

# Confederate Gazette

## Confederate History Month Celebration

The Major Robert M. White Camp #1250 will formally celebrate Confederate History Month in Texas with two events.

On Saturday, April 7<sup>th</sup> the Camp will kick off Confederate History Month with its quarterly dinner meeting at the Cotton Patch Café in Temple. The event will begin at 7:00 PM

In Belton on Sunday April 29<sup>th</sup> the Camp will formally celebrate Confederate History Month. Camp members and friends are being ask to gather

at the Confederate statue at the Bell County Courthouse at 1:00 PM. The Confederate First National flag will be raised and a wreath laid.

Following that event the group will reform at the South Belton Cemetery where the Camp will honor the Confederate soldiers buried there.

After that everyone is invited to a barbecue lunch at Confederate Park in Belton. The meal will be catered by Wes's Burger

Shack. The cost is \$7.00 per person which will include bris-ket, sausage, all the sides, and ice tea.

All Camp members and friends are urged to attend this annual event. This will be the sixth straight year that the Camp has had ceremonies in Belton.

The Texas Senate, in 1999, passed resolution number 526 which proclaims that April is Confederate History Month in Texas.

## Past Commander "Crosses Over"

Past Camp Commander George Ballentine passed away early on the morning of Tuesday, March 20<sup>th</sup>.

George had recently experienced problems with his kidneys and had both of them removed at Baylor Medical Center in Dallas. Although he seemed to be doing well after the surgery he suffered a set back and passed away in the hospital in Dallas.

Texas Division Commander Ron Strybos immediately proclaimed a thirty day period of mourning for the Texas Division. Commander Strybos

said, "I know of few men who worked as hard for Southern



George Ballentine with the Outstanding Camp Award in 2005

Heritage as George. His work on graves registration and fund raising will be missed. All of us have lost a friend, a compatriot, and a brother in arms."

George was a key member of Camp #1250 having served the Camp as a Camp Commander in 2004 and 2005. It was during George's tenure as Camp Commander that the Camp hosted the successful 2005 Texas Division Reunion.

At the 2005 Division Reunion George accepted the Outstanding Division Camp Award, a certain reflection of

(Continued on page 4)



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

Web Site:  
www.rootsweb.com/  
~tx1250

James Kinnear  
Camp Commander  
P.O. Box 341  
Little River, TX 76554

John C. Perry  
Newsletter Editor  
P.O. Box 794  
Salado, TX 76571

© 2007, Major Robert M.  
White Camp #1250

*Best  
Newsletter  
- 2006 -  
Texas Division*

### Inside this issue:

Confederate Profile: "Bedford's Brother"	2
Skirmish at Okolona	2
Camp #1250 Calendar	3
Camp Celebrates Confederate Flag Day	3

# CONFEDERATE PROFILE

## *The Wizard's Baby Brother*



**Jeffrey E. Forrest**

**Forrest was leading his men charging the Union position when he was struck**

**H**is brother was the famous "Wizard of the Saddle," Nathan Bedford Forrest, but as Bedford's little brother this man was also an accomplished Confederate officer who gave his life for the Cause.

Jeffery E. Forrest was born on June 10, 1838 in Tippah County, Mississippi, son of William and Miriam (Beck) Forrest. His father passed away about four months before he was born. At that time the man of the house became Jeffrey's brother, Nathan Bedford, who was just shy of 17 when Jeffrey was born. Jeffrey's big brother, who went by Bedford, became his surrogate father.

As Jeffrey grew up big brother Bedford became a wealthy man. He traded horses, cattle and eventually slaves. He also owned several plantations producing cotton. By the time of the War Between the States, Bedford was a millionaire and one of the richest men in the

South.

Jeffrey's big brother provided for his education as well as for his five brothers and sister. Jeffrey attended school in De Soto County, Mississippi, and in Memphis. When the War Between the States began Jeffrey was managing a livery stable in Memphis. Jeffrey and his brother, Bedford, along with Bedford's 15 year old son all enlisted together as privates in a new company being formed, the Tennessee Mounted Rifles.

Jeffrey was elected a second lieutenant in June, 1861 and had a horse killed under him at the Battle of Fort Donelson. At Fort Donelson Jeffrey joined with his brother in refusing to surrender in February of 1862. Both he and Bedford were able to successfully escape from the fort. Jeffrey also fought at the Battle of Shiloh in April of 1862.

Although elected a captain in June of 1862 Jeffrey briefly

resigned from the service only to shortly rejoin the army with the 8<sup>th</sup> Tennessee Cavalry. He was commissioned major, and then later promoted to lieutenant colonel. Jeffrey saw combat in a number of skirmishes in 1863, and he was severely wounded in October when he was shot through both thighs in action at Bear's Creek, Mississippi.

