

# 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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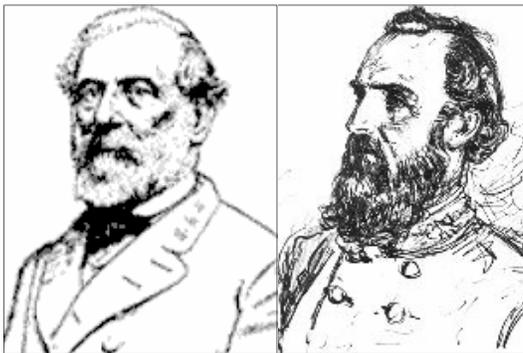
*17<sup>th</sup> Annual Event at the Hilton in Temple*

## LEE-JACKSON DINNER SET FOR JAN. 8<sup>TH</sup>

The Major Robert M. White Camp #1250 will hold its 17<sup>th</sup> annual Lee-Jackson Dinner on Saturday, January 8, 2005 at the Hilton Garden Inn in Temple, across from Scott & White Hospital.

The featured speaker for the event is Scott Bowden from Arlington. Bowden is the co-author of the best-selling book, *Last Chance For Victory, Robert E. Lee and the Gettysburg Campaign*. Bowden is a graduate of TCU and is the author of numerous books on the

Napoleonic military history. His topic will be "Great Captains of Like Minds:



Robert E. Lee and Thomas J. "Stonewall" Jackson

Lee, Jackson, and Their Vision of Victory."

The cost is \$20.00 per person. Make your reservations with the camp's 1<sup>st</sup>

Lt. Commander James P. Kinnear at (jkingenjeb@aol.com) or with Commander George Ballentine at gballentine@hotmail.com.

When you arrive at the Hilton, please park in the rear for easy access to the dining room. A social hour will begin at 6:00 p.m., with dinner starting promptly at 7:00 p.m.

There are two entree choices, Chicken Cordon Bléu and London Broil, which include side dishes,

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## Camp Aids Iraqi War Wounded

*By George Ballentine*

At the beginning of December, Compatriot Jim Denison sent me a message. The message was in response to a call for help from Walter Reed Army Medical Center in Washington, D.C. They had wounded soldiers who could not be home for the holidays and they needed help to give them phone cards to call home. The

message stated: "The government doesn't pay long distance phone charges and these wounded soldiers are rationing their calls home."

In keeping with Texas Division Commander von Roeder's call for more Positive Community Involvement, and our desire to help those who protect our freedom, Jim and I decided that it would be a

worthwhile project to pose to the camp. We did so at the Christmas Party meeting on December 18<sup>th</sup>. We thought that if the camp would vote to allow it, we would purchase \$100.00 in phone cards and send them along. When we discussed it, Compatriot Jerry Nelson made a motion that we vote \$200.00, it was seconded and passed

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# CONFEDERATE PROFILE CSA's Postmaster General

Adopted  
Texan  
Served as the  
Confederacy's  
Postmaster  
General

**J**ohn Henninger Reagan was a man as tough as his young nation. A frontiersman, born in Sevier County, Tennessee, he came to the Texas wilderness in 1839. By July, his fellow frontiersman recognized his natural leadership abilities and elected him captain of militia in Nacogdoches to fight the nearby hostile Indians.

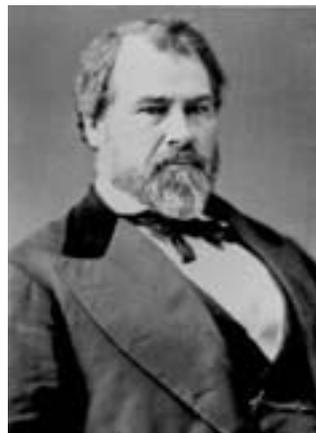
After serving as a militia leader, Reagan was elected, in 1846, the very first County Judge in Henderson County. In 1847 he was elected to the Texas State Legislature. His political fortunes continued to blossom, as by 1857, he was elected to the U. S. House of Representatives, representing the eastern district of Texas.

As secession came, Reagan decided not to stay on the sidelines. He felt that secession was a state's right, guaranteed by the U.S. Constitution. Reagan also thought that it was the right thing to do. Well known in Texas for his views, Reagan was chosen to lead a delegation to approach Texas Governor, Sam Houston, to request Houston to call a convention to consider secession.

Houston was convinced to do so by quite possibly the only man in the state that could do it,

John Reagan.

