

# Confederate Gazette

## Division Reunion Set For Galveston

The Texas Division of the SCV will hold its 111th Reunion in Galveston June 6-8<sup>th</sup>. The reunion will be held at Hawthorn Suites Victorian Resort and Conference Center, 6300 Seawall in Galveston. Camp 1565, 13th Texas Infantry, Brazoria County and Camp 50, John Bell Hood, Galveston are co-hosting the reunion.

Registration for the event will begin at 1:00 PM on June 6<sup>th</sup>. The first reunion event will kick off on the Strand at

6:00 PM on June 6<sup>th</sup>, at the Galveston Railroad Museum. Author Ed Cotham will speak



*Hawthorn Suites/Victorian Resort and Conference Center in Galveston, site of the 2008 Texas Division*

on the Battle of Galveston. Cotham is the author of the 1998 book, *Battle on the Bay:*

*the Civil War Struggle for Galveston.*

On June 7<sup>th</sup> a breakfast, for hotel guests only, will start at 6:30 AM and registration will open at 7:00 AM. At Memorial Service will be held at 8:00 AM at the Episcopal Cemetery where Eric Sandifer will speak. A shuttle bus will be available to take people to the cemetery.

The first business session will begin at 9:00 AM. For

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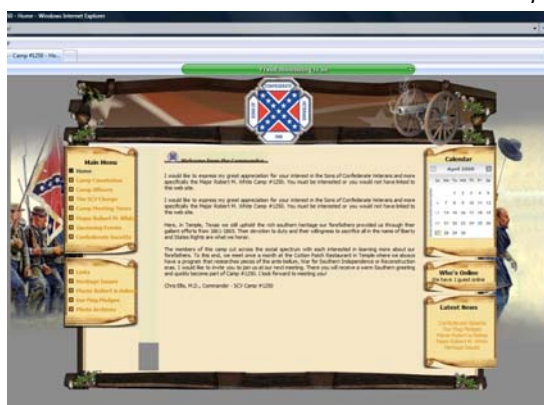
## Camp Launches New Website

The Major Robert M. White Camp #1250 launched its new Camp website in April. The site, which has been completely redesigned, also has a new easier to remember domain address, [www.templescv.com](http://www.templescv.com).

The new redesigned site was completed

by Concentus Media Group,

owned by Camp member



*Screen shot of Camp 1250's new Web site home page.*

John C. Perry, and was done at no cost to the Camp. The site was constructed for ease of use. It uses a content management system (CMS) which allows for approved Camp Members to be able to edit and

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# CONFEDERATE PROFILE

## *Friend of Sam Houston*



**Anthony Martin Branch**

**Like Houston, Branch was a Unionist, but he eventually supported the Confederacy**

He was a very close friend of Sam Houston but had to ultimately disagree with his friend over Texas leaving the Union and joining the Confederacy.

Anthony Martin Branch was born in Buckingham County, Virginia, on July 16, 1823. He was one of ten children of Winnifred (Guerrant) and Samuel Branch III.

Branch graduated from Hampden-Sydney College in 1842. Five years later Branch moved to Texas settling in Huntsville and formed a law firm partnership with Henderson Yookum.

While in Huntsville, Branch became very close friends with Sam Houston. In fact when Houston died in July 1863 Branch became the executor of his will and the guardian of his children.

Within only three years of arriving in Texas, Branch was elected the district attorney of the 7<sup>th</sup> Judicial District. In 1859 he was elected to the Texas House where he was known, "for eloquence and ability." Two years later he was elected to the Texas Senate.

Like his friend Houston, Branch was known as a Unionist, he supported Texas and her entrance into the Confederacy. On March 20, 1862 he resigned from the state senate and joined the 21<sup>st</sup> Texas Cavalry. He was commissioned a captain and commanded Company A of the 21<sup>st</sup>.

While serving with the 21<sup>st</sup> he defeated Peter W. Gray and was elected to the Second Confederate Congress representing the 3<sup>rd</sup> District of Texas. He resigned his commission and reported to

Richmond to serve his fellow Texans. In the Confederate Congress, Branch served as a member of the Elections, Military Affairs, and Territories and Public Lands committees and was vitally interested in the exportation of cotton through Mexican ports.

He was a staunch supporter of President Jefferson Davis, but he was unbinding in his support of states rights in the Confederacy. He strongly supported efforts to keep Texas troops in Texas. He remained in Richmond until the war ended.

