

# Confederate Gazette

## Camp's Christmas Party

The Major Robert M. White Camp #1250 will hold its 4<sup>th</sup> annual Christmas Gala at Bliss Hall Community Center, located in Little River on Saturday evening December 9, 2006.

The Christmas party will start with a social hour beginning at 6:00 PM followed by a barbeque or catfish dinner at 7:00 PM.

The cost of the meal is only \$7.00 per person.

This event follows a similar event held each December for

the last three years, where camp members, friends, and guest reviled in an old time Southern Christmas party.



*Photo from last year's Camp Christmas Party at Bliss Hall in Little River.*

Last year about forty people attended the Christmas party.

At the party a Silent Auction will be held. Camp members are encouraged to donate any

unwanted or extra copies of books, old uniforms and period dresses or other clothing. Items may be submitted in

advance to one of the OCR ladies. Items for the auction may also be brought to the event where they will be accepted at the door. The camp store will also be set up.

Dress for the event can be either period or modern clothes. Casual wear or party wear is permissible.

## Camp Member to Head SCV Planning

Camp member John C. Perry of Salado was selected by the SCV's Commander-in-Chief Chris Sullivan to head the SCV's Long Range Planning Committee.

The committee will look at long term SCV goals and how to achieve them. Among other things, the committee is looking for ways to better utilize the SCV's headquarters at Elm Springs in Columbia, Tennes-

see, according to Perry.

"I am honored to be appointed by Commander-In-Chief Sullivan and I look forward to working with the committee members. I think this is one of the most important committees we have in the SCV," Perry said,

Perry served on the committee the last two years, and will follow past CiC Ron Wilson as the chairman. Past CiC Wilson

will remain on the committee.

Perry is a charter member of Camp #1250 and served as it's first commander after the camp was restarted in 1988. He is a past Central Texas Brigade Commander, a past Texas Division Commander, and a past Army of the Trans Mississippi Commander. He is also a past Chief of Heritage Defense for the SCV.



**Major Robert M. White**  
Camp #1250  
Sons of Confederate Veterans

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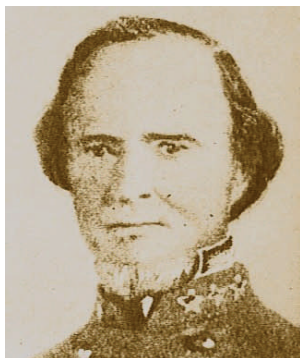
*Best Newsletter - 2006 - Texas Division*

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# CONFEDERATE PROFILE

## “Swamp Angels” Commander



**Ashley W. Spaight**

**Spaight commanded the 11<sup>th</sup> Texas Battalion and the 21<sup>st</sup> Texas Infantry**

He was an adopted Texan who helped defend the Texas coast, but his greatest opponent was not Yankees but rather yellow fever.

Ashley W. Spaight was born in Prairie Bluff, Alabama on November 24, 1821. Young Spaight grew up quickly, fighting in the Creek War in 1836 at the young age of 15. Following his military service young Spaight attended the University of North Carolina, graduating in 1842. He earned a law license three years later and became a law partner with Thomas W. Watts, who would later become the governor of Alabama and an Attorney General of the Confederacy.

In 1846 Spaight was elected to the Alabama legislature, serving a two-year term. In 1854 he married Victoria M. Riggs. Because of his wife’s ill health he moved to Texas in 1861 set-

ting in Liberty County, where he established a plantation.

In April of 1862, Spaight organized a local Liberty County infantry company known as the “Moss Bluff Rebels.” Spaight served as captain of the unit. After he and his men became a part of the Confederate Army Spaight was promoted to lieutenant colonel and eventually gained command of the 11<sup>th</sup> Texas Battalion, also known as “The Swamp Angels.” The battalion had both cavalry and infantry attached to it.

