

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
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109th Reunion Set For June 2-3

TEXAS DIVISION REUNION SET IN MESQUITE

The Col. Middleton Tate Johnson Camp 1648 will host the 109th Texas Division Reunion at the Mesquite Rodeo Convention Center in Mesquite, Texas on June 2nd through June 3rd. This year's reunion is a non-election reunion which means the delegates to the reunion can concentrate on Division business and training. The reunion hotel is Hampton Inn and Suites in Mesquite.

The event will begin Friday night, June 2nd, with the Mesquite Championship Rodeo and a barbeque dinner. On Saturday morning, June 3rd Opening Ceremonies will begin, followed by a Memorial Service and then the first Business Session. The annual Division Awards Luncheon will be held at Noon on Saturday. The luncheon speaker will

be John J. Dwyer who is the chairman of history at Coram Deo Academy in the Dallas-Ft. Worth Metroplex. Dyer is the author of two

noon business classes and brigade meetings, there will be a number of training classes that will be held. Scheduled classes



Above, The Mesquite Hampton Inn & Suites, site of 2006 Reunion; Below Right: Donnie Kennedy, Banquet speaker; Below Left: John Dwyer, Luncheon speaker.



include: Adjutant's Class – IHQ Executive Director Ben Sewell, Heritage Defense Class – IHQ Heritage, Defense Chairman Paul Gramling, April Newsletter/May Camp Parliamentary Procedures – Division Commander Strbos, Recruiting Class – Division 1st Lieutenant Commander Manning, Camp Forming Class – Division 2nd Lieutenant Commander Sandidge, Public Relations Class – Division PR Officer, Marshall Davis, Camp Store Class – Past Camp #1250, Commander George

Ballentine, and Period Dance Class – Compatriot Brandon Ford.

Beginning at 7:00 PM the annual Division Banquet will be held. The fea-

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CONFEDERATE PROFILE

DON'T MESS WITH GEORGE

Fierce Indian
Fighter, On 1860
Census He Listed
His Occupation As
"Indian Killer"

He was a frontiersman in every sense of the word, he was six foot two, a crack shot, and a renowned Indian fighter, both before and after the War Between the States. He was also an equally gifted Confederate warrior; in fact you didn't want to cross him, just as his commanding officer did in 1865. His commanding officer didn't survive the encounter.

George Wythe Baylor was born in Fort Gibson, Cherokee Nation, present day northeast Oklahoma, on August 2, 1832. His father, an Army surgeon serving in the 7th U.S. Infantry, died when George was only a year and a half old. Details of George's early life are sketchy, at age 13 he is reported as a student at Baylor College in Independence, Texas. In the 1860 U.S. Census we find young George living with his older brother, John R. Baylor, in Weatherford. A hint as to what he had been doing is found in the census where young George lists his occupation as, "Indian Killer."

Seems young George had become an experienced defender of the frontier. In one incident in 1860 now dubbed, the Battle of Paint Creek, Hutton Semners described one of George's victims. After chasing down seven Comanche Indians, and

killing six of them, the sole surviving Indian decided to charge George, Semners, and the rest of his men. Semners wrote about the survivor, an Indian boy about seventeen, "he gave a most distressing cry and started toward us and shooting as he came. It was clear that he had de-

him with a shotgun and he fell from his one rifle hole and nine pistol wounds, besides the one made by the shotgun. There were no wounds in his arms or legs. The shirt was as bloody as if it had been dipped in blood."

Baylor was an avid secession supporter and is said to be the first person to raise the Confederate flag in Austin. On March 17, 1861, in Parker County, Baylor enlisted in and was chosen first lieutenant in Colonel John S. Ford's 2nd Texas Cavalry (Mounted Rifles). His brother John was lieutenant colonel. Baylor fought in the Arizona campaign up through the Battle of Mesilla, July 27, 1861.

General Albert Sidney Johnston chose Baylor to serve on his staff as senior aide-de-camp. After Johnston's death at the Battle of Shiloh, Baylor joined the staff of General P. G. T. Beauregard until promoted to lieutenant colonel and sent by President Jefferson Davis to raise a battalion in Texas. Returning to Texas he was elected lieutenant colonel and commander of the Second Battalion of Henry H. Sibley's army. When that battalion merged with the 2nd Cavalry regiment of the Arizona Brigade, Baylor was elected colonel.

He also commanded a regiment of cavalry during the Red River campaign of 1864 and he was com-



George Wythe Baylor

terminated to avenge the death of his comrades by killing some of us, or die in the attempt. He was coming straight to me. We both started to shoot at almost the same time. I with my pistol, and he with his bow. He was a little quicker than I was, and his arrow went into my right hand, and as I was aiming at him, he shot into the stock of my pistol disabling it and making me helpless. Just as he was getting another arrow with which he would, no doubt, have killed me, Geo. Baylor shot

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Don't Mess With George

(Continued from page 2)

mended for gallantry at both the battles of Mansfield and Pleasant Hill. With his distinguished record Baylor was put under consideration for promotion to general. Baylor, however, became angered that his superior, Major General John A. Wharton was not effectively acting on his promotion

On April 6, 1865 Baylor's frontier spirit was shown when he got in an altercation with his commanding officer, Major General Wharton. On that day Wharton was in Houston preparing to return to his headquarters at Hempstead. Brigadier General James E. Harrison and Wharton, who were riding in a carriage, met up with Colonel George Wythe

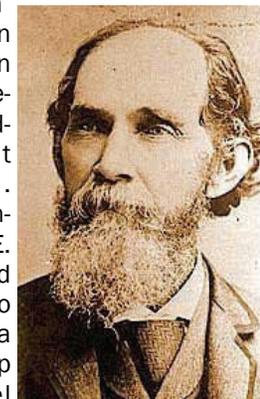
Baylor and a Major Sorell at the railway yard. There had long been bad blood between the two officers apparently going back to the Red River Campaign when Baylor blamed Wharton for needlessly sacrificing some of his men. Wharton resented Baylor's criticism and subsequently declined his leave request while granting furloughs to others. During this period Baylor's men were being dismounted, which further aggravated Baylor, as well

as Wharton placing David S. Terry, who was junior, over Baylor.

