

CONFEDERATE GAZETTE



Confederate Gazette

*Is a monthly publication
of the*

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Camp #1250
Sons of Confederate
Veterans
Temple, Texas

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CEREMONIES HELD AT BELTON CEMETERY

The Major Robert M. White Camp #1250, in honor of Confederate History Month, held services at the South Belton Cemetery on Sunday, April 14, 2002.

A crowd of about 50 people attended the event which featured a wreath laying ceremony and a talk by past Texas Division Commander John Perry.

The wreath was laid in honor of the numerous Confederate Veterans buried in the South Belton Cemetery. The total number of Confederate buried in the cemetery is not ex-

actly known. A UDC marker at the cemetery lists sixteen, but there



Wreath Placed at South Belton Cemetery. (Photo: G. Ballentine)

could be as many as twenty-four buried in the cemetery.

The event drew media coverage. The Killeen Daily Herald did a story, written by Leslie McClain, on the event. The article featured a picture of George Ballentine putting small Confederate battle flags on each of the Confederate veterans' grave.

Commander Perry spoke on the life of Major Robert M. White, the Camp's namesake. Major White is buried in the cemetery. Perry reviewed White's life and the rousing send off he and his men received when they left

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Camp To Sponsor Presentation

Program To Be Presented At Moody Schools

Under the able leadership of Past Camp Commander Greg Manning, Camp #1250 will help present a special program for about 200 students in the Moody I.S.D. on May 10th.

The program will give students and idea of what life was like for Confederate soldiers during the War Between the States. The program, which will be held at the school's athletic field, will kick off with a weapons firing demonstration. The men participat-

ing in the infantry firing will show the students the formal loading and firing procedure.

Following the infantry demonstration an artillery unit will demonstrate the steps in firing a cannon. Steve von Roeder, from Austin, will bring his field piece, "Patience." Permission has been secured to actually fire the piece for the kids. Next students will observe a demonstration of Confederate cavalry.

After the initial presentation the students will be divided into groups of about 35 and visit various stations for hands on and closer demonstrations of various aspects of a Confederate soldier's life. There will be various stations exhibiting infantry life, which will include a haversack station, weapons station, and a cooking station. Stations depicting a cavalry soldier's life will

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CONFEDERATE PROFILE

JESSE SUTTON FROM BELL CO.

By Steve Wooley

Editor's Note: This is the fourth in a series of Confederate Profiles about Camp members' ancestors. Please send the editor a write-up about your ancestor(s). The Profiles may also be viewed on the Camp's website.

Jessie Sutton
joined the
Confederate Army
as a volunteer
from Bell County

Jesse Sutton was the son of Anderson Sutton and Rhoda Lancaster. He was born October 30, 1839 in Izard County (Blue Mountain Township) Arkansas. He was one of ten children born to Anderson and Rhoda. Andrew Sutton, one of his brothers, fought in the War Between the States, also. Jesse and Andrew joined the same company from Bell County, Texas. Andrew was killed at the battle of Arkansas Post (Fort Hindman).

Before the war the brothers and their father were part of the home militia put together to protect the local settlers from Indian raids. The last such raid was in March 1859. On March 14th a raiding Indian party attacked Judge John M. Perryman on the Cowhouse Creek. They stole his horse. On March 16th the same raiding party was in the area of Bell County known as Sugar Loaf Mountain.

The John Riggs family had recently settled in this area. About a quarter of a mile west of the Riggs' home was the home of young Pierce. He was killed in this raid. Prior to the discovery of Pierce's body,

David Elms and John Riggs were attacked by Indians. Thomas Riggs (brother to John) ran toward the scene of the attack and the Indians fled.

Thomas immediately put a warning out to all the neighbors in the area. John Riggs' wife Jane and his children also witnessed



Jessie Sutton and child

the attack and fled the area. When John Riggs realized the Indians had fled he rushed to join his wife and children. The Indians witnessed this and charged the Riggs family. John and Jane Riggs were killed. They were unarmed and defenseless. Their children, two girls, Rhoda, age nine, and Margaret, age five, were kidnapped. The boys, William, age three, and John, age nine months, were left behind.

