

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

Steve Wooley
Camp Commander
14280 Sutton Loop
Temple, TX 76504

John C. Perry
Newsletter Editor
P.O. Box 794
Salado, TX 76571

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Camp #1250
Sons of Confederate Veterans
Temple, Texas

26 NPS Parks Effected

STORM REEKS DAMAGE ON BATTLEFIELDS

Hurricane Isabel, which ravaged the eastern coast of the United States in September, caused tremendous damage to many War Between the States parks in the National Park System (NPS).

The NPS stated, "This is the worst disaster we've ever had to deal with . . . by far." Many roads, trails, and breastworks were severely damaged.

The NPS estimated that more than 12,400 trees had fallen across roads and trails in 26 NPS parks in six states. The worst hit appeared to be

the national battlefields in the Richmond and Petersburg, Virginia areas.

Costs are estimated to be in the tens of millions of dollars putting additional pressure in the already cash strapped NPS. NPS officials were considering asking Congress for a special appropriation for the fix up.

The storm plummeted many of the NPS battlefields with winds up to 85 miles an hour and heavy rains. Rain fall ranged anywhere from 6 1/2 inches and up.

At Petersburg a 300

year old tree at City Point went down as well as there was significant damage to the bluff overlooking the James and Appomattox Rivers.

Also at Petersburg an existing hole in the tunnel built by Federal soldiers resulting in the Battle of the Crater was greatly widened by the rains. NPS filled the hole with sand, preserving the integrity of the tunnel, and hoping at a later date when repairs can be made the sand can be easily identifiable when repairs are made.

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Seminar on Cleburne

Hill College Seminar Nov. 22nd

The Tenth Annual Texas Civil War Preservation Seminar will be held on Saturday, November 22, 2003 at Hill College in Hillsboro, Texas. Registration will be between 8:30 A.M. and 10:00 A.M. A breakfast will be available between 9:00 A.M. and 10:00 A.M.

This years event will focus on the life of Confederate General, Patrick Cle-

burne and will feature an all-star panel of speakers.

Speakers and their topics include: Ed Bearss: "The Failure of the Meteor to Rise, Why Wasn't Cleburne Promoted?" Wiley Sword: "Cleburne: Tactical Mastermind." Jerry Russell: "A Life Well Lived: Cleburne, An Overview." Thomas Cartwright: "The Final Acts: Cleburne at Spring Hill and Franklin"

The costs for the event are:

\$50 Regular Reservation, \$125 Patron Reservation. \$10 Preservation Breakfast.* \$10 Preservation Lunch,* \$15 Conference Audio Tapes*

*Included with Patron Registration.

Mail payment to: Harold B. Simpson History Center, P.O. Box 619, Hillsboro, TX 76645.



CONFEDERATE PROFILE

THE SHEPHERD OF THE CONFEDERACY

Former Louisiana Senator Served the Confederacy

A great trivia question, is which Confederate was formerly a shepherd in the Pyrenees Mountains? To astound your friends, you can say "but I know, it was the Frenchman, Pierre Soule."

Pierre Soule was born in Castillon, in the French Pyrenees, in September 1802. He was sent to the Jesuits' college at Toulouse to prepare for the priesthood but the rigid discipline did not suit him. In 1817 he was continuing his education in Bordeaux, but he took part in a plot against Louis XVIII. To escape capture he fled into the mountains, disguising himself as a shepherd. He returned to a normal life the following year when he was pardoned by the government.

He lived in Paris where he became the editor of an anti-government newspaper and studied law. Soule was arrested in 1825 for his anti-government writings and sent to prison. He escaped by using the passport of a friend and fled to England. After about a year he went to Haiti. Unable to find work in Haiti he traveled on to the United States.

He immersed himself in the study of English and U.S. law, eventually ending up in New Orleans. He became partners in a New Orleans law firm and rose rapidly in his profession.

In 1845 Soule entered politics and was elected to the Louisiana Senate. In 1847 he was appointed by the Louisiana governor to fill the vacant U.S. Senate seat. In 1849 he was elected to a full term in the U.S. Senate.

In the Senate he always took a pro Southern states-rights Democratic

favored the "cooperation" of the southern states to secure what they considered their rights. After Louisiana left the Union Soule offered his services to the Confederate government and was a Confederate agent in Europe. With poor health he soon returned to New Orleans, and remained there until the city fell into Federal hands in April of 1862.