Branch returned to Huntsville after the war. He was elected to the U.S. House of Representatives twice, but each time was denied a seat by the Radical Republicans due to his past Confederate service.

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## 21<sup>st</sup> Texas Cavalry

The 21<sup>st</sup> Texas Cavalry was formed during the spring of 1862, with about 800 men. They were from Parker, Dallas, Bell, and Austin counties. It was assigned to Hawes', Cooper's, Steele's, and Lane's Brigade in the Trans-Mississippi Depart-

ment. The unit was active in Marmaduke's Missouri Raid, and then skirmished in various conflicts in Louisiana where a detachment reported 5 killed and 4 wounded at Calcasieu Pass. Later it saw action in Arkansas.

The 21<sup>st</sup> disbanded before the surrender in June, 1865. Colonel George W. Carter, Lieutenant Colonel DeWitt C. Giddings, and Major Benjamin D. Chenoweth were in command. The unit was also known as the 1<sup>st</sup> Texas Lancers.

# Confederate History Month Celebrated in Belton



Photos: Top Left: Rose ladies lay wreath at Courthouse; Top Middle: Linda Wooley reads poem; Top Right: Steve Wooley gives talk on Jefferson Davis at cemetery. Bottom Left: Brandon Baker  
(Continued on page 4)

**Fifty people gather for Confederate History Month Ceremonies in Belton**

## Camp Schedule

### May 13, 2008

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

### May 16-18, 2008

Bellmead Re-enactment, Bellmead, Texas. Re-enactment from 2:00-3:00 PM. See Website:

<http://www.bellmead.com/html/civilre.htm>. Camp store will be set up.

### June 6-8, 2008

Texas Division Reunion, Hawthorn Suites Victorian Resort and Conference Center, Galveston, TX.



### June 10, 2008

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

**Next Camp Meeting:  
May 13<sup>th</sup>  
Cotton Patch Café  
Temple Mall  
7:00 PM**

# Confederate Gazette

P.O. Box 794

Salado, Texas 76571

**Next Meeting:**  
**May 13th**  
**Cotton Patch Cafe**  
**Temple Mall**  
**7:00 PM**

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## Division Reunion

*(Continued from page 1)*

guests there will also be a Galveston Home Tour which will kick off at 9:00 AM. The SCV Awards Luncheon will begin at Noon with Ed Cotham speaking. Following the luncheon afternoon business sessions and brigade meetings will be held.

The Division banquet will be held at 7:00 PM with Dr. Susannah U. Bruce as the speaker. Dr. Bruce is a history professor at Sam Houston State University and the author of *The Harp and the Eagle: Irish-American Volunteers and the Union Army, 1861-1865*. She has an upcoming book which will be entitled, *Hood's Texans:*

*A History of the Texas Brigade and Southern Society in the American Civil War* which will be published next year."

On Sunday morning, June 8<sup>th</sup> there will be a free Prayer Breakfast conducted by Division Chaplain Jerry Haynes.

There is no charge to attend the reunion. Cost for the Friday night reception is \$25 per person, the Galveston Home Bus Tour \$20.00 per person, SCV Awards Luncheon \$20 per person, and the Texas Division Banquet \$45 per person.

Contact Convention Chairman, Les Pettigrew for additional reunion information. Pettigrew may be reached at PO Box 121, Sweeny, TX 77480 or Les\_Pettigrew@deanfoods.com or lesipet@alltel.net.

## A.M. Branch

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Branch resumed his local law practice. He died in 1867, also known as "The Year of Death," when one of the yellow fever epidemics swept the Gulf coast states. Galveston was particularly hard hit and it is estimated that 10% of Huntsville's population died from yellow fever in 1867.

Branch died on October 3, 1867 at the age of 44. He is buried in Oakwood Cemetery in Huntsville very near the grave of his friend Sam Houston.

## History Month

*(Continued from page 3)*  
*bids farewell to Camp as he is off to Iraq; Bottom Middle: Luke Thompson at cemetery and Bottom Right: Flag is raised at courthouse.*

## New Camp Website

*(Continued from page 1)*

update the site without knowing HTML programming language.

Perry said, "If you can use Microsoft Word you will be able to make changes on the site with CMS, it is that simple." The site is built on a program called Joomla and the site is hosted by One and One Internet, Inc.

In April four people were trained on the CMS website by Jason Tuttle of Concentus Media Group. Steve and Linda Wooley, Tom Hughes, and John Perry attended the training session.