

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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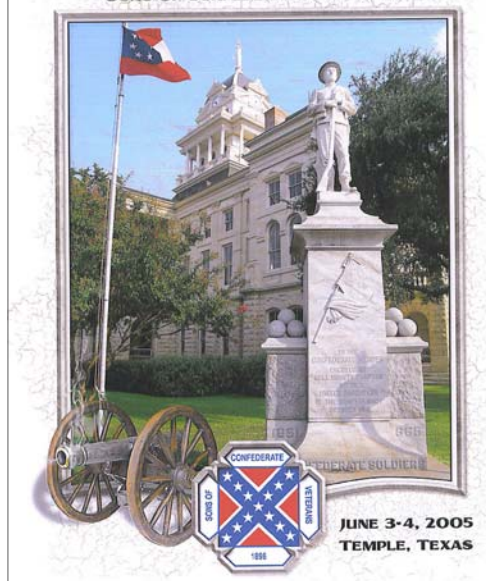
Event at Mayborn Convention Center

CAMP HOSTS THE 108TH TEXAS DIVISION REUNION

As of the press date of the *Confederate Gazette* plans are fast and furious for the 108th Texas Division Reunion to be hosted by the Major Robert M. White Camp #1250. The event is set for June 3rd and 4th at the Mayborn Convention center in Temple. The host hotel is the Hilton Garden Inn.

The event 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 morn-

TEXAS DIVISION REUNION SONS OF CONFEDERATE VETERANS



ing 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 Saturday night at

(Continued on page 4)

*Left, cover page of the
Reunion program*

Changes At History Complex

The old guard is gone at the former Confederate Research Center at Hill College in Hillsboro. The Confederate Research Center was part of the Harold B. Simpson History Complex at the college.

Dr. Buddy Paterson, Dean of the History Complex, and Peggy Fox, long time chief researcher, have retired, as outlined in a mail out from the college on May 19th. Dr. W. R. Auvenshine, former Hill

College President, was named dean at the college's Board of Regents meeting on May 17th.

Dr. Auvenshine, in the May 19th mail out pledged his support to "continue the Vision of Col. Simpson and to carry on the work of the research center and the Texas History Museum." Col. Harold B. Simpson founded the Confederate Research Center in 1963. The Confederate Research Center has

evolved into the History Complex named after him.

Dr. Auvenshine also announced that there would be staffing change announcements in the "near future."

Dr. Patterson was a long time friend of the Major Robert M. White Camp #1250 and assisted in the camp's formation. He worked tirelessly to advance the study of Confederate history. He over saw

(Continued on page 4)



**CONFEDERATE
PROFILE
MAJOR**



ROBERT M. WHITE

Editor's Note: In honor of the 108th Texas Division Reunion the Gazette is proud to reprint the story of our Camp's namesake. Major White was also highlighted in the Reunion program.

**Robert M. White:
Indian Fighter and
Confederate Hero**

Wherever there was fighting,

Robert M. White was likely to be there. White was in Bell County by 1850, and was recorded in the Indian troubles by 1853. That was when a posse went to track down a party of Indians that had slipped through the military line of frontier posts, and had stolen horses from Bell County residents. The horses were recovered and returned to their owners. By 1855, joining a frontier Ranger Company was a status symbol in Bell County. It was also necessary for survival, as the Indians could create quite a problem for county residents. White is listed as an active participant in several frontier units.

Robert Marion White was born in Tennessee on, according to his grave marker, July 4, 1828. He was the son of Cary and Nancy White and was one of nine children, the first six born in Tennessee.

White's father migrated to Texas in 1834, initially settling on land he purchased near present day Waxahachie. After two years, Cary White sold his

land and enlisted in the Republic of Texas Army. After the war, White's father claimed a land grant in Washington County, in return for his military service.

Robert M. White apparently came to the Belton area in the early

White's Ranging Company." This company was composed of twenty-five men, under the authority of Governor Sam Houston, "for protection of the frontier." In a July, 1860 roster, Robert M. White is listed as the first lieutenant.

Many confrontations with hostile Indians occurred in Bell County in the 1850's, but few accounts survived. One account that did survive involved White. In February of 1853, a band of Indians attacked several homesteads on the Lampasas River between Salado and Belton. A number of horses were stolen, so White and three other men decided to go after the marauding Indians.

They found the tracks and began to follow them. From the tracks they were able to determine that there were seven Indians. They finally caught up with the Indians in a grove of trees off a creek. The Indians were lead by Chief Big Toes, apparently named for his two extra large big toes.

The Indians fled, the main body in one direction and Chief Big Toes in the other. White and two of the three men went after the main body of Indians. They never caught up with them, but they did recover the stolen horses. Dave Williams, alone, went after



Robert M. White's grave at South Belton Cemetery

1850's. The Bell County census of 1860 lists White, his wife Sarah, age nineteen, and their infant daughter, Christina. White's occupation was listed as a grocer.

By 1859, Robert M. White is listed as first lieutenant in the "Bell County Rovers," formed by John Henry Brown, as the successor company to the "Independent Blues." By 1860, White was lieutenant in command of "Bob

(Continued on page 3)

Major Robert M. White

(Continued from page 2)

the chief. Williams was able to over take the chief and kill him. On the ride back to Belton, White and his compatriots returned the horses to their rightful owners.

