

# CONFEDERATE GAZETTE



## Confederate Gazette

*Is a monthly publication  
of the*

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

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### *New Camp Officers Installed*

## LEE-JACKSON DINNER HELD

The Major Robert M. White Camp #1250 held its fourteenth Lee-Jackson Dinner Meeting on January 12, 2002 in Temple at the Inn at Scott & White. Approximately forty people

the Camp Commander, George Ballentine as 1<sup>st</sup> Lieutenant Commander, David Weber, 2<sup>nd</sup> Lieutenant Commander, Wayne Wilson, Adjutant, Curtis Pruitt, Quartermaster, and

standing of Robert E. Lee through his words and through his contemporaries that wrote of him. Perry related that from the words of Lee, students of history today can get an excellent



Camp Officers for 2002 include (from left): Steve Wooley, Commander, George Ballentine, 1st Lt. Commander, David Weber, 2nd Lt. Commander, Wayne Wilson, Adjutant, Curtis Pruitt, Quartermaster, and John Perry, Chaplain. (Photo by G. Ballentine)

attended the annual event.

Central Texas Brigade Commander Jerry Nelson swore in the new Camp Officers for 2002. Steve Wooley was installed as

John C. Perry as Chaplain.

Former Texas Division Commander John C. Perry spoke to the group. His talk, "The Wisdom of Lee," focused on a better under-

standing of Lee and the man he was. Perry stressed the strong character traits exhibited by Lee, traits such as duty, devotion, honor, audacity, and simplicity.



## CONFEDERATE PROFILE

# JOHN JAMES BALLENTINE

*By: George Ballentine*

*Editor's Note: This profile begins a series of Confederate Profiles featuring the ancestors of our camp members. Please submit a write-up of your ancestor(s) to the editor. The profiles will also be featured on the Camp's web site.*

John James Ballentine was 34 years old when the War Between the States began. He was a farmer, husband and father of eight children at the time, the youngest not even a year old. But he knew his duty and he did it. He left his wife Mary Elizabeth (Huxford) Ballentine at home with the children and went off to fight for Southern Independence, not knowing if he would ever see them again.

He enlisted on September 1, 1863 at Christ Church Parish, South Carolina, by Captain Sparks. On December 31, 1862 he was paid \$72.80 for use of his horse. His service record shows that he was transferred on 11 May 1864 by Col. Gary, but does not say to where. He was then paid from December 31, 1863 to June 30, 1864, 182 days at \$.40 per day. He was shown as present for duty until January 1865.

At the time that he was serving, he also had two sons in the service of the Confederate States. His oldest child, Lewis E. Ballentine, was serving

with Company D, 4th Battalion, South Carolina Cavalry. He also served for a while in Company D, 2nd South Carolina Cavalry, but I am not sure if he was there at the same time as his father. He applied for, and received, a pension in 1919, but it does not indicate that it was based on

General Hospital Number 4 at Wilmington, North Carolina, shows he was admitted on January 3, 1864. It shows that he had received severe burns of both hands and face caused by the explosion of gun and powder at Battery Anderson on January 1, 1865 and that his chief complaint was "Ambustio." Battery Anderson was located at Fort Fisher in Wilmington, NC. At that time, Wilmington was the last Confederate seaport open through which supplies could be off loaded.

He was furloughed from the hospital for 60 days to Summerville, South Carolina. His place of residence is given as Moncks Corner, South Carolina. I can find no further service record for him after this time. As the war ended in April 1865, I assume that he never returned to duty from his wounds. Absence of any parole or pardon for him seems to support this.

He survived the war and came home to his family. I can just imagine the reunion that took place when he got back. John James Ballentine lived to be 60 years old, dying May 24, 1887. He is buried in South Carolina in the Was-samassaw Baptist Church Cemetery in the Was-samassaw Section of Berkeley County.



John James Ballentine

wounds received. His third child, Andrew Ballentine, enlisted as a minor and was serving with Company D, 3rd (Palmetto) Battalion, South Carolina Light Artillery. He, too, was wounded and received a pension in 1919 from wounds received. He was paroled at Greensboro, NC, May 1, 1865.

