

Confederate Gazette

GEC Meets At Elm Springs

The SCV's Fall General Executive Council (GEC) meeting was held on October 13th at the SCV's International Headquarters in Columbia, Tennessee at the plantation home, Elm Springs.

The SCV's Executive Director Ben Sewell reported membership standing at 31,480 despite some media reports that membership numbers had fallen dramatically.

Any member or camp who has lost their membership certificate or camp charter due to catastrophe such as

Katrina can have it replaced without cost by contacting headquarters (there is a



SCV's HQ, Elm Springs

small fee for replacements otherwise).

\$15,000 was approved from

the Miller Fund to help erect Jefferson Davis Park in Portland Oregon. Yes, Oregon, where a number of Confederate Veterans settled after the war. The future park will be located next to I-5, from which it will be highly visible.

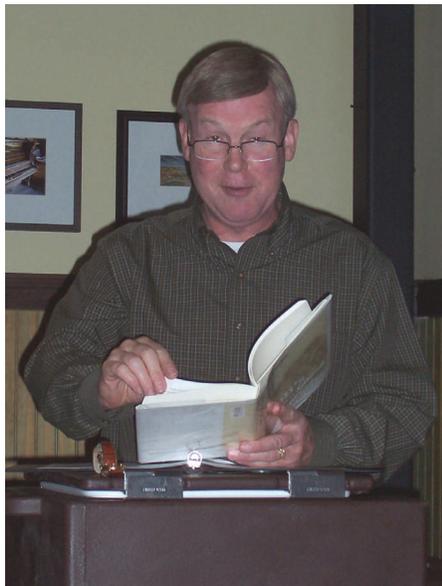
The park will commemorate the Jefferson Davis Highway with the old marker that the government had previously removed, and a large battle flag. The late Compatriot Katen Miller of Oregon was

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Dr. Walker Speaks To Camp

Dr. Scott Walker, pastor of the First Baptist Church of Waco, spoke to a crowd of 33 people at the Robert M. White Camp #1250's October meeting on the 13th.

Dr. Walker is the author of the published book, *Hell's Broke Loose in Georgia, Survival in a Civil War Regiment*. The book tells the story of the history of the 57th Georgia Infantry. The



book was recently published by the University of Georgia Press.

Dr. Walker told the story of the 57th Georgia weaving into his talk moving correspondence from the 57th's soldiers to their families at home.

At Left: Dr. Walker reads from his book.



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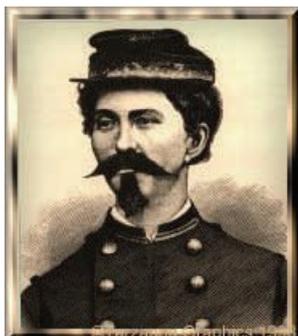
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White Camp #1250

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CONFEDERATE PROFILE

Female Confederate Soldier



Loreta Janeta Velazquez

As Lt. Harry T. Buford, Velazquez raised a company of 236 men.

She was a female who thought she was at least equal to, if not better than most males. She attempted to prove it by posing as a Confederate officer and later as a spy serving the Confederate war effort.

Loreta Janeta Velazquez was born in 1841 and by her own account was of Castilian descent. Her father was a Spanish government official, who owned plantations in both Cuba and Mexico. At age 14 she was sent to New Orleans to attend school. Shortly after her arrival she ran away from school. She married a young U.S. Army officer and they had three children, although a short four years later all of the children were dead.

When the War Between the States began her husband resigned his army commission and volunteered his services to the Confederate Army. Velazquez wanted to join her husband, but he refused to allow her to accompany him.

Rather than surrender to her husband's edict, Velazquez had a couple of uniforms made and then journeyed to Arkansas. There she donned her uniform and adopted the name of Harry T. Buford. As Buford she claims to have recruited 236 men to serve in the Confederate infantry. She proceeded to Pensacola, Florida where her husband was stationed at a camp of instruction. Her astonished husband unfortunately was killed several days later when a weapon he was demonstrating misfired.

The heartbroken Velazquez decided to abandon her recruits and headed to the eastern theatre's front lines. She claims to have been at the First Battle of Bull Run, but post battle switched back to female attire and crossed the lines into Washington, D.C. There she acted as a Confederate spy, claiming to have met President Abraham Lincoln and Secretary of War Simon Cameron.

Longing for military action she traveled west, as Buford, in time to see action at Fort Donelson. She was wounded in the foot and greatly feared that her male disguise would be detected during her medical treatment. After initial care was given, she left undetected as a female, and traveled back home to New Orleans.

In New Orleans she was arrested and briefly detained by Confederate authorities for being a disguised Union female spy. After her foot healed she rejoined her Arkansas recruits, again as Lt. Buford, and fought in the Battle of Shiloh. She was wounded by a shell fragment, but this time when she was treated for her wounds the physician discovered that she was a female.

She fled, returning to her home in New Orleans. She later traveled to Richmond, Virginia, where she was recruited as a spy for the Confederacy. While in Richmond she married again

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Debate Over Velazquez

There has been much historical debate about the exploits of Loreta Janeta Velazquez, as described in her book, *The Woman in Battle: A Narrative of the Exploits, Adventures, and Travels of Madame Loreta Janeta Velazquez, Otherwise Known as Lieutenant Harry T.*

Buford, Confederate States Army.