White was a prominent States Rights Democrat, advocating secession. When Texas left the Union, he raised the first military company to leave Bell County, for the Confederacy, and was elected its captain. He was one of at least seven men to raise a military company from Bell County to serve the Confederate cause.

As company commander, White was laying all his experience in many Indian fights on the line. He also had the reputation of being a good Indian scout. Probably no one in Bell County was better prepared to lead men in combat as was White.

White's unit, which would become Company H of the Sixth Texas Voluntary Cavalry, left amidst great pomp and ceremony. It was on a hot day on July 1, 1861. As his unit was leaving Belton's courthouse square for the front lines, Miss Victoria Bradford, a popular Southern belle, presented White and his men a home spun Confederate flag.

She proclaimed, "Brave countrymen, you are called upon to leave your peaceful and happy homes to go forth in the defense of the rights of our country. Worthy gentlemen, in behalf of the patriotic ladies of Belton I present to you this banner as a token of our friendship and love for you and the

noble cause in which you today stand ready to engage. Take it, its all we can give, save our prayers and remember when gazing on its stars, whether in battle or in quiet camp, that where they were first thrown to the breeze and caught the pure sunlight of Heaven, there are your homes, there your friends are thinking of you and are praying for your safe return."

White's company camped first at old Bosqueville, near Waco, and then moved on to Camp Stone, near Lancaster, Texas. While at Camp Stone, the Bell County Commissioners Court passed a special tax and appointed a special commissary officer, John W. Scott, to buy food, clothes, and other supplies for White's company while in training.

After leaving Camp Stone, White's unit was first sent to Fort Smith, Arkansas. The 6th Texas Cavalry first saw action in the Indian Territory in late 1861. White's unit also saw action at the Battle of Pea Ridge (Elkhorn Tavern) in March of 1862. White's regimental commander, after the battle, paid White a high compliment, "In the days preceding the battle my men took 70 prisoners and I am indebted to Maj. (Sul) Ross and Capt. R. M. White. There are no better scouting officers in the Confederate Army." By October of 1862, the 6th Texas Cavalry was back in the thick of fighting at Corinth, Mississippi.

White would prove himself to be a popular and brave Confederate

Camp Schedule

June 3-4, 2005 108th 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 150th 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 110th National Reunion at the Shearton Music City Hotel in Nashville, Tenn. Register at: www.scv2005.com/register.htm

officer. White was promoted to a major in Sul Ross's regiment on May 25, 1862.

In April of 1863, a Federal armada moved up the Duck River in north central Tennessee. White and his men were there to stop them. Approximately 600 Confederates with several artillery pieces took on the entire Union flotilla.

In the action, White was killed on April 26, 1863. In a battle report, Captain George Moorman, writing in behalf of Brigadier General W. H. Jackson, wrote, "The brigadier-general commanding de-

(Continued on page 4)

Next Camp Meeting:
June 14th
at the
Golden Corral
Temple
7:00 PM

108th Texas Division Reunion

(Continued from page 1)

6:30 PM at the Mayborn, followed by the annual Confederate Ball.

A hard working core group of camp members and OCR ladies have been meeting for about six months, under the able leadership of Camp Commander, George Ballentine. The last five weeks or so the group has been meeting weekly. Meeting space has been donated by John C. Perry at his company, Capital Media Group.

Planning for the events and attending to the many varied and sundry items has been the focus of those meeting. Richard Sutton has handled all the registrations, Harold Sutton ordered all the reunion badges and coffee mugs, Steve Woolley has produced signs to mark the various meeting rooms, John Perry has produced a twenty page Reunion program and color name badges, Rocky Spratt will have the camp float at the front of the convention center, Alta Morris has loaned the camp her cannon and limber to display at the event, just to

name a few of the efforts and those individuals involved. A complete list of all those who have helped will be in the next issue of the *Gazette*.

Maj. Robert M. White

(Continued from page 3)

plores in common with this command the loss of their comrades, and especially with the Texans the death of their brave and accomplished leader, Maj. R. M. White."

White's men would fight on without their leader. The company probably saw more fighting, and on a more severe basis, than any other Bell County unit. They were under fire 249 times and everyone of the original members were either killed or wounded, except a few that were discharged due to illness. Only 18 members survived their wounds to answer the final roll call, when the company surrendered in Alabama on May 4, 1865.

Major White's body was eventually

returned to Bell County for burial. He is buried in the South Belton Cemetery.

White was first honored by the Sons of Confederate Veterans in 1966. The George Temple Camp #1250, in Temple, voted in 1966 to change its name to the Major Robert M. White Camp, in honor of his bold service to the Confederacy by Major White. In 1988, when the SCV Camp in Temple reformed, after considering a number of worthy men, decided to again honor Major White, and call itself the Major Robert M. White Camp.

Perhaps the most fitting honor to Major White is found on his grave marker at South Belton Cemetery. Inscribed on the tombstone are the words that seem to fit Major White as well as any, "His many virtues form the noblest monument to his memory."

History Complex

(Continued from page 1)

the formation of the Texas Heritage Museum.



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Next Meeting:
June 14th
Golden Corral
Temple