

# 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

*County Events Honor Confederate Veterans*

## CONFEDERATE HISTORY MONTH CELEBRATIONS

The Major Robert M. White Camp #1250 honored 2005 Confederate History Month in Texas with special ceremonies in three different locations in Belton on Sunday, April 10<sup>th</sup>.

The events kicked off at the Bell County Courthouse where a crowd of about 75 watched as the Confederate First National flag was raised to the top of the flagpole next to the Confederate monument. After the flag was raised, a wreath was laid at the foot of the Confederate soldier's statue.

Following the flag raising event the group reassembled at the South Belton Cemetery. At the

*Flag is raised on  
April 10<sup>th</sup> in Belton*



cemetery six Confederate soldiers buried in the cemetery were honored. The Camp arranged for markers to be placed at their graves.

Those remembered were, Pvt. Thomas Duncan, Baylor's Cavalry, Pvt. Elijah Hannon, 4<sup>th</sup> Texas Cavalry, Pvt. James H. Hannon, Home Guards Battalion, Pvt. Robert Hannon, 6<sup>th</sup> Texas Infantry, Pvt. Samuel C. Hannon, Home Guards Battalion, and Pvt. John S. Hannon, 17<sup>th</sup> Texas Infantry. Rocky Sprott gave a talk about the men being honored.

Following the events at the South Belton Cemetery the Camp moved

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## Division Reunion Nears

The 108th Texas Division Reunion will be held in Temple on June 3rd and 4th. The Major Robert M. White Camp #1250 is the host camp for the event.

The reunion will be held at the Mayborn Convention Center and the host hotel will be the Hilton in Temple.

Events will kick off Friday night at 6:30 at the

Mayborn Center with a reception, followed by a meal. The opening ceremony will begin Saturday morning at 8:30 at the Mayborn Center. Followed by the first Division business session.

The Division Awards Luncheon will be held at noon on Saturday and the featured speaker will be Texas Land Commissioner

Jerry Patterson. Both Division and Brigade business sessions will be held Saturday afternoon.

A banquet will be held at 6:30 PM at the Mayborn, followed by the annual Confederate Ball.

The camp is in need of any and all members and friends of the camp to help work the reunion. Help is

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# CONFEDERATE PROFILE VALVERDE COMMANDER



Sayers served in the Texas Senate, U.S. House, and two terms as the Governor of Texas

This future governor of Texas earned the right to be made the commander of the famous Valverde Battery. This battle hardened Texan had shown his metal in battle and was rewarded with the command of the battery.

Joseph Draper Sayers was born in Grenada, Mississippi, on September 23, 1841, the son of David and Mary Thomas Peete Sayers. In 1851 his family moved to Texas, settling in Bastrop, Texas, southeast of Austin.

He attended Bastrop Military Institute from 1852 to 1860, where one of his classmates was Sam Houston, Jr. When the war broke out in 1861 Sayers immediately joined the 5<sup>th</sup> Texas Cavalry (also known as the Fifth Regiment, Mounted Volunteers). Sayers was part of brigadier general Henry Hopkins Sibley's Confederate forces that invaded the New Mexico Territory in 1862.

At the Battle of Valverde on February 21, 1862 Confederates captured five cannons, three six-pounders and two twelve-pound howitzers. Colonel Tom Green wrote in his battle report of the Battle of Valverde, "Lieut. Joseph D. Sayers, adjutant of the Fifth, during the whole day, reminded me of a hero of the days of chivalry. He is a gallant, daring,

and dashing soldier, and is as cool in a storm of grape, shell, canister, and musketry as a veteran. I recommend him, through the general, to the President for promotion."

The Valverde Battery was formed to man the

would never return to the Val Verde battery.

Sayers would next serve on the staff of Brigadier General Tom Green as assistant adjutant general with the rank of major. He would end the war in Meridian, Mississippi, on May 10, 1865 when he was paroled.

He returned to Texas settling in Bastrop, where he built a small frame home, taught school, and studied law. By 1866 he was admitted to the bar and began a ten year practice of law. Politics soon caught Sayers' attention and he ran for the state senate winning in 1873, serving until 1879. In 1875 he began a three-year stint as chairman of the Democratic state executive committee and in 1878 served a one-year term as the state's lieutenant governor.

He married Orline Walton of Bastrop in February of 1879. In 1884 Sayers was elected to the U.S. House of Representatives. He served from March 4, 1885, until his resignation on January 16, 1899, when he became the Texas governor. While in Congress Sayers served as the chairman of the Committee on Appropriations.

He won election as governor in 1898 and then was reelected in 1900. After his tenure as governor, Sayers resumed his



*Joseph Draper Sayers*

prized cannons on June 1, 1862, at Fort Bliss, Texas. Volunteers came from three different cavalry units. Sayers was given command of the battery as a captain. Sayers and the battery went with Sibley's brigade to Louisiana after the New Mexico invasion failed.