As recently as this year, a History Channel documentary called "Full Metal Corset," presented Velazquez's account as completely accurate.

Most historians, however, don't

accept her entire story. Some take it as nothing more than pulp fiction, while others accept varying degrees of her accounts.

One of her contemporary critics was Confederate Lt. Gen-

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Wildflower Notes

By: Linda Wooley, Wildflower Chapter Representative

Fall is in the air and the leaves are beginning to turn. Attention is now being paid to the end of the year and the approaching holiday season. Our Rose Chapter is busy making plans for the Annual Major Robert M. White Camp #1250 Christmas Party which is being planned for the 2nd Saturday of December. The event is tentatively scheduled for Bliss Hall in Little River, site of past Christmas parties.

It has been the practice for our Rose Chapter to hold a Silent Auction at the Christmas Party with all proceeds going to Camp #1250. We want to inform everyone at this time that donations of items to sell at the Silent Auction be received at this time and through the month of November up until the party itself. We will accept any item for donation. We will need to know from all those who wish to donate an item to include the description of the item, value of the item, and what the starting bid will be. The Roses will also be planning a possible bake sale of many delicious desserts to sell at

Camp Schedule

November 13, 2007

Camp meeting at Cotton Patch Café, Temple Mall at 7:00 PM. Speaker: Jerry Nelson, Topic: "The Dahlgren Raid, the Union Attempt to Assassinate Jefferson Davis."

December 8, 2007

Annual Camp Christmas Party,

this event. If you have any questions, please contact myself at 254-986-2264 or any of the Rose members for further information.

We are also reaching out to all interested parties for those who would be interested in becoming a Rose Member. Any lady or young female interested may join our Rose Chapter. Direct lineage is not a requirement. You may join if your spouse is currently a member of the Major Robert M. White Camp 1250 SCV. So we encourage all to join us in supporting the Camp in its endeavors.

For information on becoming a Rose, please contact me at 254-986-2264 for membership forms. It is also that time of the year when we will be electing officers for the upcoming year. If you would like to become a chapter officer, please contact me for information. We could always use the help from our ladies.

The purpose of our Rose Chapter is to support the endeavors of the Major Robert M. White

Bliss Hall, Little River, at 7:00 PM. Event to include an OCR Silent Auction.

December 14, 2007

Camp Luncheon to host HK Edgerton on his march across the South. Noon at the Railroad & Heritage Museum at the Santa Fe Depot.



Camp #1250 through living histories, the promotion of the preservation of the history of the Confederacy, cemetery grave dedications, and any assistance that can be given to our sponsored Camp.

Velazquez Debate

(Continued from page 2)

eral Jubal Early. He publicly denounced the book pointing out, "several inconsistencies, absurdities, and impossibilities."

Early even met with Velazquez and he left the meeting even more convinced that much of the book was untrue. Velazquez responded with a de-

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GEC Meeting At Elm Springs

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one of the SCV's largest benefactors.

The GEC also accepted land near Kinston, NC; and voted \$2,700 for improvements. One significant improvement will be a large battle flag as well.



January 12 2008

Annual Lee-Jackson Dinner, TBA at 7:00 PM. Speaker: TBA

**Wildflower
OCR Chapter
Works To Aid
Camp #1250**

**Next Camp Meeting:
November 13th
7:00 PM
Cotton Patch Café
Temple Mall
Speaker: Jerry Nelson**

Confederate Gazette

P.O. Box 794 Salado, Texas 76571

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

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Female Confederate Solider

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to a Confederate captain, who would later die in a Chattanooga hospital. She spent the remaining years of the war as a Confederate spy in the north and visiting Confederate POWs.

After the war she married for a third time and she and her husband moved to Venezuela. This husband died in Caracas and Velazquez returned to the U.S. She traveled in the western part of the U.S. giving birth to a child in Utah and later married for the

fourth time to a man in Nevada.

She apparently left her fourth husband and spent the rest of her life writing a book and lecturing



Drawing of Velazquez as a male, Harry Buford, and as a female.

about her varied war adventures. The 600 page book was called *The*

Woman in Battle: A Narrative of the Exploits, Adventures, and Travels of Madame Loreta Janeta Velazquez . . . published in 1876.

The book created quite a national buzz and lots of controversy. It was one of the first ever accounts of a cross dresser and in the book Velazquez claimed that she was attracted to both men and women.

She most likely died in 1897, at the age of 55, in Austin, Nevada.

Velazquez Debate

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tailed letter to Early. Early formulated a detailed reply but never sent it.

There have been efforts to prove some of what Velazquez wrote was true with mixed results. The truth probably went to the grave with Velazquez.

Confederate Coffee

Since coffee was scarce in the South, during the war, many Rebel soldiers tried an alternative recipe.

Take ripe acorns, parch them in the shell, remove the shell, then roast with a little bacon fat. After roasting, brew the "coffee" as your normally would.