

# CONFEDERATE GAZETTE



## Confederate Gazette

*Is a monthly publication of the Major Robert M. White Camp #1250 Sons of Confederate Veterans Temple, Texas*



Web Site:  
[www.rootsweb.com/~tx1250](http://www.rootsweb.com/~tx1250)

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### *Camp Member Wins Distinguished Service Medal*

## 2003 SCV REUNION HELD

The Sons of Confederate Veterans (SCV) gathered in Asheville, North Carolina from July 30<sup>th</sup> through August 2<sup>nd</sup>. Around 800 plus delegates from camps across the United States and abroad gathered to deal with a variety of business issues. In the SCV, as of the Reunion, there were 819 camps with about 33,000 SCV members. During the last fiscal year, the SCV has grown by a net amount of 5,384 members.

Camp member John Perry was awarded the

SCV's Distinguished Service Medal at the event.

In spite of it being a non-election year, there were a number of hotly debated topics, mostly centering on a number of constitutional amendments. Spirited debate resulted in the majority of the 24 proposed amendments not being dealt with. Only seven amendments were considered due to time constraints.

One of the highlights of the reunion was the Saturday evening awards dinner. Army of Tennessee Commander Allen Trapp

received the highest SCV award, the Jefferson Davis Chalice. The keynote speaker at the event was Ron Maxwell, producer of the movies *Gods and Generals* and *Gettysburg*.

Maxwell told the cheering crowd that his movie stressed historical accuracy rather than political correctness. He received a sustained standing ovation from those at the dinner. Maxwell was also awarded the highest civilian award given to a non-SCV member, the Stephen Dill Lee Award.

*(Continued on page 3)*

### *First Annual WWII Seminar*

## New History Seminar At Hill

The Harold B. Simpson History Complex at Hill College in Hillsboro will sponsor its first annual World War II seminar on Saturday September 20, 2003.

The event is entitled, "The Life and Times of Audie Murphy." Speakers for the event include Dr. David Smith who will speak on "Murph" about the life of Audie Murphy. Also speaking will be Sue

Gossett, who will speak on "Hollywood" and there will be an interview with Audie Murphy's sisters, Nadene Lokey and Billy Tidol.

The event will also include a living history display, including World War II re-enactors with original equipment. Expected to attend are original members of Audie Murphy's unit and division during World War II and Medal of

Honor recipients. The event will also host vendors that will sell books and World War II artifacts.

The cost for the event is \$22.00. Tickets may be purchased from Hill College by contacting "WWII Seminar, P.O. Box 619, Hillsboro, TX 76645.

The History Complex will also sponsor the 10th annual Civil War Preserva-

*(Continued on page 3)*



## CONFEDERATE PROFILE

# COMMANDER OF THE 3<sup>RD</sup> TEXAS CAVALRY

Organizer of the  
3<sup>rd</sup> Texas Cavalry  
from Marshall,  
Texas

**H**e immediately volunteered for military service in 1848 to answer the call of war with Mexico. He served as a private in Jefferson Davis' regiment and served with distinction at the battles of Buena Vista and Monterrey. He would become a Texan and would later serve now President Davis as an officer in the Confederate Army.

Elkanah Bracken Greer was born in Paris, Tennessee, on October 13, 1825. As a child he moved with his parents to Marshall County, Mississippi. When the call to arms came for men to fight the Mexicans in 1847, Greer enlisted in Company I of the Marshall Guards, 1<sup>st</sup> Mississippi Infantry, better known as the "Mississippi Rifles," where he served as a private.

After he returned from the Mexican War, Greer moved to Marshall, Texas where he established a large plantation and entered business. He seemed to be a jack-of-all-trades serving as a merchant, a planter, and a lawyer in the firm of Pope, Stedman, and Greer. He also briefly served as the superintendent of the Southern Pacific Railroad in Marshall.

Geer was a staunch states rights Democrat. He attended the Democratic Convention in Charleston, S.C. and was one of those that left the

convention rather than accept the nomination of Stephen Douglas. After the election of Lincoln, Greer was a strong supporter of Texas leaving the Union.

He entered the Confederate Army in May of 1861 and by June he had raised what would be



*E. B. Greer*

known as the 3<sup>rd</sup> Texas Cavalry. This was the first Texas cavalry regiment to be mustered for out-of-state service.