For much of the war Spaight and his men served in southeast Texas helping guard Confederate cotton shipments. Their biggest enemy was not Federal forces. In July of 1862 a British steamer, *Victoria*, made it through the Federal blockade. On board were welcomed munitions and one unwelcome cargo, yellow fever. Within a month over 300 men

under Spaight’s command were very ill. More of Spaight’s men were lost to yellow fever than were killed or wounded by Union troops.

In May of 1863 Spaight and his men were ordered into Louisiana. There his men suffered through a measles outbreak, but performed well at the Battle of Fardoche Bayou, fought on September 29, and the Battle of Bayou Bourbeau, fought on November 3, 1863. At Fardoche Bayou Spaight captured supplies and about 500 Union soldiers surrendered. One Iowa officer noted: “The Rebels got everything we had except our clothes.” Before being transferred back to Texas, Spaight received a commendation for his service in Louisiana by General Richard Taylor.

He was promoted to a full colonel in 1864 and assigned command of the 21<sup>st</sup> Texas Infantry.

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## Camp Officers Recommended

The Nominating Committee has come up with a recommended slate of officers for 2007. This year’s Nominating Committee was chaired by Jerry Nelson.

The committee recommends that the following men be elected for 2007: James Kinnear of Little River, Camp Commander; Dr. Chris Ellis of

Granbury, 1<sup>st</sup> Lieutenant Commander; Robert Welch of Belton, 2<sup>nd</sup> Lieutenant Commander; and Jerry Nelson, Adjutant. Each of the men nominated have agreed to serve.

If elected, James Kinnear will continue on as the camp’s twelfth commander, going back to when the camp was reactiv-

ated in 1988. Jerry Nelson, if elected, will be the Camp’s seventh adjutant. Richard Sutton will retire as the Camp’s Adjutant, having served in that position since 2004.

Those elected will be installed as officers at the Camp’s annual Lee-Jackson dinner on January 13, 2007.

# Half Full? An Editorial

By: John C. Perry

People seem to be either an optimist or a pessimist, in other words do you see the glass half empty or half full. I try to be optimistic in most things, but in years of battling over heritage issues sometimes it just seems that things are just more "half empty."

Either I am getting senile or maybe, just maybe, things are changing in this country. I have been encouraged on several heritage fronts of late. We do have a distinct advantage over all those who want to remove and destroy ever vestige of Confederate symbols. Our advantage is one simple thing, the truth. The truth is why I wrote a book about American slavery, the truth about slavery was not being taught. An interesting study is why the truth is not being told or taught to our youth, but we will save that for another time.

What I have seen lately are a few cracks in the armor of those who want to teach other than the truth about our Con-

federate history, and I hope the glass is becoming "half full."

First, earlier this year there was a show on the History Channel that was truly amazing. It was about atrocities being committed to prisoners in a War Between the States prisoner of war camp. Guess what, it was about Andersonville, right? No, it was all about the Union atrocities being committed against Southern prisoners, and yes they used the "A" word, actually saying "atrocities." When I first saw it I was amazed, a two hour show, "Eighty Acres of Hell," on how badly Confederates were being treated by Federals at the North's Camp Douglas POW facility.

It starts out saying, "It is a place long forgotten, a site of calculated humiliation and torture on a scale unknown in American history . . . 6,000 dead all victims of a systematic and carefully orchestrated policy of retribution, all ordered by the highest government authorities are mute

testimony to the worst of human nature." It even calls Camp Douglas an "extermination camp." The truth is coming out.

Another reason to be optimistic is the number of new books that are challenging the typical northeastern liberal view of what they call the Civil War. The newest is Thomas DiLorenzo's just published book, *Lincoln Unmasked*. His previous work *The Real Lincoln* challenged conventional thought on the 16<sup>th</sup> U.S. president. I would like to think that my book, *Myths & Realities of American Slavery* helped bring out the truth as it relates to American slavery.

Other truth titles are Charles Adams' *When In The Course of Human Events: Arguing the Case for Southern Secession*, Clyde Wilson's book, *From Union to Empire*, and John Remington Graham's *A Constitutional History of Secession*. All of a sudden we are seeing more and more books attempting to bring light to the truth.

