

Confederate Gazette

Flag Raising In Belton

The Major Robert M. White Camp #1250 will celebrate Confederate Flag Day on Tuesday March 4, 2008 at the Bell County Courthouse in Belton at 9:00 AM.

The Camp has been given permission by the County Judge Jon Burrows to raise the First National flag for a 24 hour period to commemorate Confederate Flag Day.



Photo of 1st National flag flying last year on Confederate Flag Day at the Bell County Courthouse. (Photo by John Perry)

Camp members and friends are asked to gather for this

March 4th is recognized across the South as Confederate Flag Day. It was on March 4, 1861 that the First National Flag,

"The Stars and Bars," was adopted and raised over the then Confederate capitol in Montgomery, Alabama.

event at the courthouse a little before 9:00 AM. The 1st National flag will be raised.

A flag made of soft merino wool was completed within
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Confederate History Seminar No More?

If you attended the 2007 version of the Confederate History Symposium at Hill College you apparently attended the last one. This year's history symposium has nothing to do with Confederate history.

For the past 27 years, each spring Hill College has sponsored the Confederate History Seminar at the college. Each year some aspect of Confederate history would be reviewed as speakers

would be brought in to share their expertise.

This year's 28th seminar has morphed into the "Texas and Texans at War: The Fragile Frontier 1835-1859."

The topics this year include The Mier Expedition, Alamo Artillery, The Texas Indian Frontier, and Senator Sam Houston, among others.

The event this year is Saturday April 5th and the cost is \$25 per person.

While a new seminar devoted strictly to Texas history is applauded the *Gazette* laments the forsaking of the Confederate history, particularly after a 27 year run.

Depending on the topic past symposiums would draw from 200 to 400 people from across the state.

Last year's seminar was on Hood's Texas Brigade, let us hope that it is not the Confederate history's last stand at Hill College.



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CONFEDERATE PROFILE

Texas Poet & Fighter



Alfred Marmaduke Hobby

Hobby and his men repelled the Union attack on Corpus Christi in 1862

He was the hero of the Battle of Corpus Christi, a member of the Texas Legislature, and a well respected writer and poet.

Alfred Marmaduke Hobby was born in Macon, Georgia in 1836. Growing up he lived in Florida and moved to Texas with his widowed mother in the early 1850s, settling in Galveston. As a young man he helped start a general store at St. Mary's in Refugio County in 1857. Although quite young, he became active in Refugio County politics and at the age of 22 he was elected to the Texas House of Representatives in 1859.

Hobby was a fervent supporter of states rights and represented his county at the Texas Secession Convention.

He was reelected to the

legislature, but in 1862 he resigned so that he could enter service with the Confederate Army. In May of 1862 he organized and commanded the 8th Texas Infantry Battalion as a major. Most of his men were recruited from the Refugio County area. Hobby and his men trained at Camp Charles Russell near Banquete, Texas, between Alice and Corpus Christi.

The unit was later expanded into the 8th Texas Infantry commanded by Hobby as a colonel. Hobby spent most of the war in Texas seeing action at the Battle of Corpus Christi, where Hobby and his men were able to successfully repel an attempted Federal invasion in the summer of 1862.

Hobby and his regiment, which came to be known as the Hobby's Regiment, spent

most of 1862 and 1863 helping to defend the Texas coast. While in Galveston he made time to take a wife, Gertrude Menard, who was a widow. They had no children of their own.

In late 1863 the regiment was assigned to Waul's Brigade and in 1864 would see action during the Union's Red River Campaign, including fights at Mansfield and Pleasant Hill in April of 1864.

Hobby and his regiment spent the end of the war back in Texas and they formally surrendered on May 26, 1865.

Hobby, whose nephew, William P. Hobby would be elected governor of Texas, returned to Galveston post war. He sold his Refugio County business and started over in Galveston. During the war Hobby had written

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Battle of Corpus Christi

In the summer of 1862 a Union fleet approached the Confederate port city of Corpus Christi. One of the Union ships sailed into the port city under a flag of truce with a demand to be able to inspect U.S. government buildings in the city.

Confederate commander Alfred M. Hobby refused the demand and the U. S. commander John W. Kittredge threatened Hobby with force.

Hobby and Kittredge agreed to a 48 hour truce to allow the citizens of Corpus

Christi to be able to abandon the town, but no military fortifications would be allowed to be built.