Soule was arrested for treason and was taken to Fort Lafayette in New York harbor. He was paroled and went first to Nassau, then ran the blockade at Charleston and offered his services to General P. G. T. Beauregard. He served on Beauregard's staff as an honorary member during the siege of Charleston.

Before the war ended, Soule went to Havana, Cuba hoping to raise foreign troops for the Confederacy. He was in Havana when the war ended.

Post-war Soule resumed the practice of law, but in 1868 he had to give up all work, suffering from mental problems. He eventually was declared incompetent and died shortly thereafter on March 26, 1870.

Although Soule went by it and some list Soule as a general, at best it was only an honorary title. There is no evidence that Soule ever officially was a Confederate general.



Pierre Soule

view, and was active in the long debates upon Henry Clay's compromise bill of 1850. In March of 1853 President Pierce offered Soule the position as ambassador to Spain. He accepted the position, partially with an eye to working towards the acquisition of Cuba.

In 1855, he returned to New Orleans, where he resumed the practice of law. He supported Stephen A. Douglas for the presidency in 1860. He opposed secession, and

“Witness” Tree Comes Down in Richmond

Hurricane Isabel did not spare the White House of the Confederacy on the grounds of the Museum of the Confederacy in Richmond, Virginia in September.

A huge 200 year old

The tree, which was taller than the White House of the Confederacy was approximately 61 feet tall and had a trunk circumference of 9 feet.

According to the Museum of the Confederacy officials a portion of the fallen tree is still living. They hope to keep it alive long enough to take grafting samples. They have also collected all the chestnuts from the



“witness” horse chestnut tree, that framed the rear of the White House of the Confederacy, was brought down by the storm.

The tree was likely planted around 1818, when the house was built. The tree was the last surviving chestnut tree on the grounds.

The tree was one that Confederate President Jefferson Davis would have seen from his office window when he occupied the house for four years during the war. It is the same tree that the Davis children likely played under.



Top photo shows the back of the White House of the Confederacy in Richmond, Va. The tree on the right is a “witness” horse chestnut tree that was probably planted when the house was built.

Bottom photo was taken from the back porch of the White House of the Confederacy showing the same tree which was downed by Hurricane Isabel.

tree in hopes that one or more of the tree's offspring will take root.

The Museum will probably use some of the wood salvaged from the tree to create commemorative products, although a final decision has not yet been made.

Camp Schedule

November 5th: Camp Executive Council Meeting, 6:00 PM, KC's Restaurant, Harker Heights.

November 11th: Veterans Day marches in both Austin and Waco. Austin Parade Information: Starts about 9:30 AM. Park in the Texas DOT parking lot at Riverside and Congress.

November 11th: 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 21st-23rd : Liendo Plantation Reenactment, see Liendo Reenactment web page at: http://www.11texascav.org/liendo_x.html.

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

December 3rd: Camp Executive Council Meeting, 6:00 P.M., TBA.

December 20th: Camp's Southern Christmas Party, 6:30 P.M., Bliss Community Center, Little River, TX

January 10th: Annual Lee-Jackson Dinner, 7:00 P.M., TBA. Speaker: Texas Division Commander Steve von Roeder.

January 17th: Fort Worth Stock Show Parade, 11:00 A.M. Contact Wayne Pricer at: 817-293-5772

Next Camp Meeting:
November 11th
7:00 P.M. at
Doctor's Conference Room
First Floor
Scott & White
Hospital
Temple

“THE BOOK BIN”

Horse Sweat and Powder Smoke



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: Steve Wooley

Horse Sweat and Powder Smoke, by Stanley S. McGowan, 248 pages, 25 photos, 6 drawings, 9 maps, bibliography, index., November, 1999, Texas A&M University Press, \$29.95.

This book won the Summerfield Roberts award in 2001 from the Texas Division of the SCV. This book is the only complete history of the 1st Texas Cavalry Regiment, documenting their origins from the Confederate Committee on Public Safety's request to raising a unit for frontier defense to Henry McCullough appointment to colonel of cavalry.

The 1st Texas Cavalry Regiment, also known as the 1st Texas Mounted Rifles, was the first Confederate unit organized in Texas and the longest to serve, participating in Indian skirmishes on the frontier as well as in full battles against the Union.