When Wharton and Baylor met at the tracks Wharton, perhaps sarcastically, asked where the colonel's command was and was duly informed



Above: John A. Wharton killed by Baylor; in 1865; Below: Baylor late in life



that it was near Hempstead. Wharton replied that he should be with it. Baylor acknowledged the fact but said that he was in Houston on pressing business necessary to prevent desertions. By then Baylor had become insubordinate and stated that there would indeed be desertions if he were required to report to Terry. He heatedly claimed that Wharton had been unjust.

Wharton was now excited and called Baylor a "damned liar." Baylor struck at Wharton also calling him a liar and a demagogue. As Harrison drove forward a short distance the blow missed. Wharton ordered Baylor to report to his headquarters in Hempstead under arrest. Baylor responded that he would go to Magruder instead and Wharton told him to do so, but under arrest.

Wharton and Harrison then boarded the train but soon Wharton decided that

Camp Schedule

June 2-3, 2006

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

June 13, 2006

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

July 8, 2006

Camp's quarterly dinner meeting at the Cotton Patch Cafe in Temple Mall, 7:00 PM. Speaker: Jerry Nelson, "The War Rifle."

August 2-6, 2006

111th Annual SCV Reunion, New Orleans, LA 100th Anniversary of "The Charge" - Keeping the Charge of '06 in '06.

August 8, 2006

Camp's Regular Meeting, Cotton Patch Café, Temple Mall, Temple, TX, 7:00 PM. Speaker: TBA

he had best resolve the matter with Magruder. Meanwhile Baylor had found Magruder at his headquarters in the Fannin House having breakfast. He was so excited as to be in tears. Magruder took him to a private room upstairs, told him to compose himself, and went back down. Wharton and Harrison, expecting to find Magruder, then entered the same room and found the colonel sitting on a bed, still crying. There were more words and Wharton walked toward him with clenched fists. Harrison, fearing a fight, stepped

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Next Camp Meeting:

June 13th
7:00 P.M. at
Cotton Patch Café
Temple, TX
Speaker:
Penny Jones
"A History of
Beauvoir"

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Next Meeting:
June 13th
Cotton Patch Cafe
Temple
7:00 PM



Confederate Profile

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between them. Wharton struck at Baylor and Baylor drew his pistol. Harrison pushed Wharton back while grasping Baylor's revolver. Wharton's left side became exposed and Baylor fired striking him just below the short ribs. Wharton moaned twice and fell over dead. Baylor would later indicate regret over the incident saying it had been a "lifelong sorrow" to him.

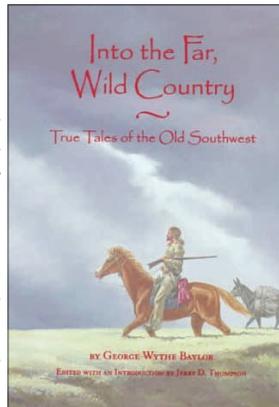
Baylor was arrested and taken to jail. However, before he could be tried for the offense the war ended. Baylor case was transferred to a civil court and Baylor was released on bond. For three years the legal proceedings continued until a trial was held in May of 1868. The jury was unable to reach a decision and a new trial was ordered. Six months later Baylor was found not guilty.

After the war Baylor headed back to the frontier. He was commissioned a first lieutenant in Company C, Frontier Battalion of Texas Rangers in El Paso. From 1879 to 1885 he fought Apache Indians and bandits along and sometimes across the Mexican border.

In 1882 he was promoted to major and given command of several ranger companies.

In 1885 Baylor was elected to the Texas House of Representatives from El Paso and later served as clerk of the district and circuit courts for a number of years. From 1899 to 1906, Baylor wrote 52 articles for the *El Paso Daily Herald* giving a firsthand account of his Indian exploits, both pre and post War Between the States. In 1996 Jerry Thompson edited these accounts and they were published by the University of Texas Press in a book titled, *Into the Far, Wild Country: True Tales of the Old Southwest*.

Baylor died in San Antonio at the age of 83 on March 17, 1916. He is buried in the Confederate Cemetery in San Antonio.



Book which recounts Baylor's Indian exploits

Division Reunion

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tured speaker is Walter "Donnie" Kennedy. Kennedy is the co-author, with his brother, James "Ronnie," of *The South Was Right, Was Jefferson Davis Right?, Why Not Freedom!: America's Revolt Against Big Government*, and he also authored *Myths of American Slavery*. The annual Confederate Ball will follow the banquet at approximately 9:30 PM.

The Mesquite Rodeo Convention Center and Hampton Inn and Suites are co-located at 1700 Rodeo Drive in Mesquite. To reach the convention center, take IH-635 into Mesquite, and exit Military Parkway. You will see the convention center to the southwest of the intersection. It is the large building on top of the hill with the copper roof.

Beauvoir Program

Penny Jones will present the June Camp program on Beauvoir. She will speak on "The History of Beauvoir, Jefferson Davis' Home." The meeting will be June 13th at 7:00 PM at the Cotton Patch Café in the Temple Mall.