

# 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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Camp #1250  
Sons of Confederate Veterans  
Temple, Texas

*Greg Manning Elected To Division Office*

## 106<sup>TH</sup> DIVISION REUNION HELD

The 106<sup>th</sup> Texas Division Convention-Reunion was held in College Station the first weekend of June. The event was hosted by Sul Ross Camp #1457 of Bryan and was held at the Hilton Hotel.

The events kicked off Friday night, June 6<sup>th</sup> with a social and entertainment by Joe Walker and David Waters from Waco.

The Reunion's Opening Ceremonies and a Memorial service launched the formal sessions of the

convention on Saturday morning. The first business session was held following the opening ceremonies.

An Awards Luncheon was held at noon on Saturday where the Major Robert M. White Camp #1250 was presented with two major awards, the Four Star Camp Award and the Award for the Best Newsletter in the Texas Division.

A number of individual camp members received

awards. Jerry Nelson, Greg Manning, and John Perry each received the Division's Gold Cross of Honor. George Ballentine and Steve Wooley each received the Division's Silver Cross of Honor.

The luncheon speaker at the Awards Luncheon was camp member and Army of the Trans-Mississippi Commander and John C. Perry. Commander Perry spoke on "The Alamo of the Confed-

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*Four Star Camp Award and Best Newsletter*

## Camp Wins Awards At Reunion

The Major Robert M. White Camp #1250 came home with the gold from the 106<sup>th</sup> Texas Division Convention-Reunion held in June in College Station.

The Camp once again won the Four Star Camp Award. The four star camp award is given to a Texas Division camp which demonstrates outstanding work during the year. The award recognizes camps that make membership dues payments on time, publish a monthly newsletter, have monthly meetings

and have monthly speakers. The Camp won the Four Star Camp Award for the third straight year.

The *Confederate Gazette* was awarded the Division's Best Newsletter Award. The award is presented to the newsletter editor of the Division newsletter judged by a three man committee to be the best in the Division. The newsletters are judged based on "format, including color, photos & graphics), news content, historical content, editorials and

general interest." John Perry accepted the award on behalf of the camp.

This is the fourth time the *Confederate Gazette* has been so honored with the Division's top award. The *Gazette* also won the award in 1991, 1992, and 1993. The *Gazette* also won the Dr. Paul Jon Miller Award in 1991 as the Best Newsletter in the SCV. The *Gazette* finished second in the running for the national award in 1997. Since that time the *Gazette* has not re-entered the national contest.



## CONFEDERATE PROFILE

# THE EYES OF LEE ARE UPON YOU!

John Gregg:  
Texan From  
Fairfield

By: John C. Perry

At the Wilderness Campaign in 1864, after an initial day of indecisive fighting General Robert E. Lee, true to his nature launched a pre-dawn attack on May 6, 1864. This caused fighting all across the line and a Federal counter attack. The Federal attack hit A. P. Hill's entrenched but badly outnumbered men.

Hill's Confederate line broke and his men streamed down a narrow road in near panic. Lee was there as he observed the unusual sight of fleeing Confederates. But, Lee heard a noise from the opposite direction. It was his Texas Brigade (Hood's Texas Brigade) advancing double quick with their tattered battle flags flying high. They were moving up the road towards Hill's fleeing men and the advancing Federals. They ran right through Hill's retreating troops.

Seeing the Texans, Lee lost his usual poise and "like a school boy," as one witness described it, Lee pulled his hat off and shouted, "Hurrah for Texas! Hurrah for Texas!" The Texas Brigade commander rode up and reported to Lee. Lee instructed him saying, "When you go in there I wish you to give those men the cold steel. They will stand and fire all day and never move unless you charge them."

Knowing exactly what Lee meant, he saluted and ordered a general advance on the Federal line. He shouted to his men, "Attention Texas Brigade! The eyes . . . of General Lee . . . are upon you! Forward, men forward!"

After Lee and the Texas Brigade's commander finished their con-

pronounced those words . . . A yell rent the air that must have been heard for miles around." Another Texan yelled, "I would charge Hell itself for that old man."

