

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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Camp #1250
Sons of Confederate Veterans
Temple, Texas

CAMP PARTICIPATES IN AREA ACTIVITIES

The Major Robert M. White Camp #1250 didn't let the end of Confederate History Month in April stop it from continuing to be active in area activities and events.

On May 10th about a dozen camp members participated in a half-day presentation at the Moody I.S.D. Nearly 300 children were enthralled by camp members as they observed demonstrations of various Confederate soldier activities.

Organized by Past Camp Commander Greg Manning, the program was designed to give students an idea of what life was

like for Confederate soldiers during the War Between the States. After an



Camp Commander Steve Wooley & Chuck Clark present the colors at Moody. (Photo: G. Ballentine)

initial overview students were divided into groups and visited various sta-

tions for hands on and closer demonstrations of various aspects of a Confederate soldier's life. The Moody students saw demonstrations on Confederate arms, how to load and fire a weapon, a typical Confederate cavalry soldier and his equipment, a presentation and demonstration about a typical infantrymen's equipment and a presentation about the various Confederate flags.

Students were also "mustered" into the Confederate Army by signing an "enlistment roll book," and given an enlistment bonus, Confederate bills.

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161 Issues Published

Gazette Kicks Off Year Number 15

The *Confederate Gazette*, with this issue, kicks off its 15th year of publishing. This issue is Volume number 15, number 1. A total of 161 issues have been produced since the first issue in June of 1988.

The initial issue of the *Gazette* was a two-page newsletter that was sent to prospective Sons of Confederate Veterans members in the Temple area. Camp member John Perry

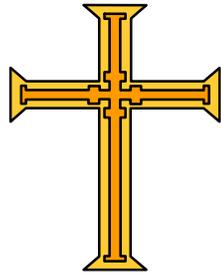
has served as the *Gazette's* editor since its inception. Perry says that publishing the newsletter has been "a labor of love." "It takes a lot of work to put this together. Considering all the writing, layout, and then photocopying, I would guess each issue takes around 10 hours or so," Perry explained.

The *Gazette* has always been printed using a personal computer. The

Gazette was first published on an Apple Macintosh. According to Perry, the Macintosh was relatively new then, and "had a whopping 512K memory and no hard drive." "I had to switch back and forth with various floppy disks," Perry explained.

A program that came with the Macintosh, McDraw, was used to layout the publication and to

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By Thomas E. Guinn

Unknown Confederate Soldier

It was in a quiet, still and lonely graveyard, down a forgotten dirt road, near the edge of nowhere. A Confederate Soldier died alone, without a friend.

Some time ago, while traveling through North Carolina and Tennessee, the family and I, having grown weary of the many miles, decided, as is our custom, to pause along the way for a rest. When an old wooden sign appeared along the highway, with a few simple words - "Confederate Graveyard" and an arrow pointing down a small country road. We decided to take the time and see where this would lead. A few more miles after making the turn, we spotted a similar sign, now pointing down a dirt road, so we followed the directions. After another mile and a half, we came upon an entrance, built of old wooden posts, a rusty broken down fence and the same words "Confederate Graveyard" hand painted on a faded dry rotting board.

We decided to park the car just inside and walk the rest of the way. The family began looking about, and I noticed a pathway leading back into a spread of trees. Across the field at the edge of the woods, overgrown with many years of neglect, I spotted a tombstone among the weeds. Using my foot, I pushed aside the

A QUIET PLACE

Editors Note: We just recently experienced another Memorial Day and the following is one Southerner's reflections. (Printed with the permission of the author)

brush, and flattened it, so I could see more clearly. After looking about, in the distance I saw a broken down old shack of a house, obviously abandoned. Perhaps the occupants once cared for this lonely graveyard, at the edge of nowhere. Using my fingers, I brushed away the years, so I could see if possible, what was written on the stone. I was deeply saddened, for all it had to say was "Unknown Confederate Soldier." My God I thought, he died alone with no one to care, and nobody with whom he could share a dying word. No tears shed for him and no one to know if perhaps he had family waiting back home, or where home might have been. My eyes strained at the aged carvings; smaller words were written below. "Lord, I know him not, but don't let him be alone anymore."