After Texas left the Union, the people of Texas elected Reagan as one of their seven delegates to the Confederate Congress. As in Texas, it didn't take long for the leaders of the Confederacy to recognize Reagan's leadership skills. Confederate President



*John H. Reagan*

Jefferson Davis asked Reagan to be his Postmaster General. At first Reagan refused, but soon he was persuaded by Davis, the man Reagan considered to be the "finest man he had ever known."

Despite the tremendous challenge of starting a national postal service from scratch, John H. Reagan was most successful. He became one of the most admired men in the Confederate cabinet. Reagan took an interest in military operations and was the sole member of

Davis' cabinet who voted against the ill fated 1863 Gettysburg Campaign.

As the war was ending Davis and the Confederate government began fleeing from pursuing Federals. After the surrender of General Robert E. Lee on April 9, 1865 and General Joseph E. Johnston on April 26, 1865 one by one all the other members of Davis' cabinet, except Reagan and Secretary of War John C. Breckinridge, began to desert their president. At Washington, Georgia as the Davis party continued to stay just one step ahead of the pursuing Federal cavalry, Reagan and Breckinridge stayed behind to over see the transfer of Confederate property, as Davis headed west. Upon completion of their task Breckinridge took his leave while the faithful Reagan journeyed to catch up with his Davis. On May 8, 1865 the Federals caught up with the Davis party. Davis and only one member of his administration, Reagan, were arrested.

Reagan was sent to Boston where he was imprisoned at Fort Warren in Boston harbor. He was forced to endure three months of solitary confinement. After 22 weeks of imprisonment both Reagan and Stephens were released.

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## Camp Supports Wounded American Soldiers

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unanimously. Individual compatriots also chipped in increasing the amount to \$285.00.

Being aware of the number of scams that "look good" on the Internet, I asked Jim to check with WRAMC and see if the request was valid. They said it was, and that the response was so overwhelming that they did not need cards now and had enough to last into the summer. They suggested we contact Brooke Army Medical Center in San Antonio. They are also treating our wounded soldiers there. They are in the same situation and they said they would be glad to get them for the soldiers. As we did not have time to wait for our January meeting to approve the change, I asked the Executive Council to consider changing our pledge from WRAMC to BAMC, and we agreed to do it.

I purchased the phone cards and got them in the mail in time to get there for our wounded warriors to use over the Christmas holiday. I have not heard back from them, yet, but do expect a letter letting us know that they were received. Thanks to the suggestion from Jim Denison, I was able to act in time to get much needed help to our soldiers. I am sure they are very grateful to the members of our camp for thinking of them in their time of need. My personal thanks goes out to each and every one of you, too.

## Camp Schedule

### January 8, 2005

Annual Lee-Jackson Dinner, Temple, TX  
Social hour will begin at 6:00 pm with the dinner beginning at 7:00. Period, formal, or cocktail attire is requested, at the Hilton Garden Inn in Temple.

### January 15, 2005

Fort Worth Stock Show Parade, Fort Worth, TX, 10:00 AM. We have been invited again this year to participate in this event. We need uniformed men, but all are welcomed to march.

## Snapshots From Camp's Christmas Social



*Above: Newly elected camp officers pose for a "victory" shot. From left are James Kinnear, 1<sup>st</sup> Lt. Commander, George Ballentine, Commander, Harold Sutton, 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. Commander, Dick Sutton, Adjutant, and Rocky Sprott, Camp Historian and Quartermaster.*

*Below: Attendees at the Christmas Social in Little River.*



### Next Camp Meeting:

January 8<sup>th</sup>

Lee-Jackson

Dinner Meeting at  
Hilton Garden Inn  
Temple

## LEE-JACKSON DINNER MEETINGS LOCATIONS, SPEAKERS, & TOPICS

Year	Location	Speaker	Topic
2005	Temple	Scott Bowden	"Great Captains of Like Minds: Lee, Jackson, and Their Vision of Victory."
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 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"

Camp #1250 has had 17 Lee-Jackson Dinners since 1989 (including the 2005 event) in 3 different cities with 10 different speakers

*(Continued from page 2)*

Reagan returned home to Texas. He like thousands of other Confederates began the difficult task of rebuilding the South. Reagan settled in Palestine.

By 1874 ex-Confederates had regained the right to vote and immediately voted out of office the much despised Scalawag governor, E. J. Davis. Davis, however refused to leave office. Texans turned to one man to ap-

proach the radical Republican governor, John H. Reagan. Reagan told Davis that he had to select one of two choices, to surrender or to die. Davis surrendered.