This book is an excellent account of Texans in the Trans- Mississippi. Soldiers from the counties of Bell, Coryell, Bosque, Comanche and Burleson were included in this regiment. Stanley McGowan's great-great-grandfather William J. "Billy" McGowan was a member of this regiment. The book follows the unit early in the war on the frontier posts of Texas,

protecting settlers from Indian raids. They served in out posts from the Red River to the Rio Grande. These included the Red River Post, Fort Belknap, Fort Phantom Hill and Ringgold Barracks. The book tells of an engagement with Yankee blockad-

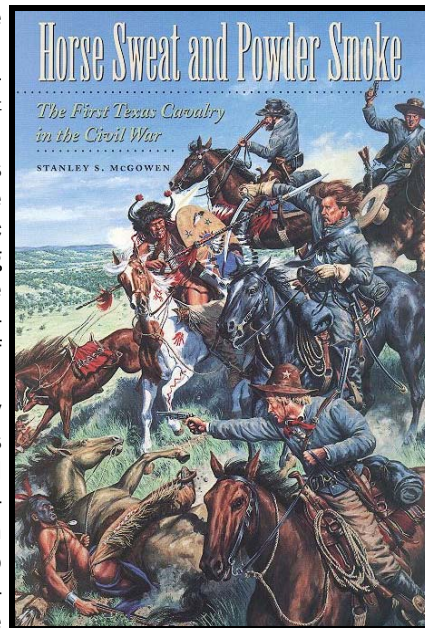
ers to arms. He and later regimental commanders, Augustus Buchel and William Yager, were acknowledged for their emphasis on precise discipline and gentlemanly conduct. Their training methods taught soldiers the valuable lessons of cavalry and infantry maneuvers as well as saber fighting and the proper care of horses and equipment.

Many commanders maintained lax rules of propriety and organization, but the 1st Texas Mounted Rifles remained a cohesive and loyal unit, disbanding only under the proper orders. Even as the Confederacy fell around them, the troops remained steadfastly loyal to their fellows.

The unit also saw service at the battles of Mansfield and Pleasant Hill, Louisiana. After these engagements the 1st Texas Cavalry joined in the pursuit of General Bank's army on their retreat. The 1st Texas participated in the battle of Yellow Bayou on May 18, 1864. These are just some of the highlights of this book. It includes a lot of names that the War Between the States reader will recognize.

The author, Stanley McGowan, received his Ph.D from TCU. He has written over twenty articles

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ers at Camp Aransas on the Texas coast.

Part of the 1st Texas was also involved with the tracking of German Unionists around the Fredricksburg area. This engagement was known as "The Battle of the Nueces".

McCulloch, a former Texas Ranger, was swift and effective at motivating his fellow Texans, notably Captains James B. "Buck" Barry and Thomas C. Frost,

History of the 1st
Texas Cavalry,
CSA

Ole Miss Students Want To Retain Rebel Mascot

University of Mississippi students, in a September vote, have overwhelmingly voted to keep the Colonel Rebel mascot, according to a student-led foundation fighting against the school's decision to replace the bearded Southern gentleman.

Brian Ferguson, chairman of the Colonel Reb Foundation, said results from a 'yes-or-no' questionnaire showed 94 percent of those who voted want the university to keep Colonel Rebel as the mascot for Ole Miss sports teams.

Ferguson said approximately 1,700 students voted in the election. Of the 1,687 students who participated in the poll, only 103 of them favored discarding the mascot, or one in 17 students, Ferguson said.

"It's unbelievable," said Ferguson, a junior on the Oxford campus, "The debate is over with. (The administration) should bring Colonel Reb back. This says very clearly that the students want to keep Colonel Reb."

Ole Miss has decided to replace Colonel Rebel with a more athletic-looking mascot. Administration officials have said their decision is final.

The nicknames Rebels and Ole Miss will not be changed and the Colonel Rebel logo will still be used by the university. The university is sponsoring a contest to solicit ideas for a new look for a mascot.