Lee was so moved by the response to his words that he urged his horse, Traveller, on as he moved through the Texas Brigade towards the front of the lines. It was obvious that Lee intended to personally lead the charge. Men nearest him, however, grabbed his reins and tugged on his saddle to prevent his forward movement. The men yelled, "Go back, General," "Go Back," and "Lee to the rear." It took a staff member and the Texas Brigade's commander to get Lee to stop and remain in the rear.

But the Texans were one fired up bunch of Confederates. With Lee safely in the rear, the Texans moved forward. They moved so quickly that they advanced beyond their two supporting brigades. Lee called out to one of the support brigades, made up of Alabama soldiers, "Alabama soldiers, all I ask of you is to keep up with the Texans!"

The 800 men of the Texas Brigade moved forward with both a thunderous roar of Rebel yells and musket fire. They moved 500 yards unsupported

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John Gregg

versation, Lee remained in the rear. Men around Lee heard him say to his staff, "Texans always move them!" The Texas Brigade soldiers immediately formed around Lee and started cheering.

For those Texans further away, Lee's words were repeated down the lines, always followed by a cheer. A young Texan wrote in his diary describing the event. "Never before in my lifetime . . . did I ever witness such a scene as was enacted when Lee

# Snapshots From The Division Reunion

Top: Jake Manning and Sandra Perry work the OCR's Silent Auction.  
Center: Division Commander Steve Lucas bestows commander's ribbon on new Division Commander Steve von Roeder  
Bottom: Camp members gather for the Confederate Ball, Front row: George Ballentine, Betty Nelson, Sandra Perry, and Jake Manning, Back row: James Kinnear, Jerry Nelson, John Perry, and Greg Manning



All photographs courtesy of George Ballentine



## Camp Schedule

**July 2<sup>nd</sup>:** Camp Executive Council Meeting, 6:00 P.M., Jody's Restaurant, Temple, TX

**July 4<sup>th</sup>:** 4th of July Parade—Belton. Meet at UMHB.

**July 12<sup>th</sup>:** Camp's Quarterly Dinner Meeting, 7:00 P.M., Jody's Restaurant, Temple. Speaker: Evault Boswell, Bushwackers.

**July 30<sup>th</sup> to August 2<sup>nd</sup>:** SCV National Reunion, Asheville, NC.

**August 12<sup>th</sup>:** Regular Camp Meeting, 7:00 P.M., Doctor's Conference Room, Scott & White Hospital, Temple, TX. Speaker: Steve Wooley

**September 9<sup>th</sup>:** Regular Camp Meeting, 7:00 P.M., Doctor's Conference Room, Scott & White Hospital, Temple, TX. Speaker: George Ballentine, The Southern Homefront.

**October 11<sup>th</sup>:** Camp's Quarterly Dinner Meeting, 7:00 P.M., TBA. Speaker: John C. Oeffinger, Editor of "A Soldier's General: The Civil War Letters of Lafayette McLaws.

**November 11<sup>th</sup>:** Regular Camp Meeting, 7:00 P.M., Doctor's Conference Room, Scott & White Hospital, Temple, TX. Speaker: Rocky Sprott, The Battle of Palmito Ranch.

**December 9<sup>th</sup>:** Camp's Southern Christmas Party, 7:00 P.M., TBA.

Next Camp Meeting:  
July 12<sup>th</sup>  
7:00 P.M. at  
Jody's Restaurant  
Temple

## Division Reunion Held In College Station

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eracy.”

The second business session began following the luncheon. The 2005 Division Reunion was awarded to the Major Robert M. White Camp #1250 to be held in Temple. The Time and Place Committee unanimously recommended that the reunion be awarded to the camp and the delegates unanimously approved the committee's recommendation. The 2004 Division Reunion will be held in Nacogdoches, Texas.

Also during the afternoon business session the Division officers were elected. Steve von Roeder from Austin was unopposed in his bid to become Division Commander. Ron Strybos running for 1st Lieutenant Commander and Gary Whitfield for 2nd Lieutenant Commander were also unopposed. All three men were elected to their new positions by acclamation.

There was a contested election for 3rd Lieutenant Commander. Camp member Greg Manning of Salado ran against H. W. Irby from Austin. Manning defeated Irby and becomes the Division's 3rd Lieutenant Commander.

Following the final business session the vari-

ous Division brigades held their individual meetings. The Central Texas Brigade, commanded for the last four years by camp member Jerry Nelson, elected new officers when Commander Nelson announced he would not run for reelection. Charles Oliver of Waco ran against Norman Stubbs of Corsicana for brigade commander. Stubbs was elected.