On my knees, among the weeds and shrubs, at the backside of a graveyard, at the edge of eternity, I knelt in the holiest of all places, and prayed. "Precious Lord and Heavenly Master! I have lived my life, having never known the suffering, this unknown Southern Soldier must have experienced. Lord, I have never been called upon to sacrifice or to bear, even a portion of his burdens and torments. If I could but roll back the pages of time, and stand at his side, that his suffering might have been less-

soned. In the comfort of our modern society, we have so easily forgotten the meaning and the price of liberty and honor. Give us precious master, an understanding and a determined heart, that we might seize the moment, and liberate our Southern Land, before it once more comes to this. As the stone says Lord, I know him not, but perhaps he had a wife, children, mother, father, brothers or sisters. Kinfolks who never knew his end that they could come to him. Thus he died alone, in pain and agony, in rags, as life slowly slipped away. Maybe it was a cold chilly, rainy and dark night, in this, the loneliest of all places, without even a blanket for comfort. Lord and Master, I ask for your blessing, that this Unknown Soldier's death be not in vain. In the precious name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ." Amen and Amen!

While my prayer came to a close, I remained kneeling for what seemed like a moment, but the family soon called, indicating time was passing and we had been there a long time. I don't know how you might feel, but as for me. The above pictures so much remind me of the day, when I turned down a dirt road, and left a part of myself, beside an Unknown Confederate Soldiers Grave, in an out of the way, overgrown and lonely place, at the back side of nowhere.

May Activities of Camp



Photos:
Left: Greg Manning welcomes Moody students;
Below right: John Larson and Buster.
Below left: New camp magnetic sign

All photos courtesy of



George Ballentine



Camp Schedule

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.

August, 2002

July 31st-August 4th: SCV International Reunion and Convention, Peabody Hotel, Memphis, TN.

August 13th: Regular Camp Meeting, 7:00 P.M., King's Daughters Hospital, Temple, Texas

Next Camp Meeting
June 11th
King's Daughters Hospital
Temple
Speaker:
David Weber



Photos: Left: Wayne Wilson and David Weber describe flags at Moody, Below left: Jerry Nelson demonstrates a weapon to Moody students, Below right: Clean up crew on Highway 93, from left John Perry, Steve Wooley, and Jerry Nelson





Mail Call

Editors Note: We received a number of letters from the Moody schools, see below and the following editorial from camp member George Ballentine

Letter to the Editor
"The Usual Suspects"
George H. Ballentine

At present our Camp is composed of 45 regular members. By definition, these 45 men are collectively referred to as our "Camp." What I have to say will undoubtedly ruffle some feathers, but it needs to be said, so let's get to it. I am writing this as a camp member, not as a camp officer. These comments are my personal opinions and do not necessarily reflect the opinions of the camp leadership.

Article IX of our Camp Constitution states, "The Camp shall sponsor and support, but not be limited to the following: (A) Historical study of the War Be-

tween the States, (B) Sponsoring field trips to War Between the States battle sites, (C) Marking the graves of Confederate servicemen, (D) Preserving and maintaining Confederate monuments and memorials, and (E) Supporting and publicizing Confederate events and holidays."

A quick look at our photograph archives of recent activities on our web site will show that we are actively involved in these requirements of our constitution. But, a closer look will reveal that the people in those pictures are always the same - The Usual Suspects. All of those events are organized and manned by about a dozen or so members of our camp, with little or no participation from the other 30+ members.

As members of Camp #1250, we agreed to support Article IX above, but we are falling well short of that obligation. Our most recent activity was the Highway Cleanup

of our adopted highway on May 23rd. As a camp we voted to do it, and by that vote, we agreed to support it. As expected, The Usual Suspects were there, 10 strong, which included two ladies from the Rose Chapter. It was the same for the Living History Day at Moody Middle School on May 10th, and likewise for the Confederate History Month Grave Rededication Ceremony at South Belton Cemetery on April 14th. I could go on, but I think I have made my point. If we could get the same showing for a highway cleanup as we do for a dinner meeting, we could knock it out in a couple of hours. But, with just The Usual Suspects we worked from 6:30 p.m. until dark and still fell short by about a mile and a half of our total four miles of road. We will have to go back to finish.

