

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
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Temple, Texas

Camp Wins Awards!

DIVISION CONVENTION HELD IN ARLINGTON

The Major Robert M. White Camp #1250 was well represented in both attendance and in awards won at the annual Texas Division Convention. The event was held in Arlington on June 14-15th.

The Camp was honored again this year with the "Four Star Camp" award. The camp's web site won the award for best in the Division. Camp member and Webmaster George Ballentine accepted the plaque from Division Commander Steve Lucas.

Several camp members received the Division's



George Ballentine wins, for the Camp, the Best Website award at the Division Convention.

Gold Cross award for service to the Texas Division.

Greg Manning, Jerry Nelson, and John Perry were each presented with the coveted award. Other awards presented at the Convention were: Confederate of the Year: Charles R. Nettles, Jr.; Outstanding Camp Award: 2nd Texas Frontier District Camp #1904; Camp Growth Award: Col. Phillip A. Work Camp #1790; Best Newsletter Award: James P. Douglas Camp #124; Best Scrapbook Award: 2nd Texas Frontier District Camp #1904.

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Election To Be Held in Memphis

Perry To Run For ATM Commander

Camp member John C. Perry recently announced his candidacy for the Army Department Commander for the Army of Trans Mississippi (ATM). The ATM represents all SCV Divisions west of the Mississippi River.

In announcing his candidacy, Perry is running on four major issues. 1. Autonomous Divisions, Perry feels that as Army Commander his job is to

assist each Division in reaching their goals and objectives, not to interfere with the business of each Division. 2. Vigorous Heritage Defense, Perry pledges to continue to fight for the honor of our Confederate ancestor's noble name and reputation. 3. Membership Recruitment and Retention, Perry is dedicated to not only recruiting new SCV members, but also in de-

veloping a program to retain existing members. 4. Improved Communications, Perry strongly believes in enhanced communications, from the local camp level to the SCV's IHQ and back down.

Perry is a nearly 20 year member of the SCV and has served as Texas Division Commander and as the SCV's Chief of Heritage Defense. He has also

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CONFEDERATE PROFILE

HENRY HETH



By John C. Perry

Henry Heth: The Only Confederate General Lee Called By His First Name

Many except the most ardent War Between the States buffs don't recognize his name, yet he is the man that caused the Battle of Gettysburg, and he is the one and only Confederate general that Robert E. Lee called by his first name. This man, who one author described as "lost in the crowd," was Henry Heth.

Heth was born in Chesterfield County, Virginia on December 16, 1825. He was the son of John Heth, who was an officer in the U.S. Navy in the War of 1812 and the nephew of Colonel William Heth, who had a distinguished Revolutionary War record. Henry, whose nickname was "Harry," was educated in private schools until he accepted an appointment to United States Military Academy.

At West Point, Heth was one year behind his cousin George Pickett and was in the same class as his boyhood friend, A. P. Hill. Heth earned many demerits at West Point. In his senior year he earned reprimands for everything from "vulgar and offensive language" to "making improper use of a coal pile." Heth paled around with Hill, Ambrose Burnside and Julian McAllister, the four were described as "inseparable." Heth graduated dead last in his class in 1847.

Upon graduation the

Mexican War was in progress and Heth was assigned to the 8th infantry as a 2nd lieutenant. Most of the war was over by the time Heth arrived but he did participate in a couple of minor skirmishes. In Mexico Heth became friends with Winfield Scott Hancock, an 1844 West

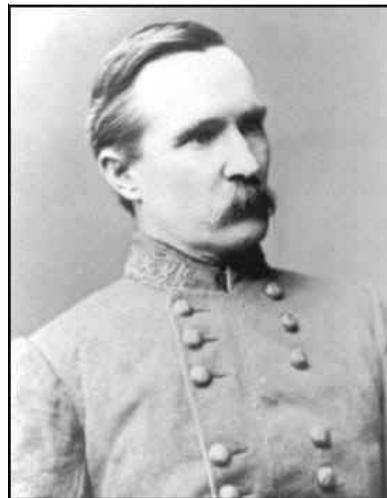
where he remained until the latter part of 1860, when he returned to Virginia on leave of absence.

