Cavalry,



Greg Manning opens ceremonies
(photo: J. Perry)

Pvt. Benjamin F. Dechard, 17th Texas Infantry, Pvt. Thomas T. Hannon, 17th Texas Infantry, and James P. Holcomb, 21st Texas Cavalry.

Alta Edison welcomed those in attendance on behalf of the UDC. She encouraged all to remember the valor of the Confederate soldiers buried in the cemetery.

Keynote speaker was immediate past Texas Division Commander John Perry who talked about the contribution Texas made to

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State Flag Unchanged by Overwhelming Vote

MISSISSIPPI VOTES ON FLAG

Mississippi voters voted overwhelmingly to keep the Confederate Battle flag as part of its state flag on April 17th. Voters apparently rejected suggestions from the governor and business leaders that a

new flag would help the state escape its segregationist past.

By a nearly two to one margin, Mississippi resi-

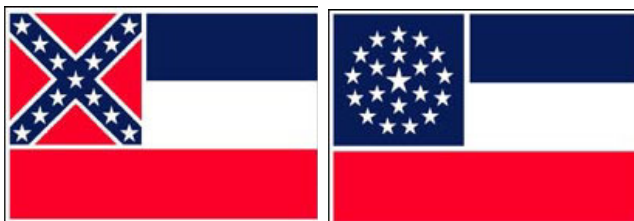
dents voted to keep their current state flag, defeating a proposed alternative that would have replaced

With all precincts reporting, 488,630 voters, or 65 percent, favored keeping the 1894 flag, while 267,812 voters, or 35 percent, wanted to replace it.

According to the Associated Press, Mississippi Governor Ronnie Musgrove said Mississippi should accept the results. "We must put

aside our differences as we continue to create a

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Mississippi voters were asked to chose one of two flag designs. On the left is the existing state flag or the proposed new one with 20 stars on the right.

the Confederate emblem in the upper left corner with a cluster of 20 stars.



CONFEDERATE PROFILE

★★★ JOHN A. ★★★ WHARTON

Texan Wharton was killed in a Houston hotel room in 1864

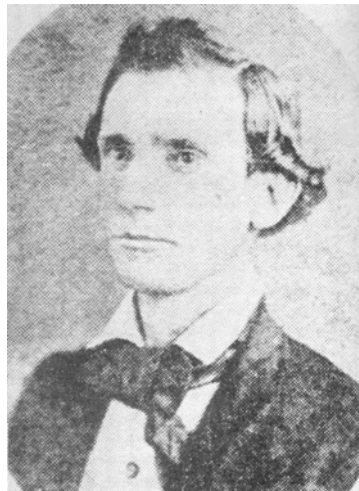
He died in 1864, but his death occurred not on the field of battle, but rather in a Houston hotel room at the hands of a fellow Texan and another Confederate officer. John Austin Wharton, unarmed, was murdered in cold blood.

Wharton was born near Nashville in 1828, but he always considered himself a Texan. His parents migrated to Texas when Wharton was still a child. He first lived in the Galveston area, but when he was old enough for college he journeyed east to South Carolina, where he attended what is now the University of South Carolina.

While in South Carolina young Wharton married well in 1848, marrying the daughter of the South Carolina governor. He and his young bride moved to Texas to begin a new life. Wharton passed the bar and began practicing law in Brazoria. Wharton became quite wealthy and was also a planter. In 1859 he was elected as District Attorney and in 1861 represented Brazoria County at the Texas Secession Convention, where he

voted in favor of secession.

When war started Wharton immediately formed a company of cavalry and joined what would



John Austin Wharton

become the 8th Texas Cavalry, better known as Terry's Texas Rangers. Wharton advanced rapidly and became commander of the 8th after the deaths of

of Shiloh in April of 1862 with distinction. On the second day of the battle, Wharton had his horse shot out from under him and was himself wounded, but stayed on the field until the battle was over.

Wharton was promoted to Brigadier General in November of 1862 and served with Joe Wheeler and Nathan Bedford Forrest at the Battle of Murfreesboro and at Chickamauga.