By any standard of the Texas Division or the Army of the Trans-Mississippi, I believe we have to be considered an active camp. We supported the Supreme Court Vigil, Gallery Day at

(Continued on page 6)

Letters Received This Month

Sample of the letters received from Moody I.S.D.

Moody Independent School District
102 Cross Lane Moody, Texas 76057

Dear Sons of the Confederate Veterans,

I wanted to extend a great thank you to those that came to speak to our students at Moody. The students really enjoyed the time you spent with them and learned even more about Confederate soldiers. My students and myself appreciate the time you took out of your schedule to visit with us. I hope that you will visit again with future classes.

Sincerely,
Monica Fox
Monica Fox
6th grade

Don Stone
409-555-3827 Clyton Hensley, Jr.
409-555-3827 Harvey Anderson
409-555-3827 Bobby Nelson
409-555-3827 Ray McHenry
409-555-3827

Dear Sons of the Confederate army,

Thank you for taking time off of your day, to put on a presentation from the war. Thank you for telling us what they used and how they used it. I hope you come back next year.

Thank you again,
Dorinda Henry

Dear Sons of the Confederate Army,

Thank you so much for coming and taking with us a good thing that happened and then what I like the most is the part about what they had to eat, letters, and the guns. Also the flags were fun too.

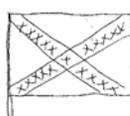
Sincerely,
Dorinda Henry

Dear Sons of the Confederate Army,

I'm really glad you came. I can understand you were hot in the uniforms you were wearing. The part I liked was when you told us about weapons, what they had to eat, letters, and the guns. Also the flags were fun too.

Thank you
Reba Anderson
Reba Anderson

P.S. Thank you for the hundred dollar bill.



Gazette: Starts Year 15

(Continued from page 1) draw the graphics. Perry used the Macintosh com-



NEW SCV CAMP TO FORM!

New Camp Planned for Temple

What is the SCV?

The SCV stands for the Sons of the Confederate Veterans. It was formed in 1896 in Richmond, Virginia. Today it has camps all across the nation. Today the SCV is a patriotic, historical, educational, benevolent, non-political, and non-sectarian organization. It is concerned that the crest of the War Between the States are not only clearly written.

A Sons of Confederate Veterans camp is being formed in the Temple area. Currently the closest SCV camp to Temple is either south in Austin or north in Hillsboro. Several Temple residents who are members of the Texas Tenth Brigade Camp in Hillsboro are attempting to re-establish a camp in Temple.

The original Temple SCV Camp was established in 1956 as the J. D. Sayers Camp, number 100. It was apparently active as late as 1927. A new camp, number 1250 was later established. It was called the George Temple Camp. In 1966 it changed its name to the Major Robert M. White Camp but retained the same camp number.

William D. McCain, Adjutant-in-Chief for the SCV has indicated that the new Temple Camp could retain the original camp number of 100. New camps are currently being assigned numbers at about 1,450.

An organizational meeting for the Temple Camp is set for July 12, 1998 at the home of SCV member, John Perry. The meeting is set for 7:00 PM and the address is 117 Twelve Oaks Drive in Temple. For additional information, contact John at 774-4000, at work, or at 773-7293. All interested persons are invited to attend. You do not have to currently be an SCV member to attend.

To be eligible for membership one must be either a direct or collateral descendant of one who served honorably in either the Confederate Army or Navy (Continued on Page 2)

typical issue had 4 to 8 pages. Finesse was used to produce 37 issues of the newsletter.

The Gazette's format changed again in October of 1993. Perry switched to a Windows based software, Microsoft Publisher. Although Perry is using the fifth version of Publisher, it is currently the software being used to put the

Gazette formats over the years. Left: First Issue, Below: The "Finesse" format, Bottom: The format used from October, 1993 to December, 1997.

In September of 1998 the Gazette again changed its format after the eight-month hiatus. Perry said the change had nothing to do with the software; he just wanted to "change the look." That format is still being used today, 46 issues later. Perry says that he is planning to make another format change as he prepares to switch away from Microsoft Publisher to Adobe PageMaker. Perry said that PageMaker is a major step up to professional level publishing software. He says he has a learning curve to accomplish before the change is made.

Currently, the Gazette is being produced on Perry's fourth IBM compatible personal computer, a two-year-old Dell, with a Pentium III 600 megahertz processor, 128 megabytes of RAM, and a 20.4 gigabyte hard disk drive.

