

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

CAMP CELEBRATES CONFEDERATE HISTORY MONTH IN BELTON

The Major Robert M. White Camp #1250 honored 2006 Confederate History Month in Texas with special ceremonies in three different locations in Belton on Sunday, April 2nd.

The events kicked off at the Bell County Courthouse where a crowd of about 35 watched as the Confederacy's First National flag was raised to the top of the flagpole next to the Bell County Confederate monument.

After the flag was raised, a wreath was laid at the foot of the Confederate soldier's statue. Sandra Perry read a poem in honor of the Confederate soldiers who gave their lives for the Southern cause.

Following the flag raising event at the courthouse, those assembled gathered at the South Belton Cemetery. The Camp

arranged for Confederate Battle Flags to be placed on all the graves of each of

Confederate Cavalry. The camp then honored the Confederate Veterans buried in the cemetery with a gun volley and by the playing of taps.

Following the events at the South Belton Cemetery the Camp moved to Confederate Park in Belton. The park is so named in honor of the Confederate soldier reunions which were once held in Belton at the site.

Food, including a barbeque dinner, fun, and fellowship prevailed at Confederate Park.

The Texas Senate passed resolution number 526 in 1999. The proclamation sets April as Confederate History Month in the state of Texas. It was originally signed by, now Texas governor,

Rick Perry.

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



First National flag is raised at the Bell County Courthouse in Belton. (photo by J. Perry)

the Confederate soldiers buried in the cemetery.

Rocky Sprott spoke to those in attendance telling the history of the 6th Texas



CONFEDERATE PROFILE DUTY BOUND TEXAN

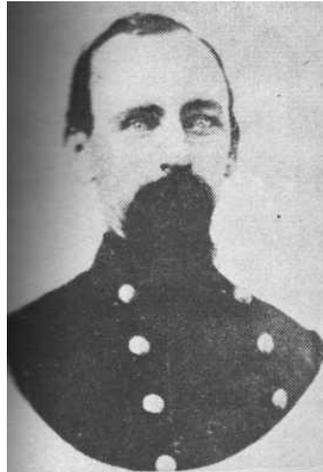
Texan fights in
New Mexico, at
Galveston, and
during the Red
River Campaign

In the Louisiana bayou country in 1863, although wounded, this Texan led his men in repulsing an enemy assault saving Confederate General Richard Taylor's left flank. Later Arthur P. Bagby was described as "gallant" and the leader of a "handful of heroes."

Arthur Pendleton Bagby was born in Claiborne County, Alabama on May 17, 1833. He was the son of Arthur Pendleton Bagby a well known Alabama politician. His father served in the Alabama Senate and House of Representatives, where he was the youngest member ever elected speaker. He was also twice elected governor of Alabama, in 1837-1839 and 1839-1841, and he served in the United States Senate, where he supported the annexation of Texas. He left the Senate when he was appointed U.S. ambassador to Russia by President James K. Polk in 1848.

The same year his father went to Russia the younger Bagby was appointed to the U.S. Military Academy at West Point at the age of only fifteen. At age nineteen Bagby became the youngest West Point graduate to be commissioned a 2nd lieutenant of infantry. His first duty station was at Fort Columbus, New York followed by a brief stint in Texas at Fort Chadbourne.

Bagby resigned from the U.S. Army in 1853 and went home to Alabama and studied law. He was admitted to the Alabama bar in 1855 and began a law practice in Mobile. In 1858 his father died of yellow fever and apparently despondent over his father's death Bagby left Alabama for Texas. He



Arthur Pendleton Bagby

first settled in Gonzales and married Frances Taylor there in 1860.

When the war began Bagby organized the first company of men from Victoria and Lavaca counties. Bagby was commissioned a major and he and his recruits became part of the 7th Texas Mounted Volunteers. He left for New Mexico in December of 1861 as part of the General Henry Sibley's force attempting to secure the New Mexico Territory for the Confederacy.

Bagby saw little action in New Mexico. He stayed

behind the general advance with four companies to guard the Mesilla Valley. He was promoted to lieutenant colonel in April of 1862. Just after his promotion, he was charge with drunkenness and misconduct while on duty. He was apparently unable to fulfill his duties due to being intoxicated and was accused of pulling his revolver on another officer. Bagby offered his resignation, but it was not accepted, rather he was relieved of his duties and sent home to Texas to await a court of inquiry.