Due primarily for his superior performance at Chickamauga, Wharton was promoted to Major General in November of 1863. He commanded the cavalry of General Richard

Taylor in the Trans Mississippi and fought in the Red River Campaign in the spring of 1864. His life came to a tragic end in April of 1864 in the Fannin Hotel in Houston.

Confederate General John B. Magruder was using the hotel as his headquarters when Wharton came to visit. Wharton had a run in with Confederate Colonel George W. Baylor. The quarrel was reported as a result of "military matters," following the reorganiza-



Grave of Wharton at the Texas State Cemetery in Austin. The grave marker incorrectly states the year of Wharton's death as 1865, he died on April 6, 1864. (Photo by J. Perry)

Colonels Benjamin Terry and Tom Lubbock. He led the regiment at the Battle

of Shiloh in April of 1862 with distinction. On the second day of the battle, Wharton had his horse shot out from under him and was himself wounded, but stayed on the field until the battle was over.

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Confederate Profile

(Continued from page 2)
 tion of the Trans Mississippi Department. According to Baylor Wharton slapped Baylor's face and called him a liar. Baylor then pulled a pistol and shot and killed Wharton. After the shooting Wharton was found to be unarmed.

Baylor was never convicted of Wharton's death. After the war Baylor became a Texas Ranger, primarily fighting Apaches in West Texas. He would later serve in the Texas Legislature and died in 1917.

Wharton is buried in Austin at the Texas State Cemetery.

Wharton was one of only three Texans to serve as a major general and only two other men achieved a higher rank in Confederate military service, Albert Sidney Johnston and John Bell Hood.

May Camp Meeting

The May camp meeting of the Major Robert M. White Camp #1250 will be held at 7:00 P.M. in the Board Room of King's Daughters Hospital in Temple.

Featured speaker at the meeting will be Dr. Douglas Guthrie, President of the Civil War Round Table of Waco.

UDC Speaks



Alta Eidson Speaks for UDC at South Belton Cemetery services (photo: J. Perry)

Camp Schedule

May 2001

May 8th: Camp Meeting, King's Daughters Hospital, Temple, TX, 7:00 PM.

May 25th: Reenactment, Jefferson, TX

May 25th: Live Artillery Fire Competition, Ft. Sill, OK

June 2001

June 1st-3rd: Texas Division Convention, Capitol Marriott, Austin, TX

June 8th: Children of the Confederacy Convention, Sugarland, TX

June 12th: Camp Meeting, King's Daughters Hospital, Temple, TX, 7:00 PM.

At Belton Cemetery Ceremonies:



Heather Larson, "Littlest Rebel" at the South Belton Cemetery Ceremonies (Photo by J. Perry)

May Camp Meeting:
 Dr. Douglas Guthrie, Waco CWRT President Will Speak

Medal Given at April Meeting:



Mac Amsler receiving his Summerfield G. Roberts award from Camp Commander, Greg Manning at the April Camp meeting. (Photo by G. Ballentine)

South Belton Cemetery Ceremonies

(Continued from page 1)

the Confederacy. He also read portions of a speech made to Major Robert M. White and his men as they were presented with a hand sewn flag when they left Belton in 1861.

Mac Amsler played taps and was followed by a five shot volley by a Confederate honor guard.

Right:
Volley
fired
in
Honor
of the
Confederate
soldiers
buried
in the
South
Belton
Cemetery.

*(Photo
by J.
Perry)*



Mississippi Flag Vote

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state that provides a good quality of life for our people," he said in a statement.

Voters had two choices: keep the current 1894 flag with the Confederate emblem of 13 white stars on a

blue St. Andrew's cross, or adopt a new flag with 20 white stars on a blue square, denoting Mississippi's role as the 20th state.

The Governor and many business leaders supported the new flag, saying it would help move the state forward economically and socially.

The state flag debate arose after the Mississippi Supreme Court ruled last year that the state technically has no flag, because the 1894 design was left out when the state code was updated in 1906. The Mississippi Legislature then decided to let the voters choose.

An estimated \$600,000 was raised by those wanting to remove the Confederate Battle flag emblem. Supporters of the existing state flag raised about \$100,000.



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**Next Meeting:
May 8th
King's Daughters
7:00 PM**