Greer's unit was sent to the Indian Territory, the present state of Oklahoma, home to some 56,000 members of the Five Civilized Tribes. The Confederate government had entered into negotiations with the various tribes, Cherokees, Choctaws, Chickasaws, Creeks and Seminoles, and had encouraged the formation of four Native American cavalry regiments to fight for

the South. The unit met with Native Americans from the Choctaw Nation and two Choctaw ladies presented the 3<sup>rd</sup> Texas with a regimental flag.

He commanded his regiment at the battles of Wilson's Creek in Missouri, and at Elkhorn Tavern (Pea Ridge), Arkansas. Despite receiving a slight wound, Greer temporarily commanded Ben McCulloch's division after McCulloch was wounded. By the spring of 1862 Greer was in command of a cavalry brigade that included his Texas regiment. After participating in the evacuation of Corinth, Mississippi Greer resigned his command on June 1, 1862.

By October of 1862 he had returned to active duty as a brigadier general. He would eventually become chief of the conscription bureau for the Trans-Mississippi Department. He also worked with Gen. John B. Magruder to reconcile Confederate conscription laws with Texas state laws. After the War Greer returned to Marshall. Greer was a member of the reception committee to welcome his former Mexican War commander and past President, Jefferson Davis on his 1875 visit to Marshall. Greer died while visiting his sister at Devall's Bluff, Arkansas, on March 25, 1877. He was eventually buried next to his parents at Elmwood Cemetery in Memphis, Tennessee.

# 2003 SCV Reunion

(Continued from page 1)

According to the SCV constitution all proposed constitutional amendments would have to pass by at least a two-thirds vote in order for them to be enacted.

Proposed Amendment #1, changing the annual reunion dates from "between July 20 and August 5" to "between July 13 and July 29" was passed by a voice vote.

Proposed amendment #2 to remove the Commander-in-Chief of the Military Order of Stars & Bars from the SCV's Executive Council failed by a vote of 845 for to 717 against.

Proposed amendment #5 removes from the General Executive Council any member who has not attended a regularly scheduled meeting of the council for one-year. This amendment passed on a voice vote.

An amendment that would have limited membership on the General Executive Council to only the last three past Commanders-In-Chiefs failed by a roll call vote. The vote on proposed amendment #9 failed by a vote of 1,100 <sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub> for and 626 <sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub> against.

The remainder of the proposed constitutional amendments were either withdrawn or time expired before they were considered.

Another controversial issue was the Commander-in-Chief's report and whether or not it would be included in the next issue of the *Confederate Veteran*. In his report Commander-in-Chief Ron Wilson accused some SCV members of having an organized effort to block his initiatives. He was also critical of some of the current members of the General Executive Council.



2003 Reunion Medal

Those supporting the publication of his report felt that all of the general membership of the SCV deserved to know the Commander-in-Chief's position. Those opposed to the publication of the report argued that the *Confederate Veteran* goes to many

non-SCV members, including the press, schools, etc and that the SCV should not promote its internal squabbles to the general public. The motion to publish was passed on a roll call vote.

SCV members were reminded that the 2004 Reunion will be held in Dalton, Georgia from July 28th through July 31st. A website is up with additional information, visit: <http://www.georgiascv.com/scvdalton2004/default.htm> for additional information.

## Camp Schedule

**September 3<sup>rd</sup>:** Camp Executive Council Meeting, 6:00 P.M., Chuck's Restaurant, Temple, TX

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

**September 20<sup>th</sup>:** World War II Seminar, Hill College, Hillsboro, TX

**October 1<sup>st</sup>:** Camp Executive Council Meeting, 6:00 P.M., Jody's Restaurant, Temple, TX

**October 18<sup>th</sup>:** Camp's Quarterly Dinner Meeting, 7:00 P.M., Chuck's Restaurant; 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.

**November 22<sup>nd</sup>:** 10<sup>th</sup> Annual Texas Civil War Preservation Seminar, Hill College, Hillsboro, TX. Topic: "A Meteor Brightly Shining, The Life of Pat Cleburne"

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

## WWII Seminar

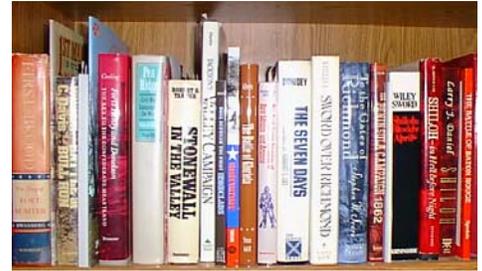
(Continued from page 1)

tion Seminar on the life of Patrick Cleburne on November 22<sup>nd</sup>.