While recovering from his wounds big brother Bedford asked Jeffrey to join him. Although not fully recovered from his wounds, Jeffrey reported for duty and he was given command of one of Bedford's cavalry brigades. In fighting against the invading Union cavalry, under General W. Sooy Smith, Jeffrey personally lead his men in a charge. On February 22, 1864, near Okolona, Mississippi and about 50 yards from the Union position being charged, Jeffrey was

*(Continued on page 4)*

## Skirmish at Okolona

The skirmish at Okolona, Mississippi occurred on February 22, 1864. Union Brigadier General William Sooy Smith with a force of about 7,000 cavalry soldiers had raised havoc in Mississippi. They had destroyed valuable crops and torn up important rail lines.

Nathan Bedford Forrest's cavalry headed to stop the Yankee mayhem. The Confederates charged and during the night Nathan Bedford Forrest's brother Jeffrey was killed while leading his men.

Following his brother's death, Nathan Bedford Forrest per-

sonally lead the assault on the Federal cavalry. In fierce mounted fighting the Union line broke and retreated.

Forrest's men were very low on ammunition and did not pursue the Federals.

*(Continued on page 4)*

# Confederate Flag Day in Belton

Twenty people gathered at the northwest corner of the Bell County Courthouse in Belton on March 4<sup>th</sup> in honor of Confederate Flag Day.

A color guard presented the First National Flag which was raised on the flag pole next to the Confederate statue.

Confederate Flag Day is one of the days authorized by Bell County to fly a Confederate flag.



**Flag Day  
Celebrated at  
the Bell  
County  
Courthouse**

Following the flag raising, Past Camp Commander and current 7<sup>th</sup> Brigade (Central Texas) Lieutenant Commander Steve Wooley spoke about the Confederate flag and what it means.



*Above right: First National flies; Right: flag is raised by color guard; Above: Steve Wooley speaks*



## Camp Schedule

**April 7, 2007**  
Quarterly Camp Dinner meeting at Cotton Patch Café, Temple Mall at 7:00 PM. Speaker: TBA

**April 14, 2007**  
"Texas Trash Off" on Highway 93 between Temple at Belton. Meet at 8:00 AM.

**April 14, 2007**  
Mexia Reenactment The camp store will be set-up.

**April 29, 2007**  
Confederate History Month Activities in Belton:  
□ Bell County Courthouse at 1:00 PM  
□ South Belton Cemetery at about 1:45 PM



□ Confederate Park about 2:30 to 3:00 Barbecue Dinner

**May 8, 2007**  
Camp meeting at Cotton Patch Café, Temple Mall at 7:00 PM.

**Next Camp Meeting:  
April 7<sup>th</sup>  
7:00 PM  
Cotton Patch Café  
Temple Mall**

# Confederate Gazette

P.O. Box 794 Salado, Texas 76571

Next Meeting:  
April 7th  
Cotton Patch Cafe  
Temple  
7:00 PM

Page 4

## Jeffrey Forrest

(Continued from page 2)  
shot in the neck and died instantly.

Bedford saw that his brother had been hit and rushed to him. Bedford gently lifted Jeffrey's head off the ground realizing his brother was gone. Then with tears running down his cheeks he passionately repeated Jeffrey's name several times and kissed his brother on his forehead.

According to an eyewitness, John W. Morton, the event, "was of short duration, however. Placing the dead man's hat over his face,



*A new print by John Paul Strain, called Vengeance at Okalona, shows Bedford Forrest preparing to charge after his brother's death*

he called . . . (to an aide) to take charge of the body, and looking around called in a ringing, passionate voice to bugle to sound the charge once more." Forrest remounted and brandishing his saber lead a charge. Forrest galloped toward the enemy, and to some of his people his actions seemed "so rash as to savor madness." In heavy mounted fighting Forrest is reported to have taken revenge on his brother's death by killing three Union horse soldiers. In 1868 Jeffrey's remains were

## GEORGE BALLENTINE

(Continued from page 1)

George's leadership.

In addition to serving as the Camp Commander he also had served as the Camp's webmaster since the web site was established in 1999. The web site was awarded the Best in the Division award in 2002.

George was the brainchild behind the forming of a Camp Store in 2003. He labored tirelessly along with Current Camp Commander James Kinnear, in raising funds for the Camp.

George designed the current

transferred from Aberdeen, Mississippi to Elmwood Cemetery in Memphis. He is buried in the family plot under a standard issue government grave marker, which incorrectly lists his year of birth and death.

Camp awards system and volunteered to produce the annual awards each year. George was also a leader both in Texas and nationally on getting Confederate graves registered.

Space does not permit a list of all that George did for Camp #1250, the Texas Division and the national SCV. He was a rare individual, devoted to the Cause, who worked tirelessly for the good of the Camp. He will not be forgotten and will be missed by all in Camp #1250 and his many SCV friends through out Texas and across the nation.

### Skirmish At Okolona

(Continued from page 2)

The result of the action was a Confederate victory and an end to Smith's maundering in Confederate backcountry.