On Saturday evening the Division Banquet and Ball was held. Texas Land Commissioner Mr. Jerry



Division Officers welcome Camp Member Greg Manning as the newest Division Officer. (Photo by George Ballentine)

Patterson spoke at the event. At the dinner meeting all the new Division and Brigade officers for 2003-04 were installed. The band *Cross Ties* performed at the Ball playing period music.

Representing the camp at the convention were the following camp members, George Ballentine, Robert Berry, James Kinnear, Greg Manning, Gordon Mobley, Jerry Nelson, John Perry, Rocky Sprott, and dual camp member Jimmy Dossey.

Also attending was former camp member Curtis Pruitt and spouses of camp members, Jake Manning, Betty Nelson, and Sandra Perry.

## Camp Member's Book Sells Out

Camp member John C. Perry's book, *Myths & Realities of American Slavery* has sold all of the initial print run of 2,500 copies. Perry's publisher, Burd Street Press, announced in June that following Perry's appearance on national TV on C-Span's Book TV the book went out of print.

The publisher plans to do a reprint of the book, but the new offering will be in soft cover. The reprinted version should be available by August. The paperback version will carry a suggested retail price of \$17.95.

Perry said that he was "both very pleased and greatly humbled by the books success." He said he wanted to thank the many SCV members that had supported the book.

Perry has made over sixty book promotional appearances.

## July Dinner Meeting Set For The 12th

The Major Robert M. White Quarterly Dinner Meeting will be held at 7:00 PM on Saturday July 12th at 7:00 PM. The meeting will be held at Jody's Restaurant located at the corner of South 1st and Ave. M in Temple.

Featured speaker for the event is author Evault Boswell. Boswell is the author of the new book, *Quantrill's Raiders in Texas*, published by Eakin Press. Boswell is also the author of *Texas Boys in Gray*, a novel *The Rebel from Shepherd Mountain*, and *Birding Texas with Children*.

## Camp Wins Host Bid For 2005 Division Reunion

## The Eyes of Lee

(Continued from page 2)

and under heavy Federal fire. The Federal advance was stopped cold. Lee knew that these Texans had, along with other units of Longstreet's Corp, saved his army from a crippling, perhaps fatal blow.



R. E. Lee

It was perhaps the Texas Brigade's finest hour.

The Texas Brigade commander that yelled those immortal words "the eyes of Lee are upon you," was born in Lawrence County, Alabama on September 28, 1828. John Gregg moved with his family to La Grange, Alabama as a young boy. He attended La Grange College and later studied law in Tusculumbia, Alabama.

About 1854, Gregg moved to Texas, first to Centerville then finally settling in Fairfield. In 1856, he was elected as a district judge. Gregg was an ardent secessionist and became a delegate to the Texas Secession Convention in 1861. When Texas sent a delegation to the Montgomery, Alabama convention of Southern states, Gregg was one of the representatives. He served as an active participant, helping to write the constitution for the new Confederate States of America, that was formed in Montgomery. He was part of the provisional Confederate Congress.

When fighting began in 1861, Gregg chose a military role rather than to continue as a politician. He quickly returned to Texas

## Confederate Gazette Quiz Questions

By George Ballentine

**Category: With the exception of D. H. Hill, all of these questions are about "those other people"**

1. Probable duration of time of the Federal advance at Cold Harbor:

- a. 3 minutes
- b. 15 minutes
- c. 8 minutes
- d. 20 minutes

2. Greatest number of troops surrendered by the Union during a single engagement:

- a. 8,300
- b. 9,500
- c. 16,000
- d. 12,500

3. After this battle, D. H. Hill wrote, "It was not war, it was murder."

- a. Ft. Fisher

- b. Malvern
- c. Mine Run
- d. Reservoir Hill

4. After the Battle of Nashville, this Union general's troops had been moved so often under many commanders that he called them "the lost tribe of Israel."

- a. 3rd Indiana
- b. 41st New York
- c. 2nd Massachusetts
- d. 13th Maryland

5. Battle where Grant said, "...No terms except unconditional and immediate surrender can be accepted. I propose to move immediately upon your works."