The Sutton family were close friends to the Riggs

family. In fact, Rhoda Riggs was named after Anderson's wife. The families put together a posse to track the Indians. Among those in the posse were Anderson and Jesse Sutton, X. B. Saunders (who put together a company to fight in the War Between the States), Milton W. Damron (leader of another Bell County company) and William and Joel Blair (Cochran, Blair and Potts Hardware Store, Belton, Texas). The posse eventually recovered the Riggs girls and the Indians got away. This led to the fighting experience that would help Jesse Sutton in the coming storm of 1861.

Jesse's company was formed in Belton, Texas in the summer of 1861. Elected captain of this company was Henry E. Bradford. Captain Bradford is buried in South Belton Cemetery and his gravesite is one of those that our camp placed Confederate Veteran's markers on in 2001.

In September 1861 the unit met in a vacant lot in Belton on Pearle Street and elected their officers. On the day of their departure to protect their homeland, the ladies of the community presented the men with a flag and they were off to Victoria, Texas. At Victoria was a camp of instruction known as Camp Henry McCullough. The men took up winter quarters there.

On May 22, 1862 they

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South Belton Cemetery Ceremonies



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 Belton for the war. Perry related an account of the send off that appeared in a Belton newspaper and the speech given to the departing men by Victoria Bradford.

OCR member, Sandra Perry read the names of the known Confederate veterans buried in the cemetery as David Weber formally laid the wreath. Wayne Wilson read a

Photos: *Above top*, Camp Commander Steve Wooley presides over the event, flag array and wreath in the background, *above-middle*, Wayne Wilson reads poem, *above*, The Perry's, John talks about Major White and Sandra reads the names of the Confederates buried in the cemetery. (Photos: G. Ballentine)

poem entitled "Ode To The Confederate Dead."

The event welcomed a number of ladies, members of both the OCR and the UDC. The OCR provided refreshments.

Camp Schedule

May, 2002

May 10th: Presentation at Moody Schools, Moody TX. Assemble at 12:30 PM.

May 14th: Regular Camp Meeting, 7:00 P.M. at King's Daughters Hospital in Temple, TX. Speaker: Alta Eidson, "Matthew Fontaine Maury, Confederate States Navy."

June, 2002

June 11th: Regular Camp Meeting, 7:00 P.M. at King's Daughters Hospital in Temple, TX. Speaker: David Weber, "Lincoln Takes Command."

June 14th-16th: Texas Division Convention, LaQuinta, Arlington, Texas

July, 2002

July 13th: Camp Dinner Meeting, 7:00 P.M. at the Inn at Scott & White. Speaker: Scott Bowden, co-author of Last Chance For Victory.

Next Camp Meeting
 May 14th
 King's Daughters Hospital
 Temple
 Speaker:
 Alta Eidson

Jefferson Davis Hospital To See Major Changes

According to Channel 2 News in Houston, Jefferson Davis Hospital, built in the early 1900s, may soon see a major renovation. The building has sat vacant near downtown Houston for more than 20 years.

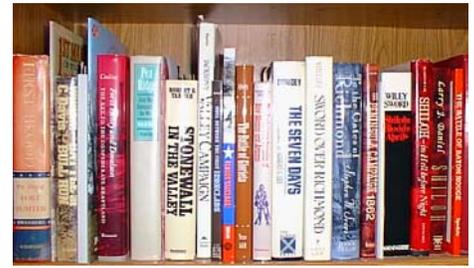
The building would be converted into upscale apartments, designed for artists. Current plans call for 31 apartment units. Each apartment would be

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“THE BOOK BIN”

BOOK REVIEWS

ON THE WAR



Editor's Note: Almost all of us read books on the War Between the States from time to time. How about sharing your thoughts on a book you have read with your fellow camp members. The book can be old or new just write something up and send it to the editor.

By Steve Wooley

Chancellorsville, by Stephen W. Sears, Houghton Mifflin Company, New York, NY, 1996, 593 pages, \$30.00 (hardcopy), also available in paperback at \$17.00.

“A Five Star Book”

Chancellorsville is one of the best War Between the States Book that I have read in a long time. This book takes you from the end of the battle of Fredericksburg in December 1863 to May 10, 1863. That of course is the day that Thomas Jonathan “Stonewall” Jackson passed over the river to rest under the shade of the trees.

This is not a book on Jackson or even exclusively on the Army of Northern Virginia. The book starts going from the Union army in the first chapter to the Confederate army in the second chapter. It is telling both sides of what went on. As the book goes along in each chapter the book goes from the Northern side to the Southern side telling what is transpiring within the armies.