Heth resigned his commission when war broke out between the North and the South and he offered his services to his native state. Robert E. Lee hired him as his Acting Quartermaster General for the Virginia Army. Although Heth only served as quartermaster for about a month, he made a strong and lasting impression on Lee. Some say that thereafter Lee interested himself in Heth's advancement more than any other man. Thirty-seven years old, Heth was popular and could be socially charming. He was described as, "good looking, of medium height, with lank brown hair and a brushy mustache, high cheekbones, strong chin and deep-set eyes."

Heth became a colonel in the 45th Virginia and was assigned to western Virginia, serving first as Brig. Gen. John B. Floyd's inspector general. By January of 1862 Heth was promoted to brigadier general and assigned to the defense of Lewisburg in western Virginia. On May 23, 1862, Heth's entire command was routed. In his battle report, Heth, with admirable candor, freely admitted the disgraceful panic and flight of his command.

In spite of the Lewisburg fiasco, Heth was as-

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Henry Heth

Point graduate, as well as with Lewis Armistead, a fellow Virginian. Heth would later write, "Armistead, Hancock and I were messmates, and never was a mess happier than ours." In 1863 all three would be in the small town of Gettysburg under less happier circumstances.

After the Mexican War, Heth was assigned to frontier duty serving at Fort Atkinson, Fort Kearny and Fort Laramie. He took part in numerous Indian fights, and was promoted to first lieutenant in 1853, and by 1855 to captain. In 1858 he was assigned to Utah,

Henry Heth

(Continued from page 2)

signed to Maj. Gen. Kirby Smith's army in East Tennessee and was promoted to brigadier general in January of 1862. He commanded a division in the Perryville Campaign in the late summer and fall of 1862.

By February 1863, Heth was reunited with his boyhood friend A. P. Hill, when he assumed command of a brigade in Hill's famous Light Division. Heth's assignment to the Army of Northern Virginia was at the specific request of Lee.

At the Battle of Chancellorsville, Hill was wounded, as was his Corp Commander, Thomas J. Jackson. Heth became the temporary Division commander for Hill. The next day Heth's division attacked the Federals with a fierce determination. "The breastworks were charged and carried," Heth reported, "the men never hesitating for a moment, driving the enemy before them and pursuing him until a second line was reached, which was in like manner broken." Heth received a commendation for "heroic conduct" from the acting corp commander, Maj. Gen. J.E.B. Stuart.

In the reorganization of the Army of Northern Virginia that followed the death of Jackson, Hill was made a corp commander and Heth a division com-

mander of a new division, under Hill. Heth was also promoted to Major General. All of this was just in time for Lee's march north into Pennsylvania in the summer of 1863.

Most historians say that there was not a shoe factory in Gettysburg nor was there even a supply of shoes. There was, however, a rumor that shoes could be found in Gettysburg and Heth acted on



Grave of Henry Heth at Hollywood Cemetery in Richmond, Va.

that possibility. In Heth's official report he wrote, "On the morning of June 30, I ordered Brigadier General Pettigrew to take his brigade to Gettysburg, search the town for army supplies, shoes especially,

and return the same day." Heth's men would encounter the Union cavalry of John Buford before they reached Gettysburg.

Heth reported to Hill that there were Federals in the Gettysburg vicinity and requested permission to take his division forward the next day. Hill approved the request, and on the morning of July 1st Heth and his men advanced towards Gettysburg.

On July 1st Heth's division again collided with Buford's Federals, who were soon reinforced by infantry from John Reynolds' First Corps. "Heavy columns of the enemy were soon encountered," wrote Heth, and his men suffered heavily in their

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Camp Schedule

July, 2002

July 4th: Annual 4th of July Parade in Belton.

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

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

August, 2002

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

July Meeting To Featured Noted Author

The Major Robert M. White Camp #1250 will hold its quarterly dinner meeting on Saturday, July 13th at 7:00 P.M. at the El Conquistador Restaurant on I-35 in Temple.

The featured speaker will be Scott Bowden, co author of the book, *Last Chance For Victory: Robert E. Lee And The Gettysburg Campaign*. The book (see book review on page 4) is a careful and thorough review of the Confederacy's 1863 military campaign into Pennsylvania, which culminated with the Battle of Gettysburg.

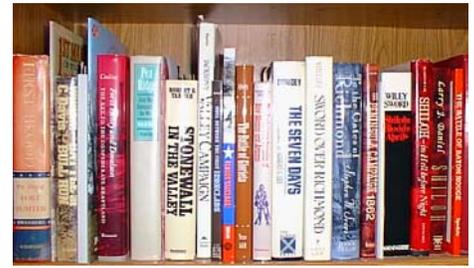
Bowden is the acclaimed author of 22 books related to Napoleonic and American military history.