- a. Ft. Donelson
- b. Totopotomoy
- c. Fortochoe
- d. Antietam

Answers: 1. c, 2. d, 3. b, 4. c, 5. a

and helped organize the 7<sup>th</sup> Texas Infantry. The regiment, with the now Colonel Gregg as it's commander, was in Kentucky by the fall of 1861. He was part of the Confederate forces at Fort Donelson that surrendered to the Federals in 1862. Gregg was first sent to Camp Chase, Ohio as a prisoner of war. He was then transferred to Fort Warren, Massachusetts, before being exchanged in August of 1862.

Gregg, upon his return to active duty, was promoted to brigadier general and was assigned to command a Tennessee infantry brigade in Mississippi. He and his men saw action at Port Hudson, Raymondville, and was part of an unsuc-

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## Camp To March In Belton 4th Of July Parade

What would the 4th of July without the annual Belton Independence Day Parade? The Major Robert M. White will again participate in the annual event that draws as many as 30,000 people to Belton.

The camp will march in the parade for the seventh year in a row. Camp members are asked to gather on the University of Mary Hardin-Baylor campus by 8:30 AM. Look for the Confederate flags to find the exact rendezvous location.

Locally, KWTX-TV will carry the parade live.

Camp To  
March In  
Belton's  
Independence  
Day Parade

## The Eyes of Lee

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successful effort to relieve Vicksburg in June of 1863.

After the fall of Vicksburg in July of 1863, Gregg and his brigade were sent east to become part of Braxton Bragg's Army of Tennessee. At the Battle of Chickamauga on September 19, 1863, Gregg's life was saved by men of the Texas Brigade. Gregg's men were already on the front lines as the Texas Brigade was moving up. Gregg, in his typical audacious style, was on horseback in the no man's land between the Confederate and Federal lines. He was attempting to scout the Federal positions, but wandered much too close to enemy lines. When challenged by Federal skirmishers, he quickly turned his horse around, and was attempting to return to the Confederate lines, out of harm's way. A bullet through his neck, however, quickly knocked him from his horse. Gregg lay on the ground, but held onto the reins of his horse. As Federal soldiers swarmed around him they took to looting first, stealing his spurs and swords. Members of the Texas Bri-

gade saw what was happening and immediately charged the Federals. They pushed the Federals back, saving Gregg, who was now unconscious, and recovered some of his belongings, including his pawing horse. Little did members of the Texas Brigade know that they had saved the life of their future commander.

Gregg was seriously wounded and was not able to return to active duty until January of 1864. In February, he was assigned to Lee's Army of Northern Virginia to command the very men that had saved him at Chickamauga, the Texas Brigade.

It was at the Wilderness where Gregg and his fellow Texans helped save the day and earned Lee's undying admiration. Days later Gregg and his men were in the trenches at Spotsylvania and in June helped defeat Union advances at Cold Harbor. In July, Gregg and his men were part of the Petersburg-Richmond defenses.

On October 7, 1864, Gregg led his men on an assault against Federal lines at Darbytown Road. At the head of the advance Gregg was struck in the neck and was killed instantly. His men withdrew and Gregg's body lay between

the opposing lines in a pool of blood. The Texans wanted their commander's body back. Several volunteers crawled on their hands and knees about 100 yards through heavy Union fire. They were able to get a blanket under Gregg's body and pulled him back to the Texas lines.

Gregg's remains were placed in a casket and were sent to Richmond. He lay in state at the Confederacy's House of Representatives. Citizens were able to pay their last respects as they filed past his coffin, amid flowers and massed Confederate and Texas flags. The entire Texas Brigade was pulled from the front lines and attended his funeral service, and marched with the body to Hollywood Cemetery. The body was temporarily placed in a vault in the cemetery. His widow later had the body removed, and Gregg was reburied in Aberdeen, Mississippi.

At the time of his death Gregg was held in very high regard. General Lee wrote Secretary of War James Seddon, "The brave General Gregg of the Texas Brigade fell dead at the head of his men." In his biography of Lee, Douglas Southall Freeman reports that Lee considered Gregg, "as the best brigadier (general) in the army."



# Confederate Gazette

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**Next Meeting:**  
**July 12th**  
**Jody's Restaurant**  
**Temple, TX**  
**7:00 PM**