Next Camp Meeting:  
September 9<sup>th</sup>  
7:00 P.M. at  
Doctor's Conference Room  
First Floor  
Scott & White  
Hospital  
Temple

# “THE BOOK BIN”

## *A Southern View of the Invasion of the Southern States and the War of 1861-65*



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

By: George Ballentine

A Southern View of the Invasion of the Southern States and War of 1861-65 by Captain S.A. Ashe, softbound, 1938, reprinted by The Ruffin Flag Company, Crawfordville, GA, 75 pgs, \$7.00 from SCV Camp #1250 Store.

### Southern Explanation of the War For Southern Independence

Captain Samuel A'Court Ashe was the last surviving commissioned officer of the Confederate States Army. In July 1936, the United Confederate Veterans conferred upon him the rank of Brigadier General. It is believed that this honor was due to their appreciation of his last publication, this book. In an article in the Montgomery Advertiser, November 4, 1935, Judge Walter B. Jones said, "This little pamphlet should be in the home of every true Southerner."

This book says more about the causes and results of the War of 1861-65 than one might believe could be said in only 75 pages. Judge Jones went on to say that Captain Ashe "backs his statements with a reference to the book and page." Indeed, he even goes as far back as the original colonies in his discussion of the right to secede from a government that no longer represented their interests and well being. He also discusses in detail the finding of the Supreme Court "that the President

had no right to make war and the Constitution did not give Congress the right to make war on any state."

Much of the information discussed in this small book may not even be known by most Southerners. Captain Ashe begins by discussing The Slave

speaks on Hinton Helper's book, The Impending Crisis, and the use of propaganda to influence the masses. He explains how these books were "distributed in the North and South in batches of 100,000 copies, and put into the homes" and how Helper encouraged a servile insurrection among the slaves of the South.

Next the author discusses how the Northern State nullified the Constitution and began to pass laws pertaining to slavery at the state level. He goes on to explain how the States became a Union and what the opinion on secession was for our founding fathers. He discusses the Right Of Secession and why the states did indeed have that right, and that it had been exercised long before South Carolina left the union.

Captain Ashe discusses the Constitution in detail and explains what the various articles meant then, and what the Northern Abolitionists interpreted them to mean. He discusses John Brown and how he was convicted and put to death only to become a martyr, instead of the murderer he was. He even makes a more modern comparison to John Brown's case and that of the two Italian anarchists, Sacco and Vanzetti. He

*(Continued on page 6)*

A SOUTHERN VIEW  
of the  
INVASION  
of the  
SOUTHERN STATES  
AND WAR OF 1861-65



BY  
CAPTAIN S. A. ASHE  
RALEIGH, N. C.

Trade finishing this chapter by saying "the Southern Colonies had no ship engaged in the slave trade... but, as the matter worked out, those States were the greatest sufferers in the end." He continues in the next chapter with The Steps Leading To War. Here he discusses the effects of the book Uncle Tom's Cabin and the effects it had toward creating the abolitionist movement in the North. He then

## Fight To Save Mansfield Battlefield

A major fight is in the works to save a large portion of the Mansfield Battlefield in Louisiana. The Dolet Hills Lignite Co. has leased 30,000 acres of land to surface mine, including about 5,000 acres of the Mansfield battlefield. The mining corporation is running 24 hours a day using two of the largest mechanical shovels in the world with the ability to scope the equivalent of a



Richard Taylor, commander of CSA forces at Mansfield

three bedroom house in one scope.

A Friends of the Mansfield Battlefield has been formed to help save the land. On October 3rd through 5th they have planned a commemorative weekend. On Fridays the 3rd there will be a reception at the Mansfield Museum and on Saturday the 4th there will be various speakers at the battlefield. A box lunch will be provided and there will be a reenactment and period music.

The cost is \$25 with all proceeds going to support the battlefield. Tickets can be purchased from Chuck McMichael, 7734 W. Lakeshore Dr., Shreveport, LA 71107.

## Confederate Gazette Quiz Questions

By George Ballentine

Confederate Gazette Quiz for September 2003 issue:

### Secession

1. Comedian who composed the words to "Bonnie Blue Flag" the patriotic song of the South

- a. Edwin Francis
- b. Joseph Conrad
- c. John Esten
- d. Harry Macarthy

2. Peace Democrat and US Senator who proposed dividing the country along the lines of the Potomac and Ohio rivers to maintain peace.

- a. James Bayard, Jr.
- b. Nelson Rector
- c. Charles Dimon
- d. Alexander Samuel

3. Was expelled unani- mously from the Senate for

joining the Confederate army.