Next Camp Meeting
July 13th
El Conquistador Restaurant
Temple, TX
Speaker:
Scott Bowden

“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 Jerry Nelson

Last Chance For Victory – Robert E. Lee and the Gettysburg Campaign by Scott Bowden & Bill Ward, Savas Publishing Co., 2001, \$34.95, 624 pgs.

Let me be clear up-front about *Last Chance for Victory*, I liked this book; I mean, I really liked this book! It meets the criteria that I look for in a War Between the States (WBTS) history. The book outlines the major events of the battle, and explains Lee's strategy and the reason why these decisions were made. In a departure with usual historical writers, the authors, Bill Ward and Scott Bowden, did not follow the current procedure used by many historical writers who research conclusions by working backward. Instead, Ward and Bowden studied the orders Lee and his subordinate commanders issued, together with reviewing contemporary accounts made by the participants to determine what the various commanders knew and when they knew it. This to me is a more objective way of determining credit for success or blame for failure.

The authors of *Last Chance For Victory* really understand the mechanics of WBTS warfare. Their ex-

pertise is appreciated even more, since it has been the fashion lately for WBTS historians to seemingly criticize commanders' decisions without understanding why that course of action was taken. One of the high points in the book was their explanation of

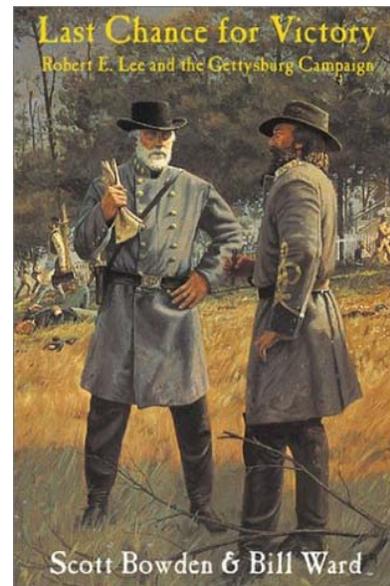
pened! The attack by Longstreet's Corps was successful, but the other two corps commanders, A. P. Hill and Ewell did not perform as expected, and the opportunities Lee's plan provided were not acted upon. The authors' point is that the plan was sound, but execution was flawed.

This book gave me a much different perspective on the battle than many of the other books on Gettysburg. It has been the fashion for many writers to express bewilderment that Lee would even attempt such an expedition. Obviously, according to this group of historians, the battle was a lost cause and a desperate gamble from the start. The authors of *Last Chance for Victory* will change your mind on this contention. They explain the many opportunities for success that Lee's forces had during the battle, and they were many! I had no idea that the Army of Northern Virginia was so close to victory, only to have success snatched away by a corps or division commander's mistake or the act of an unkind fortune. The book's last chapter lists seventeen problem areas and events that had they not occurred, Lee could have won the battle, and the South its freedom.

The book cannot be

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“A serious work of WBTS history which will go far to refute the unjust criticisms of Robert E. Lee's generalship.”



Lee's use of the echeloned attack on the second day for which Lee has been continually criticized. The authors clearly and concisely describe the situation that faced Lee and contend that Lee's plan made sense. Their explanation supports the conclusion that Lee hoped to exploit the Union Commander's inexperience by inducing him to withdraw forces from one sector to reinforce another. In fact this is exactly what hap-

Division Convention

(Continued from page 1)

At the event all the current Division officers,

was tabled when convention delegates agreed that most of the amendments could better be handled as standing rules, developed by the Executive Council, than as constitutional



Above: Camp members and guests at the Division Convention (photo by George Ballentine)



Left: Camp Commander Steve Wooley and David Weber enjoy the Banquet

(photo by George Ballentine)

including Division Commander Steve Lucas were re-elected for another one-year term of office. Commander Lucas was the only Division level officer that faced any opposition. He defeated H. W. Irby of Austin 134 to 78 to win the election.

The much discussed series of constitutional amendments were never voted on. After a reading of just some of the amendments, the process

amendments.

In the Central Texas Brigade meeting, camp member Jerry Nelson was re-elected to another term as the Central Texas Brigade Commander.