The court convened, with Tom Green as the presiding officer, in Austin on September 15, 1862 and Bagby was found not guilty. He was ordered to report back to the 7th Texas Cavalry and before the year was out he was promoted to colonel and made the 7th's commanding officer.

Bagby volunteered the 7th Texas Cavalry for the effort to recapture Galveston, Texas. On January 1, 1863, he led his regiment into battle where they helped capture the federal ship *USS Harriet Lane*. General John B. Magruder, wrote "Col. A. P. Bagby, of Sibley's brigade, commanded the volunteers from his regiment for the naval expedition, in which every officer and man won imperishable renown."

In mid-January 1863 Bagby and the 7th Texas

(Continued on page 4)

History Month Photos



Camp Schedule

May 9, 2006

Camp's monthly meeting at the Cotton Patch Cafe in Temple Mall, 7:00 PM. Speaker: Evault Boswell, "The Gainesville Hanging."

May 19-21 2006

Battle for Lake Bellmead Reenactment, Bellmead, TX. We would like to have our camp store at this event to raise funds for the camp. Volunteers are needed! Contact George Ballentine for more details on the weekend for volunteers.

May 27, 2006

Grave Dedication in Edge, TX. This will be a dedication of a CSA Marker for a Black Confederate Veteran. Contact Matt Lee for more details.

June 2-4, 2006

Texas Division Reunion in Mesquite, TX. For details visit: <http://www.texas-scv.org/convention.php>

June 13, 2006

Camp's Quarterly Dinner Meeting, Cotton Patch Café, Temple Mall, Temple, TX, 7:00 PM. Speaker: Penny Jones

Next Camp

Meeting:

May 9th

7:00 P.M. at

Cotton Patch Café

Temple, TX

Speaker: Evault

Boswell, "The

Gainesville

Hanging"

Confederate Profile: Arthur Pendleton Bagby

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Cavalry were ordered to join General Richard Taylor's army in Louisiana. In fighting at Bisland and Irish Bend, Bagby and his men performed well. General Alfred Mouton said of him, "the gallant and chivalric Bagby."

Gen. Richard Taylor, during his operations in west Louisiana in 1863, frequently spoke of Bagby in complimentary terms. Referring to the battle near Berwick Bay, he said: "Colonel Bagby was wounded seriously, but not dangerously, in the arm, but remained on the field with his regiment until the enemy had been driven back and ceased his attacks." He was given command of the old Sibley Brigade in 1863.

Bagby and his brigade were sent back to Texas in December of 1863 due to shore up the Texas coastline defenses, but by April of 1864 Bagby and his men were back in Louisiana to help counter the advance of Union General Nathaniel Banks during the Red River Campaign. They saw action during the fighting at Pleasant Hill and

Mansfield in April. Bagby received a field promotion to brigadier general on April 13, 1864 by E. Kirby Smith.

In mid-May, Bagby was in command of all the Confederate cavalry under Taylor and held that position until the war ended. After the surrenders of both Robert E. Lee and Joseph E. Johnston, Bagby was again given a field promotion as major general on May 16, 1865, by Smith. Unfortunately for Bagby, neither the promotion to brigadier general or major general was ever acted on by the Confederate government, so technically his rank was colonel.

After the war Bagby returned to Texas settling in Victoria and practicing law. For a brief period, 1870-71, he worked as the assistant editor of the *Victoria Advocate*. Later, he moved to Hallettsville, where he continued his law practice. He died there at age 88 on February 21, 1921. He is buried at Hallettsville Memorial Park.

He had two sons, William T. Bagby, also a lawyer, who served in the state legislature, and was known as the

"Lion of Lavaca." William was also a prominent figure in the gubernatorial campaign of James E. Ferguson from Temple. His other son A. P. (Penn) Bagby, III, served as deputy tax collector and tax clerk of Lavaca County, chief clerk in the Texas secretary of state's office, and tax commissioner of the state of Texas under Governor Ferguson.

Highway Clean-up Crew



Camp's clean-up crew poses for a group picture on Highway 93, on Saturday morning, April 1st. The crew cleaned up a stretch of road that the camp has adopted. (Photo courtesy of Jim Dennison)

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May 9th
Cotton Patch Cafe
Temple
7:00 PM