

CONFEDERATE GAZETTE



Confederate Gazette

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

Best Newsletter 2003 Texas Division

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www.rootsweb.com/~tx1250

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Camp #1250
Sons of Confederate Veterans
Temple, Texas

16th Annual Event Set For January 10th

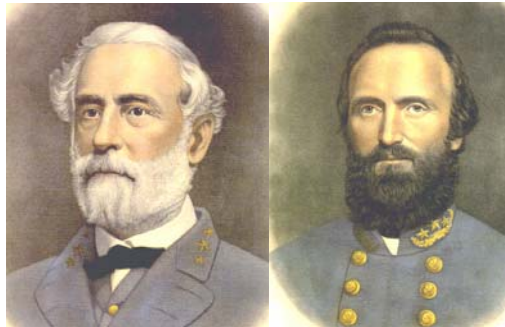
ANNUAL LEE JACKSON DINNER TO BE HELD

The Major Robert M. White Camp #1250 will hold its 16th annual Lee-Jackson Dinner on Saturday, January 10, 2004 at Jody's Restaurant in Temple.

Texas Division Commander Steve Von Roeder of Austin will be the featured speaker. Commander Von Roeder will speak on "Honoring Our Confederate Heroes."

Officers for year 2004 will be installed at the dinner meeting. George Ballentine will be installed as the Camp Commander, James Kin-

near as 1st Lieutenant Commander, Gordon Mobley, 2nd Lieutenant Commander, Richard Sut-



ton, Adjutant, Rocky Sprott, Quartermaster and John Paul Carter, Chaplain.

This year's dinner meeting will be the six-

teenth celebration of Robert E. Lee's birthday. The first observance was in 1989 in Hillsboro. For the first several years the camp held its Lee dinner in conjunction with the SCV camp in Hillsboro.

Since 1992 the annual event has been held in Temple. In 1998, the event was renamed the "Lee-Jackson" Dinner to not only honor Robert E. Lee, but also to honor Thomas J. "Stonewall" Jackson.

Many SCV Camps

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New Camp Officers

2004 Officers Elected

At the December meeting of the Major Robert M. White Camp #1250 officers for 2004 were elected. Following the recommendation of the Camp's Nominating Committee, camp members unanimously approved the Committee's recommended slate of officers.

George Ballentine was

elected Camp Commander, James Kinnear, was elected 1st Lieutenant Commander, Gordon Mobley was elected 2nd Lieutenant Commander, Richard Sutton was elected Adjutant, Rocky Sprott was elected Camp Historian and Quartermaster, and J. Paul Carter was elected as Camp Chaplain.

The new officers will

be sworn in at the January meeting by Texas Division Commander Steve Von Roeder.

Camp Commander Elect Ballentine is the camp's eleventh Commander since the camp was re-formed in 1989. Adjutant Elect Sutton is only the Camp's sixth adjutant.



CONFEDERATE PROFILE THE FORT GRAHAM AFFAIR

Incident In
Central Texas
Involved
Many Future
Notables

Part 2 of a Series

Last month we looked at the life of Confederate Lt. General Richard A. Anderson. This month we review the incident at Fort Graham, in Central Texas, which involved Anderson and a host of other notables.

It is a story that involves murder and either directly or indirectly, a Comanche Indian fighter, a future Confederate lieutenant general, a future Confeder-

ate full general, a future Confederate President, a future Texas governor and U.S. Senator, and a political enemy of Sam Houston and it all started in Central Texas on a blustery September day in 1853.

from marauding Indians. The string of forts, which ran north to south, went from the Trinity River, Fort Worth, southward down to Eagle Pass on the Rio Grande, Fort Duncan. In Central Texas there were two forts, Fort Graham on the east bank of the Brazos River in present day Hill County and Fort Gates near the Leon River near Gatesville.

Fort Graham was built

Lake Whitney Park.

Fort Graham was formally established on March 27, 1849. A 32 year old Mississippian, Captain Ripley A. Arnold was put in command. Arnold, a graduate of the Military Academy at West Point, commanded the fort until June of 1849 when he was reassigned. Arnold, at one time, was in command of Fort Worth and also served duty time in Washington,



Reconstruction of Fort Graham at Lake Whitney State Park

ate full general, a future Confederate President, a future Texas governor and U.S. Senator, and a political enemy of Sam Houston and it all started in Central Texas on a blustery September day in 1853.