I don't know much about his service except that he was wounded in battle. The Register of CSA

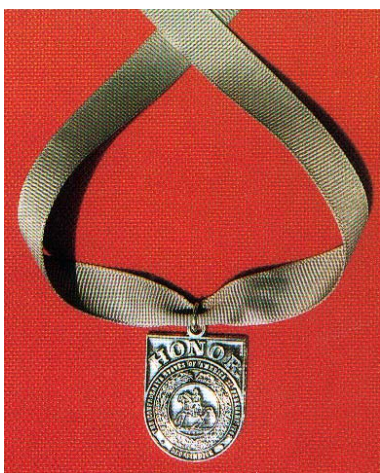
Ballentine served  
in the 2<sup>nd</sup>  
South Carolina  
Cavalry

# The Confederate Roll of Honor

By: Wayne Wilson

All men want recognition and soldiers are no different. C. S. Forester in his novel, The General, observed that there are two marks of success among soldiers, rank and decorations. Napoleon Bonaparte is reputed to have said, "Give me enough ribbon, and I can conquer the world." The military establishment of the United States has an extensive system of medals, badges and ribbons that are awarded to recognize military merit and bravery.

The Confederate States of America also realized the need to recognize bravery in battle. On November 22, 1862, the Adjutant and Inspector General of the Confederate Army, General Cooper, signed General Orders No. 93. The order informed the Army of legislation enacted by the Confederate Congress and signed by the President. The law authorized "the grant of medals and badges of distinction as a reward for courage and good conduct on the field of battle." The medals with "proper devices" were to be awarded to officers who "were conspicuous for courage and good conduct" while the badges of distinction were reserved for enlisted men



The Confederate Medal of Honor now awarded posthumously to Confederate soldiers by the SCV.

who exhibited the same courage. Specifically, one private or non-commissioned officer from each company "after every signal victory (they) shall have assisted to achieve" was to be awarded a badge of distinction. Interestingly, the badges of distinction were to be awarded by a vote of the men of the company who were present at the action. If the soldier was dead, the award was to be given to his widow and in the event there was no widow, then it was to be awarded to the relative that the President decided was best entitled to receive it. The act establishing the medals and badges of distinction was approved on October 13, 1862.

Almost a year later, General Cooper issued a second general order dealing with medals and badges of distinction. General Orders No. 131 observed, "difficulties in procuring medals and badges of distinction had delayed their presentation." In order to "avoid postponing the grateful recognition" of the men's valor, the new general order had three provisions. First, the names of

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## Camp Schedule

### February, 2002

February 12<sup>th</sup>: Regular Camp Meeting, 7:00 P. M. at King's Daughters Hospital in Temple, Texas, Speaker: George Ballentine, "John Pelham: Lee's Boy Artillerist."

February 16<sup>th</sup>: General Twiggs Surrender Ceremonies, San Antonio, Texas

### March, 2002

March 9<sup>th</sup>: Southern Cross Dedication, Granbury, Texas.

March 12<sup>th</sup>: Regular Camp Meeting, 7:00 P.M. at King's Daughters Hospital in Temple, Texas, Speaker: Dr. Buddy Patterson, Director of the Confederate Research Center at Hill College, Hillsboro, Texas.

March 15-17<sup>th</sup>: Re-enactment at Confederate Reunion Grounds, Mexia, Texas

March 24<sup>h</sup>: Confederate Courthouse Monument Dedication, Commanche, Texas

March 30<sup>th</sup>: (Tentative) Quarterly Camp Meeting at Confederate Park, Belton, Texas; specific details in next Gazette issue.

### April, 2002

April 13<sup>th</sup>: Pvt. Guehrs, Confederate Medal of Honor Ceremonies, Waldeck, Texas.

Camp Meeting  
February 12<sup>th</sup>  
Speaker:  
George Ballentine  
"John Pelham,  
Lee's Boy  
Artillerist"





Above: New Camp Commander Steve Wooley discusses “strategy” with Central Texas Brigade Commander Jerry Nelson.

Right: Over forty people attended this year’s Lee-Jackson Dinner.

*(Photos by George Ballentine)*



# 14TH ANNUAL LEE- JACKSON DINNER

## *Confederate Roll of Honor*

*(Continued from page 3)*

all those reported “as worthy of this distinction be inscribed on a Roll of Honor,” which was to be preserved in General Cooper’s office. Second, the Roll of Honor as it was then made up was to be “read at the head of every regiment in the service of the Confederate States at the first dress-parade after its receipt.” The Order also provided that the list be published in at least one newspaper in each state. Third, General Orders No. 131 repeated that badges of distinction were to be awarded on the basis of soldier vote in each company.

There are those persons who describe these medals and badges of distinction as the “Confederate Medal of Honor.” While there is some merit in that description, it is interesting that the Official Records of the War of the Rebellion is content to speak of “The Confederate Roll of Honor.”



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**Next Meeting:  
February 12th  
King's Daughters Hospital  
7:00 PM**