Reagan returned to the U.S. Congress, representing the 1st Texas District. In 1887 Reagan was elected to the U.S. Senate.

During the last years of Reagan's life, he continued to devote himself to public service, serving as

the Texas' Railroad Commissioner.

He passed away in 1905, unapologetic about his Confederate service to the very end.

Reagan left us a message today when in his memoirs he wrote, ". . . to the Sons of Confederate Veterans upon whom devolves the grave duty of vindication their fathers against the calumny of rebellion and treason, and upon whose wisdom and



# Commander's Call

By: *George Ballentine*

It is a New Year, and I want to wish you all a Happy New Year. As I think back over 2004 and what our camp did in my first year as your commander, I am satisfied; but we can do more. We conducted grave dedication ceremonies and conducted Confederate History and Heritage Month activities; we assisted in the Last Confederate Funeral as we participated in the laying to rest of the last Hunley crew in Charleston, South Carolina; we stood vigil on the steps of the Texas Supreme Court Building to show that we will not go away on the plaque issue; we marched in parades to honor the birthday of our country, as well as to honor our veterans; we participated in community activities; we did all we could to honor and remember the memory and sacrifice and service of our ancestors - or did we?

As the New Year starts we have a chance to change bad habits and make resolutions to do better. I would like to ask everyone to read The Charge to the Sons of Confederate Veterans passed on to us. Let us look at how we have lived up to that Charge and how we have not. We can always do better. I would like each one to see what more we can do as a camp, and as individuals, to fully carry out our Charge. Be honest with yourself - did you do your share? If your ancestors

appeared before you today, what would they say about how you have honored their memory? Were six camp members enough to attend a grave dedication, or should we have had forty? How would it improve our image in our community if forty five or more members showed up for every event that we participated in? Would more people want to know what we are all about, and maybe even want to join in and help with the defense of our Southern Heritage? Tough questions, but these are tough times for us and our Confederate Heritage. We can no longer afford to sit idly by and be just a card carrying member.

Our first event of the year will be our Annual Lee-Jackson Dinner where we honor all of our Confederate ancestors, but particularly General Robert E. Lee and General Thomas "Stonewall" Jackson. I would like to see as many people there as can possibly make it. You will find details elsewhere in this issue. Are you too busy to come to General Robert E. Lee's birthday party? General Jackson gave his life in battle for us. Can we not set aside one day a year to honor him, too? I do not think this should be looked upon as a duty, but as an honor. It is a chance to sit among like minded compatriots and honor these great men, and all who fought and died with them

in hopes of giving us our Southern Independence. It is a chance to honor YOUR ancestor.

We have a busy year coming up in 2005, and we need "all hands" to do it right. In June the Texas Division will come to us for the 108<sup>th</sup> Reunion. We are planning a Reunion that we hope the Division will remember for years to come. For those who have never been to a Division Reunion, this is your chance to see what they are all about. We can also use help from everyone in the planning for this event. Even before that, we will have a number of Confederate History and Heritage Month activities around the area. We have our Color Guard equipment now and need volunteers to man it. We need to get our membership up, too. As the largest camp in the Central Texas Brigade, we need to set the example. Other camps should be able to rely on us for assistance and advice in conducting events and ceremonies. I will have a charge for our new 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. Commander Harold Sutton to get our membership up. I am also challenging each member to bring two new members into our camp during the coming year. Our image is strong in our community, and we need to take advantage of it and get the word out to prospective members.

As General Lee said, "In all tight places I rely upon Texas Regiments." We are his "Texas Regiments" now and I know I can count on each and every one of you, as he would have expected, to do your duty.

2005:  
Year of  
Opportunity  
For Camp  
#1250

## LEE-JACKSON EVENT

*(Continued from page 1)*

salad, iced tea, coffee and dessert. Dress is either period, formal or cocktail attire.

This year's dinner meeting will be the seventeenth 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 former 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.

Division Commander Steve von Roeder will swear in the new 2005 Camp officers at the meeting. New Camp officers were elected at the December Camp meeting in Little River.

### *Major Robert M. White Camp #1250 Camp Commanders and Adjutants*

Year	Commander	Adjutant
2005	George Ballentine	Richard Sutton
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



# Confederate Gazette

*P.O. Box 794  
Salado, TX 76571*

**Next Meeting:**  
**Lee-Jackson Dinner**  
**Jan. 8th**  
**Hilton Hotel**  
**Temple**