

Confederate Gazette

112th Reunion Held

Delegates from across the country gathered in Mobile, Alabama for the 112th reunion of the Sons of Confederate Veterans. The reunion kicked off on Thursday July 26th at the Mobile Convention Center.

The delegates warmly received greetings from the host camp, Raphael Semmes Camp #11, the United Daughters of the Confederacy, the Children of the Confederacy, and the Order of Confederate Rose. The delegates also enthusiastically recognized two Real Sons in attendance.

At the opening session a most enthusiastic ovation came

when Commander-in-Chief Sullivan expanded on the words of Winston Churchill: "The West is the hope of the world and America is the hope of the West—and the South is the hope of America." Commander-in-Chief Sullivan then laid out a vision for the future, not just to the Sesquicentennial, but to the Bicentennial and the point where the SCV has the operational facilities to meet the needs for the years to come.

During the initial business session the annual audit was reported and made available and a conditional budget was adopted.

The proposed dues increase of \$8 was changed to \$10 by the convention, but the date of the increase was changed to next fiscal year rather than this one (beginning in August 2008).

During the Friday business session there was considerable discussion over where to hold the 2010 reunion. Normally a routine matter most years, this year there was strong contention from both Anderson, SC and Charleston, SC. After excellent presentations from both locations, the convention delegates voted 2010 to be in

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War Items Auction Held

Over \$6.5 million of War Between the States artifacts were sold at the end of June by Heritage Auction Galleries. The auction, which was held in Gettysburg, Pennsylvania included a number of very rare Confederate items.

The item which fetched the biggest selling price however was a presentation sword that was given to Union General Ulysses S. Grant in 1864. The sword was sold for \$1.673 million.

Another sword, which belonged

to Confederate Major General William Mahone, was sold for \$388,375.



Texas Cavalry Flag Sold At Auction

There were several flags which were sold including one that sold for \$896,250 that belonged to Union General George

Armstrong Custer. Custer carried the personal battle flag, hand-sewn by his wife, during Lee's surrender at Appomattox Court House, Virginia.

A "Lone Star" pattern state flag which was confiscated after the war at Milam, Texas by Union occupation forces from the 48th Ohio Battalion was sold for \$35,840. A Confederate flag captured by Custer's men from General JEB Stuart's cavalry was sold for \$47,800. It had the words, "Liberty or Death" sewn on the banner.

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CONFEDERATE PROFILE

New York Confederate



Franklin Gardner

He was a New Yorker by birth, but his heart and his family resided in Dixie.

Franklin Gardner was born in New York City in 1823. He was the son of Colonel Charles K. Gardner, Adjutant-General in the War of 1812. His mother was from a wealthy family in Louisiana. Young Gardner attended the U.S. Military Academy at West Point and graduated 17th in the Class of 1843. Another notable, who graduated 21st in the same class, was Ulysses S. Grant.

After graduating Gardner married the daughter of Louisiana's Governor, Alexander Mouton. Gardner's older sister was already married to Gardner's father-in-law.

His first post-graduation duty station was with the 7th U.S. Infantry as a 2nd Lieutenant in Pensacola, Florida. After Texas became a state, Gardner served in Texas for two years, 1845-46. During the Mexican War Gardner served under

and at the Battle of Churubusco. Later in the war he was again brevetted for "Gallant and Meritorious Conduct" during the Battle of Cerro Gordo, to the rank of captain.

After the Mexican War, he served in a number of duty stations, including Jefferson Barracks, Missouri, frontier duty at Fort Gibson in present day Oklahoma, and during Indian wars in Florida from 1849-50. He also served in the Utah Expedition and in 1861 he was stationed at Fort Bridger, Utah when war broke out between

the North and the South. Gardner's family was one of the many families that were split by the war. Gardner's older brother and his father took part in the war on the side of the North, while Gardner offered his services to the Con-

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Battle of Cerro Gordo where Gardner fought

both Zachary Taylor and Winfield Scott. In Mexico at the Battle of Monterrey in September of 1846 Gardner was brevetted to the rank of 1st Lieutenant for bravery. He saw action at Siege of Vera Cruz, Mar. 9-29, 1847, Battle of Cerro Gordo, Apr. 17-18, 1847, Battle of Contreras, Aug. 19-20, 1847,

**Gardner was
brevetted twice
in the War with
Mexico for valor**

Port Hudson

Port Hudson was considered a key strategic point on the Mississippi River. Located on an 80 foot bluff over the river, its guns could help determine which ships would move up and down the Mississippi. In 1863 not quite 7,000 Con-

federates, under General Franklin Gardner held the position. With Union navigation of the river critical, Nathaniel Banks and nearly 40,000 men were determined to remove the Confederate defenders. After a vicious attack was re-

pelled by the Confederates on May 27, 1863 Banks lay siege. For 48 days the Confederates withstood furious bombardment, but when Vicksburg fell on July 4th Gardner saw all hope was lost and surrendered the fort to Banks.

Dinner Meeting Held

The Major Robert M. White Camp #1250 held its quarterly Dinner Meeting on July 14th at the Cotton Patch Café. Twenty members and friends attended the meeting and heard Dr. Doug Guthrie from Waco speak on the Confederacy's Chimborazo Hospital in Richmond, Virginia.

Mark Barnes from Temple was installed as the Camp's newest member.