- a. Thomas Warre
- b. Hamilton Dox
- c. William True
- d. John C. Breckinridge

4. On Feb. 15, 1861 re- signed from the US Navy to join the Confederate Navy.

- a. William Benjamin
- b. Lewis Benedict
- c. Raphael Semmes
- d. Henry Lewis

5. On Feb. 7, 1861 this group declared its adher- ence to the Southern states

- a. British textile workers
- b. Choctaw Indian Na- tion
- c. c. French arms manu- facturers
- d. Cuban sugar growers

Answers: 1. D, 2. A, 3. D, 4. C, 5. b

## SCV Approved For Federal Campaign

The Sons of Confeder- ate Veterans have been notified by Mara T. Pater- master, Director of the Of- fice of CFC Operations, that we have been found eligi- ble for inclusion on the 2003 Combined Federal Campaign (CFC) National List.

The Combined Federal Campaign is the annual fund-raising drive con- ducted by Federal employ- ees in their workplace each fall. Each year Federal em- ployees and military per- sonnel raise millions of dol- lars through the CFC to benefit thousands of non- profit agencies. The SCV's inclusion in this drive

means that any Federal Employee, including armed forces and post office per- sonnel and retiree can do- nate to the SCV through payroll deduction (similar to United Way campaigns). This year's campaign runs September 1 through De- cember 15, 2003.

Funds are solicited only during that period. Our organization will be listed in the National/ International Organization- brochure and the SCV's CFC ID number is 0887. Information has been posted on the national website at [www.scv.org](http://www.scv.org), or you can check out the CFC website at [www.opm.gov/cfc/](http://www.opm.gov/cfc/).

Event Set For  
October 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup>  
To Support  
Mansfield  
Battlefield

## Book Bin

*(Continued from page 4)*

goes on to explain why South Carolina seceded and why the Cotton States followed suit.

The last third of the book is dedicated to a discussion of Abraham Lincoln. Captain Ashe discusses Lincoln's Inaugural Address. He then moves on to Lincoln And The Constitution, explaining Lincoln's understanding, or misunderstanding, of that founding document. Ashe dissects Lincoln's views and statements and explains his philosophy "ignoring plain facts of history." He goes on to Lincoln The Lawyer pointing out the deception and trickery that he used to win cases. It is also shows his inhumanity in his approval of the acts of his officials in arresting and confining "in loathsome dungeons thousands of people in the North on bare suspicion of sympathy with the South. Old men of seventy were dragged from their beds at midnight and hurried to prison by squads of soldiers." In reading this section I found myself thinking that he must have studied the system of Adolph Hitler; but then it occurred to me that Hitler

may have studied his measures.

Lincoln "The Usurper" goes into the details of Mr. Lincoln's War and how he usurped the power of Congress to make war. It is explained how the war he made was not only illegal, but one that Congress itself could not make. Captain Ashe shows that even though a resolution came before Congress many times to approve what President Lincoln had done, it never passed. He talks of the efforts of many people, North and South, who tried to convince Mr. Lincoln to end the war. Even when President Jefferson and Vice President Stephens met with Mr. Lincoln at Hampton Roads early in 1865, and "begged him to stop the war and let the people of the Southern States return their States to the Union, he said 'No.'"

There are two other chapters, Abraham Lincoln, The Citizen and Lincoln As A Strategist which show the real Lincoln and how he was perceived by his own people. At his run for a second term many Northern soldiers were not allowed to vote because it was feared that he would lose the election because of his conduct of the war. Lincoln could have averted the war, but instead created an atmosphere in the Southern

States where people did not feel secure in their own homes. South Carolina led the way in establishing a government that would give them that security that they once enjoyed under the Constitution.

The book ends with a discussion of conditions in the South after the war. Several letters are shown that reflect the effects of Reconstruction. United Confederate Veterans General Orders No. 56, New Orleans, June 3, 1906, is given in its entirety. It describes the various flags of the Confederacy with exact measurements and illustrations of each.

As I read these 75 pages, I felt that I had read a much larger book. The amount of information packed into this booklet by Captain Ashe is astounding. Much of it was facts that I had never known. I have to admit that much of this new knowledge made me more and more angry as I read them. As mentioned in the opening of this review, every true Southerner should have a copy of this booklet and read it over and over again until the facts are ingrained in their memories. The facts are given with references to back them up. One would be hard pressed to try to dispute what Captain Ashe has written.



# Confederate Gazette

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**Next Meeting:**  
**Sept. 9th**  
**Scott & White**  
**Temple, TX**  
**7:00 PM**