Confederate Gazette Quiz Questions

By George Ballentine

Subject: Confederate Conscription Act

1. True or False: The Confederacy passed its first conscription law in April 1862

2. True or False: Compulsory service was required of all white males between the ages of 11 and 35

3. True or False: In September 1862 the act was amended to extend the maximum age to 45

4. True or False: The Confederate draft could not be avoided by hiring a substitute

5. True or False: One slave owner or overseer for every 20 slaves was exempt

6. True or False: One editor per newspaper was ex-

empt

7. True or False: No exemptions were given to schoolteachers or college professors

8. True or False: Mail carriers, postmasters, druggists, shoemakers, blacksmiths, tanners, millers, ministers, salt makers, and telegraph operators were all exempt.

9. True or False: The act was amended in February 1864, making the age limits 17 to 50

10. True or False: Some of the exemptions of the act caused the poor people to complain that it was "a rich man's war and a poor man's fight."

Answers: 1.T, 2.T, 3.T, 4.F, 5.T, 6.T, 7.F, 8.T, 9.T, 10.T.

10th Annual Event at Texas Confederate Reunion Grounds

By: Sandi Rhodes

The year 2004 marks the 10th Anniversary of the Civil War events held each year at the Confederate Reunion Grounds State Historic Site in Mexia, Texas. The Confederate Reunion Grounds State Park Historical Society (CRGSPHS) will be having a membership drive to try to increase their membership by 100 new members.

The CRGSPHS has many goals and aspirations for this park. One necessity is to put a cover over the original Val Verde Cannon, which is the sentry, ever

present and guarding the park.

Another CRGSPHS goal is to build a museum representing life in Texas during the War Between the States, life during Reconstruction after the war and the Mexia Oil Boom. This unique structure will reflect the architecture of the 1890's and will be complete with a classroom, restroom and shower facilities for campers. This unique museum will be a one-of-a kind testimony to the rich history in which this hallowed

(Continued on page 6)

Plans Being Developed for the Confederate Reunion Grounds in Mexia

NPS Parks Hit Hard By Storm

(Continued from page 1)

At Richmond the bluff over the James River, where Confederate forces had forts protecting the Confederate capitol city sustained heavy damage. In the Richmond area over 1,500 trees were toppled in NPS parks .

At Harpers Ferry the Potomac River flooded, cresting at over 21 feet. The NPS had evacuated the park's collection of artifacts and exhibits before the storm hit.

At Sharpsburg (Antietam), an old, but non War Between the States wagon shed at Piper Barn was destroyed by the winds. Most of the damage at Sharpsburg was tree damage. Fortunately a "witness tree," a large sycamore tree at the end of Burnside Bridge was undamaged.

Only minor damage was reported at Gettysburg, Manassas, Appomattox, and Monocacy. There was also damage at non-War Between the States sites such as at Jamestown, Va.

Confederate Reunion Grounds in Mexia

(Continued from page 5)

ground is steeped. At this time no other state park museum represents three eras in Texas history.

The next CRGSPHS aspiration is to build a permanent RV park. This will be conducive to the tourism trade that the community so desperately needs. It will also mean traceable revenue for the park for the Texas Parks and Wildlife. This would make the park much more stable when the state parks go on the chopping block again. With the events held each year, the revenue would increase immensely simply by providing RV parking for those who attend the Civil War Reenactment and Jack's Creek Bluegrass Festival.

The CRGSPHS has a "pretty place" in mind. They would like to develop one of the old house places into a beautifully landscaped, bricked "patio" design, complete with arbors and a fishpond. One can only imagine the beautiful weddings and showers and parties

that could take place there? They could have our Lady's Tea there at each reenactment. It brings to mind the original atmosphere of the Confederate Reunion Grounds, when it was the most popular place to do anything.

If anyone would like to help make these goals a reality, you can support this 501(c)(3) organization by joining the CRGSPHS efforts. All donations to the CRGSPHS are tax deductible. The CRGSPHS website is at www.confederatereuniongrounds.org. For more information contact Sandi Rhodes at 254-375-2472 or sandirhodes@hotmail.com.

The Book Bin

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and papers on different topics of military history.

The book is very well written and I would recommend it to all of you that are interested in Texas troops and the Trans-Mississippi. The book has several maps and quite a few pictures of the principal players that help the reader along. I give this book four stars,

☆☆☆☆.



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Salado, TX 76571



Next Meeting:
Nov. 11th
Scott & White
Temple, TX
7:00 PM