Newest Camp #1250 Member Mark Barnes

112th Reunion

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Anderson, SC.

Amendments: Proposed Amendment #1, removing veto power of the accused in a discipline matter relative to the site of the hearing was passed. Amendment #2, Clarifying the procedure and appeals for a member subject to discipline passed. Amendment #3 concerning cadet dues failed. Amendment #4 concerning eligibility was postponed indefinitely on motion to do so by the author. A Resolution declaring the "Year of Davis" for 2008 was also adopted.

Camp Schedule

August 14, 2007

Camp meeting at Cotton Patch Café, Temple Mall at 7:00 PM. Speaker: Dr. Weldon Cannon

Aug. 30—Sept. 2, 2007

Central Texas State Fair, Camp will have a booth to sell items and to recruit new members.

September 11, 2007

Camp meeting at Cotton Patch Café, Temple Mall at 7:00 PM. Speaker: TBA

October 13, 2007

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

WBTS Auction

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A rare Bonnie Blue flag carried by the 3rd Texas State Cavalry was sold for \$47,800.

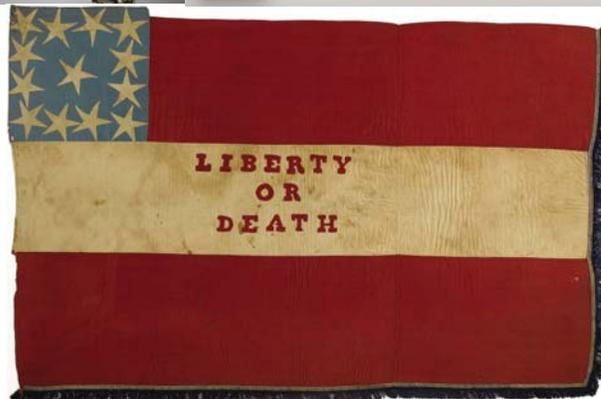
A rare .36 cal. Todd revolver made in Austin, Texas during the war went for \$59,750.

The auction was held by Heritage Auction Galleries in Dallas. Their next War Between the States auction will be in Nashville, Tennessee on December 1-2, 2007.

**Auction in
Gettysburg
sold \$6.5
million**



*Left: Handle of U.S. Grant's sword,
Below: .36 cal Todd pistol made in Austin,
Bottom: Confederate Flag.*



November 13, 2007

Camp meeting at Cotton Patch Café, Temple Mall at 7:00 PM. Speaker: TBA

**Next Camp Meeting:
August 14th
7:00 PM
Cotton Patch Café
Temple Mall
Speaker: Dr. Weldon
Cannon**

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P.O. Box 794 Salado, Texas 76571

Next Meeting: August 14th Cotton Patch Cafe Temple 7:00 PM

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New York Confederate

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federacy.

He apparently never formally resigned from the U.S. Army, he simply left Utah and headed south to his wife's home state of Louisiana. In May of 1861 he was dropped from the U.S. Army rolls due to his "abandoning his command." In Louisiana Gardner joined the Confederate Army as a Lt. Colonel. He saw early service in Mississippi and Tennessee and was in command of a brigade of cavalry at the Battle of Shiloh in April of 1862. After Shiloh, Gardner was promoted to Brigadier General. When General Braxton Bragg invaded Kentucky in the fall of 1862 Gardner was in command of a brigade in General Leonidas

Polk's division. In late 1862 he was promoted to Major General.

Gardner was then given command of a Confederate outpost on about an 80 foot bluff overlooking the Mississippi River, Port Hudson, Louisiana.

Port Hudson was at a strategic location along a bend on the Mississippi River. Guns placed there could rain savage fire on any ships that passed near the bend. By 1863 Vicksburg to the north was under siege and New Orleans to the south was under Federal control since the prior year. Baton Rouge, between Port Hudson and New Orleans fell in May of 1863. General Nathaniel Banks and about 40,000 men supported by Union gunboats began to move on Gardner and his Confederates at Port Hudson.

By May 22nd Banks had laid siege

to Port Hudson, Gardner had about 6,800 men defending the fort. Gardner and his men held out for 48 days. "We eat all the meat and bread in the fort...eat all the beef--all the mules--all the Dogs--and all the Rats around us," one Confederate soldier wrote. For the entire siege the Confederate defenders were under constant artillery bombardment as well as rifle fire. On July 4th Vicksburg surrendered, adding to the pressure on Port Hudson. Banks received the news of the fall of Vicksburg on July 7th and contacted Gardner. Gardner refused to believe it, but when Banks showed him the dispatches Gardner agreed to surrender. The 48 day siege, the longest in American history, was over.

Banks agreed to parole the enlisted men, but sent all of the officers to prison. Of the prison-

ers, 5,593 were paroled and some 500 sick and wounded were retained in the hospitals. General Gardner reported his casualties as 200 killed, between 300 and 400 wounded, and about 200 died from sickness. Only about 2,500 Confederate defenders were fit for duty at the time of the surrender. In spite of the surrender Gardner today is recognized by many historians for his outstanding defense when being besieged by a far greater force.

In August of 1864, Gardner was exchanged and returned back south. He was assigned to General Richard Taylor but never saw any further direct action. After the war he returned to a family farm near Vermilionville, Louisiana, which is in present day Lafayette. He died there on April 29, 1873. He was buried at Saint John's Cathedral Cemetery in Lafayette.