Fort Graham, Texas was established in 1849. It was one of nine forts built by the U. S. Army to guard the Texas frontier

near a village of friendly Anadarko Indians and probably was named for William M. Graham, who was killed during the Mexican War. The location is about 14 miles west of Hillsboro. The site of Fort Graham is now under water following the construction of Lake Whitney. Many of the stones from the fort were salvaged and the fort was rebuilt at the

D.C. While on Texas frontier service, Arnold launched a preemptive strike against a war party led by Comanche Chief Jim Ned. They pursued the raiding parties of Jim Ned and Feathertail into what is now Palo Pinto County, where they defeated the Indians. Jim Ned was killed in the fighting, and Comanche raiders never ventured

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The Ft. Graham Affair

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as far east again.

The now Major Arnold was reassigned as the commander of Fort Graham in June of 1853. In August 1853 Major General Persifor F. Smith ordered Fort Graham closed



and the troops moved to

Steinier. Seemingly to avoid conflict the two tried to avoid each other where possible. It all came to a head, however, on September 5, 1853. Major Ripley broke up a fight between Dr. Steinier and a Lieutenant Thomas Bingham. Both men were confined to quarters and Major Ripley threatened to file charges against each man the next morning.

The next morning

Major Arnold ordered both men arrested. Richard Heron Anderson (profiled in last months Gazette) was given the task of arresting each man.



When Anderson presented the arrest orders to Dr. Steinier, Dr. Steinier said, Dick, has Ar-



other posts, but before Arnold could close down the fort he was involved in a confrontation with Dr. Josephus Steinier, an Assistant Surgeon with the U.S. Army.

Dr. Steinier joined the staff at Fort Graham when the fort was created. He was not well liked by the military staff. He had taken residence with a mulatto female, was a heavy drinker, and gambled often. He was charged with dereliction of duties by being absent without leave on numerous occasions. He was accused of tending more to the medical needs of the local residents for pay than for the soldiers at Fort Graham. He was also accused of being in the employment of Salado land owner, E.S.C. Robertson as his land agent.

Participants, direct or indirect, in the Ft. Graham affair. Above, Jefferson Davis, Richard Anderson, Albert Sidney Johnston, and Richard Coke.



nold arrested me?" When told yes, Dr. Steinier said, "He cannot, or shall not arrest me, I shall see him," and left in a highly "agitated" state. The next thing anyone knew was that six pistol shots rang out throughout the small fort. Major Ripley was found on the floor of his quarters mortally wounded. His last words were, "I have been murdered, was there no one to help me or save me."

Arnold was hit three

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Camp Schedule

January 10th: Annual Lee-Jackson Dinner, 7:00 P.M., Jody's Restaurant. Temple, TX. Speaker: Texas Division Commander Steve von Roeder. Price \$12.00, includes meal, drink and dessert

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

January 17th: Confederate Ball and Debutante Debut in Houston Contact Ray Dickens at 713-467-4173

February 10, 2004 Camp Meeting, 7:00 p.m. Founder's Room, Scott & White Hospital, Temple, TX. Speaker: Charles Oliver, Topic: "The Real Lincoln"

March 9, 2004 Camp Meeting, 7:00 p.m. Founder's Room, Scott & White Hospital, Temple, TX Speaker: Joe Walker, Topic: "The United Confederate Veterans"

April 15-17th: Burial of the C.S.S. Hunley crew in Charlestown, South Carolina. Visit www.hunley.org for additional information.

Next Camp Meeting:

January 10th
7:00 P.M. at
Jody's Restaurant,
Temple, TX

Lee-Jackson Dinner Meeting

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have Lee or Lee-Jackson Dinners in the month of January. Robert E. Lee was born on January 19, 1807 and Thomas J. "Stonewall" Jackson was born on January 21, 1824.