What is Perry's biggest need? He said he needs help. "I wish we could get more camp member participation," he said. "We need book reviews, profiles, and any interesting

First Gazette Published in June of 1988

puter from June of 1988 until April of 1990. There were 20 issues of the Gazette published on the Macintosh, the issues started out with just two pages but soon grew to four.

The Gazette moved to an IBM compatible personal computer in 1990. With a near doubling of memory to one megabyte, a "huge" 40 megabyte hard disk drive, and a 286 twenty-five megahertz processor, it was, "a technological leap," according to Perry. The layout was done on a software package called Finesse. "It (Finesse) was a software package designed for putting together publications, and it was quite good, and way ahead of its time," Perry said. "For the first time we had spell check and that was a great relief," according to Perry. In the second issue using the new software the first scanned graphics appeared. Perry said, "I borrowed a scanner at work and was able to scan graphics, photographs, etc, into the Gazette." The

SONS OF CONFEDERATE VETERANS THE CONFEDERATE GAZETTE VOLUME 7 NUMBER 10 APRIL 1998 Camp Commander Comments Rededication Ceremonies Set For May 6th Stonewall's Other Grave

Gazette together. The Gazette has been published continuously except for an eight-month period. "For a time I was serving as the Texas Division Commander and the SCV's Chief of Heritage Defense, Perry explained, "and something had to give." Perry discontinued the publication of the Gazette from January of 1998 through August of 1998. When no camp member stepped forward to continue the newsletter Perry again resumed publication of the newsletter.

Confederate Gazette Celebrate the 100th Anniversary of SCV! Division Convention in Austin Texas Division On The Internet

submissions," Perry explained. Another need is (Continued on page 6)

Mail Call

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the Capitol, Candlelight Vigils, Ogletree Gap Living History Day, and similar events to the best of our abilities. But, with a little more help from fellow camp members, we could have done more, and in less time. In the five years that I have been a camp member there are a number of my compatriots that I have never met, others I have only seen at dinner meetings, some only infrequently at regular camp meetings, and many never at camp sponsored events. I understand that there will be times when work or family events conflict with camp events and you just cannot make them. But, the events are scheduled and advertised well in advance, and many more members can be there if they wanted. With your help we can really do things and set standards for the Texas Division. It does not take much time and effort, and the benefits are great. Our heritage and the honor of our ancestors is constantly under attack. The history books are being rewritten, and we are the only line of defense for the truth. We need to be involved in community

and educational activities to make sure that our side of the story is told. Our Charge says, "Remember it is your duty to see that the true history of the South is presented to future generations."

When we can only muster a dozen or less members for Confederate History Month and a Cemetery Rededication for our ancestors and camp namesake, and the press from two newspapers are there, it does not look like we are very serious about our duty or very firm in our conviction to this charge.

To get the job done we need the help of ALL of our camp members. Be more than a "card carrying member" of the Sons of Confederate Veterans. Come on out and support your camp and honor the sacrifices of your ancestor at our next camp sponsored event. You may get a little dirty, and you will probably get a little tired, but I guarantee you will feel better about yourself after participation in a heritage event.

Imagine what you would say if your Confederate ancestor appeared before you and asked what you had done lately in support of "the vindication of the cause for which we fought?" Could you hold your head up proudly in his presence?

Camp Activities

(Continued from page 1)

They were sent home with the admonition to wait until they are called up to active duty.

On the evening of May 23rd seven camp members along with three wives picked up trash along Highway 93 between Temple and Belton. Highway 93 is the camp's adopted highway. In spite of high winds and an un-mowed road shoulder a lot of trash was picked up. Included in the trash were a perfectly good shovel, a unopened six pack of beer, a brand new cut off valve, a music CD, and enough empty beer bottles and cans to make a person give up drinking. The camp has to pick up trash four times a year and ten people are not sufficient to do the entire route adopted.

Gazette: Starts Year 15

(Continued from page 5)

photocopying, "We need someone that can copy the newsletter for us, preferably at no cost, on a copier that will do two-sided copying on ledger size paper," Perry said.



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P.O. Box 794
Salado, TX 76571

**Next Meeting:
June 11th
King's Daughters Hospital
7:00 PM**