

Confederate Gazette

Camp Booth at the Fair

For the third straight year the Major Robert M. White Camp #1250 had a booth at the Central Texas State Fair in Belton.

The booth was manned by volunteers from the opening of the fair Friday, August 29th through Sunday August 31st.

Camp Commander Chris Ellis did yeoman duty by setting up and tearing down the

booth and manning it nearly the entire time it was open.



Camp Commander Chris Ellis & Camp member Richard Sutton man the Camp's booth at the fair.

Also helping at the booth were Tom Hughes, Richard Sutton, Jimmy Dossey, and John and Sandra Perry.

Last year the Camp sold over \$1,800 worth of merchandise. At press time the final numbers are not in, but it seemed that attendance was far

less than last year.

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Dues Are Now Due

Local Camp dues are tied to the fiscal year of the Sons of Confederate Veterans. Now is the time to make your dues payment.

Much of our dues money stays right at home to help the Camp pay for printing and postage of the monthly newsletter, costs for dinner speakers, etc.

This year the Texas Division assisted the Camp by sending out a dues notice to

every Division member. Payments continue to go



directly to the Camp. Dues this year are \$10, Divi-

sions dues are \$5, and National dues are \$30, for a total of \$45.

Please remit your dues to the Camp Adjutant:

Maj. Robt M. White Camp
c/o Gordon Mobley
315 North Wall Street
Belton, TX 76513

The goal of the Camp is to get 100% of our members to renew. Please help honor your Confederate ancestor(s) by renewing your membership.



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Sons of Confederate
Veterans
Temple, Texas

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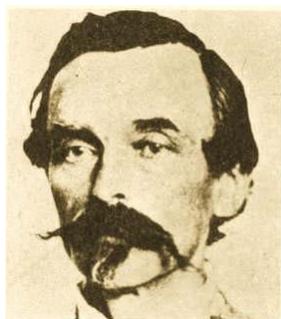
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CONFEDERATE PROFILE

Rearin' Tearin' Pitchin'



**Robert T.P.
Allen**

**Allen Graduated
5th in His West
Point Class**

Of the ten men who commanded the 4th Texas Infantry this man holds three distinctions, he was the first commander of the 4th Texas, had the shortest length of service, and was the only commander to be ridden out of the camp by his men.

Robert Thomas Pritchard Allen was born in Baltimore County, Maryland on September 26, 1813. He was the son of Irish immigrants. He received most of his formal education at St. Thomas Church in Baltimore.

Allen secured an appointment to the Military Academy at West Point in 1830. He graduated from West Point in 1834 finishing fifth in his class. He entered the U.S. Army as a second lieutenant, initially serving in topographical duty until 1836.

He participated in the Second Seminole War in 1836 in Florida, seeing action at a skirmish at Okihumphy Swamp. He was married to Julia A. Dickinson, of Nashville, Tennessee, on July 8, 1834. They would have two sons.

He resigned from the Army in July of 1836 leaving to become a civil engineer, working for the government, on harbor improvements at Lake Erie. In 1838 he became part of the Methodist Episcopal Church apparently serving as a part time clergyman.

Also in 1838 he became a professor of Mathematics and Civil Engineering at Allegheny College in Pennsylvania. In 1841 he left Allegheny and moved to Transylvania College in Lexington, Kentucky. He taught there until he founded the Kentucky Military Institute (KMI)

south of Frankfort in 1847. The school gained a reputation for excellent instructors, strict discipline and very demanding academic courses. The school remained in operation until 1973.

In 1844 Allen's sister married the future famed Union war financier, Jay Cooke.

Allen left KMI in 1849 and moved west when President Zachary Taylor appointed him to head the post office in California and Oregon. He ended up in San Francisco where in 1850 he purchased a local newspaper, *The Pacific News*.

Prior to the War Between the States military schools sprung up all over the South. In demand to lead these schools were men who were either graduates of West Point or Virginia Military

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Camp Ford, Texas

Camp Ford began life as a camp of instruction in East Texas near Tyler. It was named after its first commander, Colonel John S. "RIP" Ford.

In November of 1863, 461 Union prisoners of war arrived. Fearing an escape

attempt a large number of Tyler citizens help construct a 16 foot stockade fence around the 4 to 5 acre compound.

In the spring of 1864 following the Confederate victories at Mansfield and Pleasant Hill the enclosure was

doubled to accommodate the large influx of prisoners. At its peak, in June of 1864 about 5,300 Federals were confined at Camp Ford, making it the largest Confederate POW camp west of the Mississippi River. Over

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Confederate Widow Dies

Maudie White Hopkins, who died August 17th was perhaps the last Confederate soldier's widow.