In April of 1863 Sayers and the battery were engaged in a fight at Fort Bisland on the Atchafalaya River in Louisiana. The Confederates who were manning the fort were able to capture the Union gunboat, *Diana*. Sayers was wounded in the fight and

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## Camp Celebrates Confederate History Month



Month in Texas. SCV camps and UDC chapters across the state held special events during the month of April.

*Photos from the events in Belton on April 10<sup>th</sup>: Left - Rocky Sprott holds First National Flag in front of Confederate Soldier's statue at Courthouse. Below - Crowd at South Belton Cemetery. Bottom - Food is prepared at Confederate Park.*

*(Continued from page 1)* to Confederate Park in Belton. The park is so named in honor of the Confederate soldier reunions that once were held in Belton at the site. Food, fun, and fellowship prevailed at the park.

The Texas Senate passed resolution number 526, proclaiming April as Confederate History



## Camp Schedule

**May 10, 2005** Camp meeting, Golden Corral Restaurant, Temple, 7:00 PM. Speaker: Greg Manning, Topic: Rebellion or Secession?

**May 14, 2005** Camp Cookout at Leon Carroll Ranch near Salado, beginning at noon to dark. Family cookout and lots of fun!

**May 28, 2005** Tidwell Cemetery grave dedication ceremony, Thornton, TX (near Kosse), 10:00 AM.

**June 3-4, 2005** 108<sup>th</sup> Texas Division Reunion, Mayborn Convention Center, Temple, TX.

**June 14, 2005** Camp meeting, Golden Corral Restaurant, Temple, 7:00 PM. Speaker: TBA

**June 25, 2005** Pleasant Hill Cemetery's 150<sup>th</sup> Rededication ceremonies.

**July 7-10, 2005** Spring Ho Festival in Lampasas, Camp store to be set up, if we have enough volunteers.

**July 9, 2005** Tentative date for Quarterly Dinner Meeting, 7:00 PM. Location & Speaker: TBA

**July 18-23, 2005** 110<sup>th</sup> National Reunion at the Shearton Music City Hotel in Nashville, Tenn. Register at: [www.scv2005.com/register.htm](http://www.scv2005.com/register.htm)

**August 9, 2005** Camp meeting, Golden Corral Restaurant, Temple, 7:00 PM. Speaker: TBA

## Next Camp

### Meeting:

May 10<sup>th</sup>

at the

Golden Corral

Temple

7:00 PM

## Special Convention Held in North Carolina

On April 23<sup>rd</sup> 900 plus delegates from 379 camps assembled in North Carolina for a special called convention to consider two constitutional amendments. The amendments were to remove all Past Commanders-in-Chief, except the immediate past three, from the General Executive Council (GEC) and to remove the Commander General of the Military Order of the Stars and Bars from the GEC.

The first amendment passed by a vote of 1,616 (96%) Yes, to 74 (4%) No, with 11 votes abstaining. The second amendment passed by a vote of 1,565 (93%) yes, to 125 (7%) no, with 11 abstaining votes. Immediately at the adjournment of the convention, the amendments took effect.

Following the adjournment of the convention, the GEC then met. The GEC immediately voted to remove Lieutenant Commander-in-Chief Dr. Anthony Hodges from his position. They also removed three other elected GEC members. Commander Beau Cantrell was removed as Army of the Trans-Mississippi commander and Army of

Tennessee (AOT) councilman John French was removed as councilman. After some debate, the GEC then decided to also remove Commander Tarry Beasley as commander of the AOT. Chris Sullivan, former Army of Northern Virginia commander, was named the new Lieutenant Commander-in-Chief of the SCV.

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## Camp Cook Out on May 14<sup>th</sup>

The Major Robert M. White Camp #1250 will hold a camp cookout on Saturday, May 14<sup>th</sup> at the Leon Carroll Ranch outside of Salado.

The event will begin at noon and will last until dark. All camp members and friends are invited to attend. Those that attend are asked to bring their own food to cook and their own drinks.

The ranch is located at the end of Brewer Lane. Take FM 2484 from I-35 and turn right on Brewer Lane. The ranch is at the left gate at the end of Brewer Lane.

## Valverde Commander

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practice of law. He also served as a member of the State board of regents of the University of Texas at Austin in 1913, chairman of the State industrial accident board in 1914 and 1915, member of the State board of legal examiners 1923-1925, and was appointed as a member of the State pardon board in 1927. He served in that position until his death in Austin on May 15, 1929. His body was taken back to his adopted hometown of Bastrop, where he was buried in Fairview Cemetery.

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## Division Reunion

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needed at the registration desk, ticket takers, etc.

As an incentive any volunteer will be allowed to purchase meal tickets at cost to the camp. This will be a substantial savings to the volunteer.

If you are interested in helping, please contact one of the camp's officers.



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**Next Meeting:**  
**May 10th**  
**Golden Corral**  
**Temple**