After the 48 hour truce expired Hobby moved his 700 or so troops and local volun-

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Camp Direction for 2008 *Flag Day*

The February meeting of Camp #1250 produced general discussion about the direction of the Camp for 2008 and beyond. About 30 people attended the meeting. New Camp Commander, Dr. Chris Ellis, led the discussion

One goal was for the Camp to start a fund to eventually purchase land. The land could be used as a future meeting location or a site to be able to display flags or other Confederate symbols.

The Camp's website has been inactive since the death of the Camp's webmaster, George Ballentine. John Perry's company is working on an update of the web content, but the Camp will have to find a new host. The Camp agreed to fund a new hosting location and John will have the work completed with a goal of having the site relaunched by March 15th.

Discussion was also held

about 2008 being the Camp's 20th anniversary. It was suggested that a steering committee be formed to develop celebration activities. John Perry has almost completed a Camp history which can be produced in limited quantities.

John Larson discussed the idea of the Camp hosting a local reenactment. After discussing the pros and cons of hosting a reenactment it was decided that the Camp should host a Confederate encampment at Confederate Park in Belton in connection with Confederate History Month in April. Tentative date would be April 26-27, subject to approval of the City of Belton, owners of Confederate Park.

The Camp also voted funds to replace the Camp's trailer, "Traveller." The trailer is used to transfer the camp's store from one location to another and needs to be replaced.

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two hours of it's adoption by the Confederate Congress. The very first flag of the Confederacy was raised by Miss Letitia Christian Tyler, grand-daughter of the former U.S. President, John Tyler.



One of the early First National flags which was flown above Ft. Sumter after it fell to Confederate forces in April of 1861.

It was also on a March 4th, this time in 1865, that the final flag of the Confederacy was adopted. The Confederate Senate passed Bill No. 137 on February 5, 1865 on to the house, which also passed it on February 27, 1865. It was then signed into law by President Jefferson Davis on March 4, 1865.

**Flag Day
Ceremonies
on March 4th
at the Bell
County
Courthouse
at 9:00 AM**

Camp Schedule

March 4, 2008

Confederate Flag Day Ceremonies, Bell County Courthouse, Belton, 9:00 AM

March 11, 2008

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

April 5, 2008

Camp Highway Clean-up along Highway 93. Meet at the Belton McDonald's at 8:00 AM.

April 12, 2008

Quarterly Camp Dinner meeting at Cotton Patch Café, Temple Mall at 7:00 PM, Social hour to begin at 6:00 PM. Speaker:



TBA

May 13, 2008

Regular Camp meeting at Cotton Patch Café, Temple Mall.

**Next Camp Meeting:
March 11th
Cotton Patch Café
Temple Mall
7:00 PM**

Confederate Gazette

P.O. Box 794

Salado, Texas 76571

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A. M. Hobby

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several poems, several of which were published in newspapers across the South. He continued to write both poetry and prose. His most notable efforts included Life of David G. Burnet (1871) and Miscellaneous Poems (published after his death in 1881).

He moved to New Mexico late in life. The 1880 U.S. Census lists him as a merchant living in San Lorenzo, New Mexico with his wife and two stepsons. He died on February 5, 1881 near Fort Selden, New Mexico, of pneumonia.

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teers into old earthworks built during the Mexican War.

Early on the morning of August 16, 1862 Hobby, armed with only three old smoothbore cannons, began firing at two of the closest Union vessels scoring a couple of hits. The Union flotilla moved out of range, but on August 18th thirty-two Union troops landed on shore with a howitzer, in an effort to flank the Confederate's artillery position. They advanced with artillery support from the Union ships. The Union advance was halted by a

>>>> Battle of Corpus Christi <<<<

Confederate cavalry charge and the Federal troops fled back to their ships. The ships

explode. Because gunpowder was in short supply Confederate officials tried to salvage

many of the unexploded shells. To their surprise many were loaded not with gunpowder, but with whisky.

It would later be learned that a supply of whiskey on one of the Union ships had been stolen from the captain's quarters. The apparent hiding place,

emptied out Federal shells. In the heat of battle the Federal soldiers must have forgotten which ones were the "real" cannonballs and which ones were the "hootched" up balls.



Painting of the Battle of Corpus Christi by Thomas Noakes, painted April 8, 1863.

moved again out of range and then began a bombardment of the city.

Around 400 to 500 shells were fired at Corpus Christi, but many of the shells failed to