Annual Lee-Jackson Dinners: 1989-2004

Year	Location	Speaker	Topic
2004	Temple	Steve Von Roeder	"Honoring Our Confederate Heroes"
2003	Temple	John C. Perry	"American Slavery: The Truth"
2002	Temple	John C. Perry	"The Wisdom of Lee"
2001	Temple	John C. & Sandra Perry	"John and Fanny Gordon" (<i>First Person Presentation</i>)
2000	Temple	Denne Sweeney	"Jefferson Davis, From West Point to the Presidency"
1999	Temple	Dr. Gary G. Desalvo	"Spiritual Life of Lee & Jackson"
1998	Temple	Dan M. Laney	"Bobby Lee & Stonewall"
1997	Temple	John C. Perry	"Lee Revisited"
1996	Temple	John C. Perry	"Lee & Jackson"
1995	Temple	Dr. David Yeilding	"Lee After Gettysburg"
1994	Temple	John C. Perry	"Lee: The Texas Connection"
1993	Temple	John C. Perry	"Lessons Learned From Lee"
1992	Temple	John C. Perry	"Robert E. Lee: The Man"
1991	Hillsboro	Arch McNamara	"The Lee Family"
1990	Belton	Dr. David Yeilding	"Post-war Years of Robert E. Lee"
1989	Hillsboro	Steve Brown	"Life of Lee"

Lee-Jackson Dinners and Camp Commanders and Adjutants

Camp Commanders & Adjutants: 1989-2004

Year	Commander	Adjutant
2004	George Ballentine	Richard Sutton
2003	Steve Wooley	Wayne Wilson
2002	Steve Wooley	Wayne Wilson
2001	Greg Manning	Steve Wooley
2000	Greg Manning	Steve Wooley
1999	Jerry Nelson	Steve Wooley
1998	Jerry Nelson	Steve Wooley
1997	Jerry Nelson	Dick Epperson
1996	Ken Miller	Dick Epperson
1995	Ken Miller	Dick Epperson
1994	Will Port Hall	Dick Epperson
1993	W. Glenn Rucker	Will Port Hall
1992	Larry Jack Maxey	Will Port Hall
1991	Richard Kemp	Will Port Hall
1990	Jon Farrow	Will Port Hall
1989	John C. Perry	Buzzy Gover
1988	John C. Perry	Buzzy Gover

Ft. Graham Affair

(Continued from page 3)

times, with the mortal blow to his abdomen. There were several witnesses but no two accounts matched. Apparently Dr. Steiner fired first hitting Major Arnold in the abdomen and sending him to the ground. The wounded Arnold returned the fire but all his shots missed. Dr. Steiner was first placed under military arrest, but Lieutenant Anderson who now was temporarily in command of the fort allowed Dr. Steiner to turn himself over to Hill County authorities.

A quickly assembled panel of local citizens found that Dr. Steiner was acting in self defense and ordered him released. Dr. Steiner wanting to completely clear his name requested a trial which was granted for the next term of the district court. Meanwhile Major General Smith wanted a scalp, he did not take kindly to the fact that one of his fort commanders had been killed. Dr. Steiner was charged with murder by the U.S. Army and was ordered to appear before a General Court Martial in Austin in April of 1854. It was Lieutenant Anderson's job to apprehend Dr. Steiner. Anderson had a detachment of sixteen men to bring Dr. Steiner to Austin. Dr. Steiner surrendered to Anderson without incident and they made their way south, along the main stage road towards Waco, with the eventual goal of reaching Austin.

Meantime the local citizens of Hill County had heard that Dr. Steiner had been detained. Dr. Steiner was popular with the local citizens and his brother was

Confederate Gazette Quiz Questions

By George Ballentine

Subject:
THE GALLANT DEAD

- | | |
|---|--|
| <p>1. Union sharpshooter who mortally wounded Jeb Stuart.</p> <p>a. George Lee
b. James Lane
c. John Monroe
d. John Huff</p> <p>2. Rising Confederate officer killed during the Battle of Kelly's Ford.</p> <p>a. Israel Woodruff
b. Alexander Martin
c. John Pelham
d. Robert Augustus</p> <p>3. Confederate general who died from a fall from his horse after his stirrup broke.</p> <p>a. Jonathan Hill
b. Robert Ransom</p> | <p>c. Sterling Wood
d. William Baldwin</p> <p>4. Received a letter from Lincoln, who mistakenly thought she had lost five of her sons in battle.</p> <p>A. Margaret Maxwell
b. Lydia Bixby
C. Patricia Welborne
d. Janet Divers</p> <p>5. While inspecting an outpost at Vicksburg, Confederate general who was killed by a sharpshooter.</p> <p>a. Isham Garrott
b. Robert Crooke
c. Theodore Read
d. Daniel Woodbury</p> |
|---|--|