This book starts with the infighting among the generals of the Union army. There is the story of two Union officers going to

see President Lincoln about General Burnside's and his ineptness as a general (these two being Brigadier General John Newton and Brigadier General John Cochrane). They were not the ringleaders

Lee's left flank and get between General Lee and Richmond. The author will tell you about the use of hot air balloons as a means to track the Army of Northern Virginia's troop position.

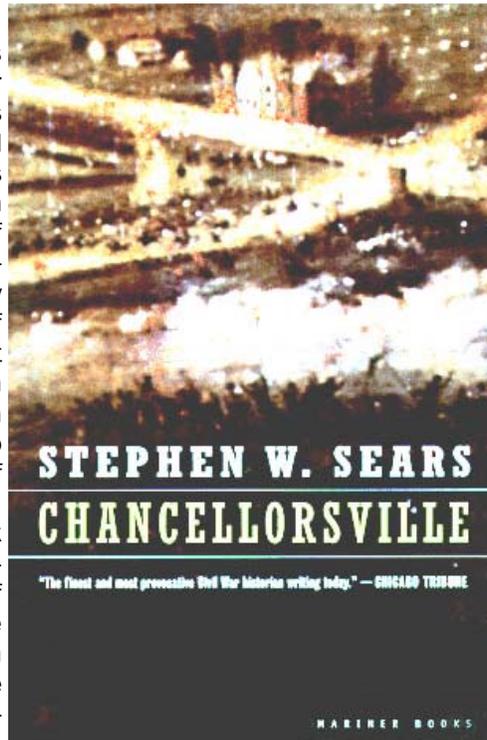
The book goes in detail how Hooker's plan was a sound one, as his brigade and regimental officers failed him. It also goes in detail how the Union cavalry failed him also. The book gives a great account on Jackson's flanking movement to turn Hooker's right flank. This is the action that led to the victory at Chancellorsville.

The book also details General Early's part in this affair. The book contains excellent maps and pictures of all the key players. The author follows all aspects of General Lee's army even the events in

which General Longstreet was involved in. The book does not end with the battle of Chancellorsville but goes on several days afterwards.

I would highly recommend this book to all students of the war! I give this book five stars.

★★★★★



as they were just the messengers. The book goes in to detail how General Hooker gets the nod as the Commander of the Army of the Potomac.

The author tells you how General “Fighting Joe” Hooker stole a march on General Lee by going upriver from Lee's position at Fredericksburg. The plan was going to try to turn

Confederate Profile

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finally got their marching orders to join the fray in Arkansas. They passed through Hallettsville to Eagle Lake, Texas. Here they boarded a train to Houston and on to Navasota. They marched from Navasota to Camp #25 in Smith County (near present day Tyler, Texas). They were then on to Arkansas passing through Dangerfield and Gilmer and crossing the state line at Texarkana. They proceeded to Pine Bluff, Arkansas in September 1862.

The unit had orders to go to Arkansas but no real destination. Along their journey they spent a lot of time in camps. On one instance, they stayed in Tyler for two weeks. At Pine Bluff, almost the entire 6th Texas Infantry came down with the measles. Jesse was one of those lucky ones that caught them. A lot of men died there. Jesse Sutton came back to Bell County on 60 days furlough. Accompanying him back to Bell County was Captain Milton Damron, Co. D, 18th Texas Cavalry. Jesse and Captain Damron were friends and neighbors before the war.

The 6th Texas finally got orders to join the garrison of Arkansas Post. They were at the Post in October 1862. The battle of Arkansas Post was fought on January 11, 1863. Jesse missed this engagement, but as stated earlier, his brother Andrew was killed there. He dodged the proverbial bullet!

Jesse recuperated at home and by January of 1864 he joined back up with Captain Damron who by this time was with Co. E, 17th Texas Consolidated Dismounted Cavalry. This unit only appears once in the Official Records. They show up as being ordered back from the line of the Sabine River in October 1863. It was made up of men from the 15th, 17th, 18th, 24th and 25th Regiments Texas Cavalry and men from the 6th and 10th Texas Regiments that were not captured at Arkansas Post. Somewhere along the line Jesse engaged in some sort of battle.

