

Confederate Gazette

Christmas Social On Dec. 13th

The Major Robert M. White Camp #1250's sixth annual Christmas Gala will be held at Bliss Hall in Little River on Saturday, December 13th. The Christmas party will kick off with a social hour beginning at 6:00 PM followed by a dinner at 7:00 PM.



Camp Members enjoy the 2007 Southern Christmas Gala

This event follows similar events held each December for the last five years, where camp members, friends, and guest reviled in an old time Southern Christ-

mas party. At the party a Silent Auction will be held. Camp members

are encouraged to donate any unwanted or extra copies of books, uniforms, period dresses, or other items

of clothing. Items may be submitted in advance to one of the OCR ladies. Items for the auction may also be brought to the event where they will be accepted at the door. The camp store will also be set up so you can purchase you Confederate items for Christmas.

At the event there will be an election of camp officers for the next year. Officers will be installed at the Lee-Jackson Dinner in January.

Reenactment Set For Temple

With the demise of the well attended reenactment at Bellmead, just north of Waco, the City of Temple has stepped up to host a reenactment next year.

The event is set for May 16-17, 2009. The location will be on city owned property in north Temple in the Industrial Park, near the PFG warehouse.

With guidance from Camp Member John Larson, the



City of Temple has agreed to fund the reenactment in 2009.

Future support from the city will depend on the financial viability of the 2009 event.

Much of the details of the reenactment are still being developed, including coming up with a name for the event.

Volunteers are needed, contact either John Larson or John Perry if you can help.



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CONFEDERATE PROFILE

Lancer Leader



Dewitt Clinton Giddings

Giddings Was Captured While On A Scouting Mission

He was northern born and opposed Texas' secession, but once Texas left the Union he quickly offered his services to the Confederate States of America.

Dewitt Clinton Giddings was born July 18, 1827 in Susquehanna County, Pennsylvania, the youngest of eight children of James and Lucy (Demming) Giddings. He grew up on the family farm, but vigorously pursued a higher education. He taught school and studied civil engineering, later working as a railroad engineer at age 20. In 1850 he began to study law.

In 1852 Dewitt joined his brothers, who had moved to Texas. In 1853 he was admitted to the Texas bar, as one of his brother's junior partners in a law practice in Brenham. He and his brothers were also involved in the railroad business prior to the war.

Giddings was opposed to Texas leaving the Union, but accepted the state's popular vote in

favor of secession. After Texas joined the Confederacy and war came, he helped form a cavalry regiment and would be elected its' captain. The unit became part of what was initially known as the First Texas Lancers, later the 21st Texas Cavalry. He served with the 21st until it disbanded in 1865.

The 21st Texas Cavalry served in the Trans-Mississippi Department during the entire period of the war, and the 21st included men from Bell County. For most of the war, until the spring of 1865, the 21st was part of Parson's Brigade, named for Colonel William Henry Parsons.

While on a scouting mission in 1862 near Helena, Arkansas, Giddings was captured by Federal troops. He spent the next six months as a POW, until he was exchanged. After his exchange he returned to the 21st Texas and was promoted to Lt. Colonel in 1863. Giddings and the 21st were involved in the ill fated Marmaduke Raid into

Missouri in April of 1863.

For most of the remaining part of the war Giddings commanded the 21st. In 1864 the 21st was in Louisiana combating Union General Nathaniel Banks forces during the Red River Campaign. The 21st was transferred to Walter P. Lane's brigade in 1865, and would later disband when the war was lost.

Post war Giddings was active in both politics and business. He served as a member of the Constitutional Convention of 1866. In 1871 he was elected as a Democrat to the U.S. Congress, but Republican Governor Edmund J. Davis certified the reelection of his opponent. Giddings appealed and in 1872 he was seated by the U.S. House of Representatives. He was the first Southern Democrat to enter Congress during Reconstruction. Giddings was reelected to the Forty-third Congress (May 13, 1872 - March 3, 1875) and to the Forty-fifth Congress (March 4, 1877 -

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Congress on Race Relations

Dewitt Giddings was part of a group of Southern Congressmen who made a formal Congressional proclamation about race relations in 1875. Ten Southern senators and forty-six members of the House of

Representatives proclaimed the need for positive race relations between blacks and whites.