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## November Meeting Photos



*Top:* Two new camp members are installed, from left, Lt. Cmdr. Rocky Sprott, new members George Mobley and Vance Hensala, Cmdr. James Kinnear and Lt. Cmdr. Chris Ellis.

*Bottom:* Dr. John Montgomery speaks on "Civil War Medicine"

## Camp Schedule

### December 9, 2006

Annual Camp Christmas Dinner and Party, Bliss Hall, Little River, TX, 6:00 PM Social, Dinner at 7:00 PM.

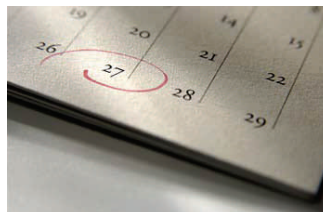
### January 13, 2007

Annual Lee-Jackson Dinner, Hilton Hotel in Temple,, 7:00 PM. Speaker: John Dwyer., Come celebrate the 200th

birthday of one of American's greatest men, Robert E. Lee.

### February 6, 2007

Legislative Action Day, State Capitol in Austin. The goal is to have 300 Texas Division members there. Come to Austin and visit members of the Texas legislature. Let them know that SCV members vote!



### February 13, 2007

Regular Camp meeting at Cotton Patch Café, Temple Mall. Come as early as 6:00 PM to eat, Camp meeting will start at 7:00 PM. Speaker: TPA

**Next Meeting:**  
**December 9<sup>th</sup>**  
**Annual Christmas**  
**Party, Bliss Hall,**  
**Little River**

# Confederate Gazette

P.O. Box 794

Salado, Texas 76571

Next Meeting:  
December 9th

Bliss Hall  
Little River  
7:00 PM

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## Ashley W. Spaight

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At the very end of the war he was in command of all Confederate forces in the Galveston and Houston areas. The Houston Tri-Weekly Telegram reported on May 3, 1865, "...It is but just that we should say on departure of Colonel A. W. Spaight that it (the 21<sup>st</sup> Texas) is the best disciplined, quietest, and best disposed body of men we have ever seen among us. This regiment has been on post duty here for several months, and during that time, we have not heard of a single depredation committed by any of its men; we have seen no rowdiness, no drunkenness...Such a regiment is an honor to its commander and a credit to the service..."

After the war, Spaight was elected as a delegate to the Texas Constitutional Convention in 1866.

He moved to Galveston in 1869 after the death of his wife. In 1881 he was appointed the Texas Commissioner of Insurance, serving for two years. A staunch Democrat Spaight remained active in local Galveston politics until his death in 1911. He is buried in Lakeview Cemetery in Galveston.

## Half Full: An Editorial

*(Continued from page 3)*

Finally, an amazing segment on the November 12<sup>th</sup> edition of CBS News' Sunday Morning

with Charles Osgood. I am certainly no fan of CBS News, which I think reports the news with a liberal bias. I do however like this show, which I usually Tivo, since it comes on when I am in church.

They did a segment on Union General William T. Sherman's March to the Sea. Nov. 12<sup>th</sup> was the 142<sup>nd</sup> anniversary of the start of the march. I thought, "Here we go, this should be interesting."

Indeed it was interesting. Osgood begins by telling viewers about the March to the Sea, "seizing provisions from farms and homes while destroying railroad, factories, and other buildings." He then mentions a congratulatory telegram from Lincoln to Sherman, with a brief playing of the hateful song,

*Battle Hymn of the Republic*, in the background. Then to my surprise I hear *Dixie* being played. A nice slow respectful version of *Dixie* being played on a CBS News show! But, wait it even gets better. As *Dixie* is being played Osgood says, "But to this day historians, North and South, debate just how much honor was involved in Sherman's March. It was he who put it best, 'War is hell.'"

Would you have honestly thought, just a few years ago, that any one of these events would have happened, much less all three? As Confucius said, "Three things cannot long be hidden the sun, the moon, and the truth." Remember the truth is on our side. So, next time you look at a half glass of milk or whatever you drink, think of it as being half full.