In 1934 she married former Confederate soldier, William M. Cantrell, in Baxter County, Arkansas. At the time of their marriage he was 86 and she was only 19.

Hopkins, who was Cantrell's house cleaner, accepted Cantrell's offer of him leaving her his land in return for taking care of him for the remainder of his life. He died in 1937.



Cantrell enlisted in the Confederate Army at age 16 and served in the 7th Virginia Infantry. He was also a former POW.

Hopkins, who was embarrassed over the financial arrangement, kept a low profile about the marriage. She later married Winfred White and started a family.

Both her marriage and Cantrell's Confederate record were confirmed by State of Arkansas records. Mrs. Hopkins was 93 when she passed away and was buried in West Helena, Ark.

Robert T.P. Allen

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Institute. In 1851 Allen returned to KMI as superintendent. In 1857 Allen relocated to Texas and became the superintendent of the Bastrop Military Institute (BMI) in Bastrop, run by the Methodist Church-South. One of his students was Sam Houston, Jr. BMI was later renamed the Texas Military Institute and relocated to Austin.

When the war began Allen commanded Camp Clark, a Confederate camp of instruction, on the Sabine River. He initially was given the command of the 4th Texas Infantry, what would later become the core of the famed Hood's Texas Brigade.

Allen was a firm disciplinarian and would write of his Texans, "I fear . . . the prevalent notion among Texans that discipline is not necessary; that the impetuous valor and devotion of our boys, rushing into field without drill, will secure

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**Mrs. White
Maybe The
Last
Confederate
Widow**

Central Texas State Fair

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The Camp store is the main source of revenue for the Camp.



Camp Schedule

September 9, 2008

Regular Camp meeting at Cotton Patch Café, Temple Mall. at 7:00 PM. Speaker: Joe Walker from Waco.

October 18, 2008

Camp's 20th Anniversary Dinner, Mayborn Convention &

Civic Center. Speaker: Bertram Hayes-Davis, Great-great Grandson of President Jefferson Davis.

November 11, 2008

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



December 13, 2008

Annual Southern Christmas Party at Bliss Hall in Little River beginning at 6:00 PM.

**Next Camp Meeting:
September 9th
Cotton Patch Café
Temple Mall
Social at 6:00 PM
Dinner at 7:00 PM
Speaker: Joe Walker**

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P.O. Box 794

Salado, Texas 76571

Next Meeting:
September 9th
Cotton Patch Cafe
Temple Mall
7:00 PM

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Robert T.P. Allen

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them victory. I fear this, because I foresee defeat should our people rest secure under this impression. Let all companies . . . drill, drill, drill." He was nicknamed, Rearin' Tearin' Pitchin' Allen.

While in Virginia with the 4th his men had their fill of Allen's discipline. The regiment's chaplain said Allen, "was not acceptable to either men or officers."

Finally, a group of men grabbed Allen and unceremoniously put him in the saddle of his horse and "amid the hoots and jeers of the boys" and sent him back

to Texas to find other men to train. Allen was replaced by John Bell Hood.

Undaunted, Allen returned to Bastrop and formed another Texas regiment, what would become the 17th Texas Infantry. He commanded the 17th, Texas as a colonel, until November of 1863 when he was given command of Camp Ford in Tyler, a Confederate run POW camp.

At the POW camp, Allen's wife was known as an angel to the Union prisoners. She nursed the ill, consoled the homesick, cheered the despondent, attended church services with the prisoners. Mrs. Allen was held in high esteem and was so loved that one of the Federals wrote a poem in her honor.

Allen resigned from active duty in 1865 and returned to the BMI.

Post war Allen and his wife returned to Kentucky where he served as the Superintendent of the KMI from 1866 to 1874. His brother-in-law, Jay Cooke, helped finance the operations of the school. His son took over as superintendent in 1874 and Allen stayed on as a Mathematics professor until 1877.

He relocated to Florida in 1877 and was involved in several different businesses. Allen died when he drowned while fishing on the Kissimmee River on July 9, 1888. He is buried at Greenwood Cemetery in Orlando.

Camp Ford, Texas

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6,000 total POWs were detained at Camp Ford.

Camp Ford had one of the lowest death rates among all of the POW camps, North or South. About 316 POWs died at Camp Ford.

Like most other War Between the States prisons there was little to no formal shelters for the prisoners. Prisoners would improvise various forms of crude shelters ranging from blanket tents to nothing more than holes dug into the ground.

The Camp was destroyed on July 4, 1865 by men from the 10th Illinois Cavalry.