In this battle, the story goes that he took a pocket bible from a dead Union soldier. It was a version of the New Testament. He erased the dead man's name and wrote his own. This item is still in the family's possession, along with a bullet mold for a revolver and four of his buttons from his uniform. They are general service buttons from the State of Texas.

After the war Jesse returned to farm in the Central Texas area. He was involved in several cattle drives and made enough money to build a new home for his bride. Jesse married Susan Turner on October 15, 1868. The couple had ten children. He built his home in 1868 and it is still standing today. It is located on a place that is still known as Sutton Farms. The log structure is incorporated into the barn on the farm. It can be seen from the roadway.

In 1888, at a park in Belton, Jesse and his father, Anderson, joined other Confederate veterans in an old soldier's re-

union. This park is now known as Confederate Park. Anderson Sutton, being too old to join the army in 1861, joined a company of home guards in 1864. Jesse remained a true Confederate to the end of his life. He would tell stories of his adventures to his grandchildren, among which was my grandfather. This is how I got interested in the War Between the States and later researched my ancestor and joined the Sons of Confederate Veterans.

Jesse Sutton died October 15, 1917 and is buried in the Pleasant Hill Cemetery in Nolanville,

Jeff Davis Hospital

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a loft-style unit with open spaces where artists can both live and work.

The plan includes restoring and honoring the hospital's history by bringing it back to the condition of when it opened in 1924.

The hospital was originally built on top of an old Confederate graveyard. During the excavation for the basement, which became the morgue, several human bones were unearthed. Over the years, various rumors has it that angry Confederate soldiers, doctors, nurses, and patients haunt the building.

The historic building, which is owned by the Harris County Hospital District, would be converted into apartments for about \$5 million dollars. If the plans are approved, the renovations would be completed in 2004.

Harris County commissioners would have to approve any deal to sell the building.

Jeff Davis Hospital
to become
apartments?

Camp Member Authors CD-ROM

Camp Member George Ballentine has completed a CD-ROM that will be published and available for sale soon.

The CD-ROM is taken from the journal of Rev. John Ballantine, a minister in Westfield, Massachusetts. He was the son of John and Mary (Winthrop) Ballantine, of Boston, and a great grandson of William Ballantyne Cooper, of Boston, Massachusetts, who arrived the region about 1650. He was born October 30, 1716 in Boston, married Mary Gay on September 20, 1743 in Dedham, Massachusetts. She was born March 31, 1726 in Dedham, a daughter of Lusher and Mary (Ellis) Gay. He died February 16, 1776 in Westfield, and is buried in Westfield. They had eight children.

The original of his journal is stored in the Westfield Athenaeum in Westfield, MA. From 1986 to 2001, George received copies of the pages of the journal and scanned all of the pages, a total of over 1,250 pages. George then began a line by line transcription of each page. He completed the pro-

ject on December 24, 2001 and mailed the e-manuscript to the publisher on January 2, 2002.

The CD-ROM will be viewable by using the Adobe Acrobat Reader. Each view will be side by side pages, the image of the original journal page on the left, and his transcription on the right. The reader has the ability to verify the transcriptions as they choose. Over 1,250+ pages, spanning the years 1737 to 1774,

George relates that the journal is a very interesting document for historians studying the colonial period and persons interested in colonial religion. He explained, "the major use will be by family historians who may have had ancestors in that part of the country. As a colonial minister, he traveled over most of Massachusetts and into Connecticut and New Hampshire, changing pulpits with numerous ministers. A lot of history is put down in his journal, not only local, but worldwide."

George explained the good reverend received newspapers and maga-

zines from England, and would frequently write down what was going on in the world. He wrote of events of the French and Indian Wars, colonial politics, to include the settling of boundaries of those three states, the Boston Tea Party, the Stamp Act, and many other interesting first hand, or nearly first hand, accounts.

The price of the CD-ROM has not yet been set. It will be available later this year.

Moody Schools

(Continued from page 1)

include, tacking and weapons. There will also be a station that will reflect the life of the artillery soldier and allow the students to get up close and personal with the cannon.

Students will also be allowed to sign an "enlistment roll book," enlisting them into the Confederate army with the admonition to go home and wait until they are called up to active duty. Camp members will hand out SCV Confederate Money handbills and, possibly, a certificate announcing the students enlistment in the Confederate Army.



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**Next Meeting:
May 14th
King's Daughters Hospital
7:00 PM**