Representing the camp at the convention were: Camp Commander Steve Wooley, along with camp members George Ballentine, Greg Manning, Jerry Nelson, John Perry, and David Weber.

Confederate Gazette Quiz Questions

By George Ballentine

Category: Rebel Stars on Their Collars

- 1 - As a 25-year old general, let the last rebel charge at Bentonville.
 - a - Roger Weightmen
 - b - Cyrus Comstock
 - c - Thomas Logan
 - d - Charles Gilchrist

- 2 - General who was so well known for his leniency that one of his officers offered to eat the first man the general shot for a crime.
 - a - James Seddon
 - b - Henry Benham
 - c - Charles Howard
 - d - Humphrey Marshall

- 3 - General who participated in 63 engagements, and when asked why he was never wounded, replied, "... it was not my fault."
 - a - Newell Gleason
 - b - William Brantley
 - c - Harry Hays
 - d - Reuben Walker

- 4 - General who was mortally wounded in a duel with Gen. John Marmaduke.
 - a - Lucius Walker
 - b - Joseph Conrad
 - c - Foster Marshall
 - d - George Greene

- 5 - Sherman wanted this Confederate "... hunted down and killed if it costs 10,000 lives and bankrupts the Federal treasury."
 - a - Henry Christopher
 - b - John Hunt Morgan
 - c - Henry Clay
 - d - Nathan Forrest

Answers are listed below

Answers: 1 = c; 2 = d; 3 = d; 4 = a; 5 = d

At Division Convention:
Camp Wins 4 Star Camp Award and Best Web Site Award

Henry Heth

(Continued from page 3)

attacks. Heth broke off his attack, and waited for more Confederate units to reach the field.

Heth received word that Dorsey Pender's division of Hill's corp was soon to reach the field of combat so Heth attacked again. This time the Union position began to fall apart both north and west of Gettysburg. Heth and his men succeeded in driving the Federals through the town and toward the hills south of Gettysburg.

Heth was wounded in the successful action. A bullet struck him in the head and fractured his skull. His life was perhaps saved because of a new hat. A couple of days earlier, he had gotten a new felt hat, one of dozens captured in Cashtown. Since the hat was too large, his quartermaster had doubled up a dozen or so sheets of paper and stuffed them inside the hat so as to insure a snug fit. "I am confidently of the belief that my life was saved by this paper in my hat," Heth would later write. As it was, Heth was knocked senseless, and did not return to command his division until after the Battle of Gettysburg was over.

The fight in Gettysburg was over for Heth, but not for his men. In his absence, James Pettigrew assumed command, and led Heth's men forward against the entrenched Federal position on Cemetery Ridge on July 3rd, in what has become known as "Pickett's Charge." The unit was decimated.

Heth would recover from his wounds to rejoin Lee's Army in time for the fight in The Wilderness the following May. There he suffered a near disaster, as his lines were over run and had not James Longstreet reinforced the Confederate line Lee's Army might have been crushed. In August, Heth redeemed himself. The Confederates were able to push the Federals back at the Battle of Reams' Station and Heth insisted on being the color bearer planting the Confederate flag on breastworks, formerly occupied by the Federals.

Heth remained with Lee's Army until the Army of Northern Virginia surrendered in April of 1865. At Appomattox he was paroled. Post war he briefly tried his hand at mining then went into the insurance business in Richmond.

He died in Washington, D.C. on September 27, 1899 at the age of 73.

Perry Runs For Army Commander

(Continued from page 1)

served as a Brigade Commander and was the Major Robert M. White Camp #1250 first commander when the camp was reactivated in 1988.

In 1998, at the national reunion in Nashville, he was awarded the "Robert E. Lee Gold Award," the second highest award given by the SCV. Perry was the Texas Division's "Confederate of the Year" in 1998 and won the "Deo Vindice Award," the highest award given by the Texas Division, in 1999.

Perry, who lives in Salado, is married to wife Sandra, a member of the OCR. They have three grown children and five grandchildren.

Last Chance For Victory

(Continued from page 4)

too highly recommended. *Last Chance for Victory, Robert E. Lee and the Gettysburg Campaign* should be at the top of your reading list. This serious work of WBTS history will go far to refute the unjust criticisms of Robert E. Lee's generalship.



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**Next Meeting:
July 13th
El Conquistador
Restaurant
7:00 PM**