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

a large land owner in the county. A group of citizens, lead by the former Hill County sheriff, jumped on their horses and rode south through Gholson with the idea of reaching Waco before Anderson and his detachment did. The citizens succeeded and immediately crossed the Brazos and went into Waco. In Waco they visited with the local sheriff and told the McLennan law enforcement officials that Dr. Steiner had been illegally seized by the U.S. Army and that Dr. Steiner was innocent of the Army's charges.

The Hill County citizens waited for Anderson and Dr. Steiner to arrive. The next day the detachment

arrived on the other side of the Brazos River. In those days the only way to cross the river was by ferry boat. The citizens, with help from the McLennan sheriff, convinced the ferryboat operator to bring Anderson and Dr. Steiner across first before the troopers were to be ferried over. The plan worked and Anderson was forced to turn over Dr. Steiner when confronted by the Hill County group of men. Anderson and later his men, after they crossed over, were arrested on charge of "rescue" the 1800's equivalent of kidnapping. They were held in Waco and not allowed to

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Anderson and his detachment were arrested by Waco law enforcement officials

The Fort Graham Affair

(Continued from page 5)

make contact with the U.S. Army. After a quick hearing, where the prosecutor was Richard Coke, later governor of Texas and U. S. Senator, Anderson and his men were ordered to return to Hill County for judicial review. After a few days Anderson was released.

Dr. Steinier's civil trial occurred in June of 1854. Dr. Steinier was represented by Coke and was quickly found not guilty of the murder charge. The U. S. Army however was still not pleased with the events in Central Texas. Jefferson Davis, Secretary of War, ordered Major General Smith to have Dr. Steinier arrested and to be brought before a military court. Dr. Steinier technically was still in the U.S. Army, and was given orders to turn himself in, which he did not do. Dr. Steinier was listed as a deserter and in May of 1856 he was dropped from the Army rolls. As late as 1856, Albert Sidney Johnston, commander of the 2nd Texas Cavalry, was still under orders to make

an effort to apprehend Dr. Steinier.

Anderson eventually did face a court martial for the events of Fort Graham. It seems the U.S. Army was not happy that Anderson had turned over Dr. Steinier to the civilian authorities. Anderson was found not guilty of all the charges placed against him by the Army.

Dr. Steinier never faced the Army charges. He eventually went east and married a woman; no one knows what became of his Texas "wife." He returned to Texas where he became a political enemy of Sam Houston, by supporting one of Houston's political opponents. Houston would refer to Dr. Steinier as "a murderer." The Democratic Party nominated Dr. Steinier in 1860 as a Congressional candidate, but he withdrew his name, apparently not wanting to deal with the murder issue that would be sure to come up in a political race. During the War Between the States Dr. Steinier served as the Superintendent of the State Insane Asylum in Austin. After the war he moved to Wisconsin where he practiced medicine. He died in 1873 in Georgia. His body was re-interred and he is buried in Oakwood Cemetery in Austin.

Anderson went on to honorably serve in the Confederate Army as a brigadier general. Arnold was first buried at the Post Cemetery at Fort Graham, but in 1854 he was re-buried in the Pioneer's Rest Cemetery in Fort Worth.

Texas Division's Executive Council Goes On Record Against Special Convention

The Texas Division Executive Council, in an overwhelming vote, decided not to support the call for a special SCV national convention. Commander-in-Chief Ron Wilson has written all SCV camps asking for their support for a special convention to be held sometime between now and the scheduled national reunion in Dalton, Georgia in August, 2004.

Speaking against the proposed convention were Army of the Trans-Mississippi Commander John Perry and Texas Division Commander Steve Von Roeder. Although the vote was taken by only a voice vote, the final vote was approximately 16 against a resolution supporting the convention to 4 in favor of the pro-convention resolution.



Confederate Gazette

P.O. Box 794
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**Next Meeting:
Jan. 10th
Jody's
Temple
7:00 PM**