In part, their statement said, "Let every white man in every neighborhood in the whole

South regard himself as a commissioner of the peace, maintain the kindest relations toward the black man, remembering that the responsibility for the extreme poverty to

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Bertram Hayes-Davis To Speak Congress on Race

Bertram Hayes-Davis, the great-great grandson of Jefferson Davis, the President of the Confederate States of America, will be the featured speaker at the Major Robert M. White Camp#1250's 21st annual Lee-Jackson Dinner in Temple on January 10, 2009. The event will be held at the Hilton in Temple.



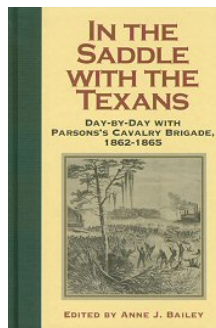
Bertram Hayes-Davis

(Continued from page 2)

which we had been reduced, and the corrupt Government to which his vote had subjected us rests not so much upon him as upon the bad men who, with the assurance of Federal support, have, by appeals to his worst passions, sought to make him our enemy."

Great-Great
Grandson of
Jefferson
Davis To
Speak in
Temple

From the Book Shelf



It isn't the easiest book you will ever try to read, but it is a book that

gives us an important look at everyday life in the Trans-Mississippi.

Anne J. Bailey, a history professor at Georgia College and State University, while doing some research, stumbled on an original brigade order book in Waxahachie. An order book lists the day to day activities of

the unit. The book is from Parson's cavalry brigade, made up of Texas cavalry regiments including, the 12th, 19th, 21st, and the 10th Field Battery. She decided to publish the entire book as a research source.

With a limited number of letters and memoirs from Parson's cavalry brigade, it certainly fills a gap. But many of the one line entries are rather uninspiring and monotonous. There are certainly some nuggets in the book that shed light on what camp life was about, one warns against taking long baths, but many of the entries will only appeal to the most serious of researchers.

If you are a serious student of Confederate units in the Trans Mississippi this is the book for you. If you are a less serious student of the war, it might be a book to avoid. Be warned before you buy it that this one is a reference book, not a general history book.

At the book store:

In the Saddle with the Texans: Day-by-Day with Parson's Cavalry Brigade, 1862-1865, Edited By Anne J. Bailey, 414 pages, Hardcover, ISBN 1-893114-48-1, \$29.95, McWhiney Foundation Press, McMurry University, Abilene, Texas, 2004.

Camp Schedule

December 13, 2008

Annual Southern Christmas Party at Bliss Hall in Little River beginning at 6:00 PM. A dinner will be served.

January 10, 2009

Annual Lee-Jackson Dinner Hilton Garden Inn Hotel, Tem-

ple. 6:00 PM, Speaker: Bertram Hayes-Davis, great-great grandson of Jefferson Davis.

February 10, 2009

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



March 10, 2009

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

Next Camp Meeting:
December 13th
Christmas Social
at 6:00 PM

Confederate Gazette

P.O. Box 794 Salado, Texas 76571

Next Meeting:
December 13th
Bliss Hall
Little River
6:00 PM

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Ox Hill Park Opens

A new five acre park that commemorates the Battle of Ox Hill, which occurred on September 1, 1862, just after the Second Battle of Manassas, recently opened in northern Virginia.

Union Gens. Philip Kearny and Isaac Stevens

died during the fight. Two monuments in honor of Kearny and Stevens were placed there in 1915.

Land for the park was originally owned by John N. Ballard, a Con-

federate cavalryman, who lost a leg while fighting with John Mosby. He deeded a small plot of land to commemorate the location of the battle.

The county owned park was a hard fought battle against developers of the land. Originally the developers wanted to simply move monuments to a new location, but a public outcry prevented it and led to the new park.



1915 monuments to Kearny and Stevens at Ox Hill.

Lancer Leader

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March 3, 1879). In 1886 Giddings ran unsuccessfully against Lawrence Sullivan (Sul) Ross for the Democratic gubernatorial nomination.

On the business side, Giddings and one of his brothers became land agents and owners of holdings throughout Texas. Together they founded the Giddings and Giddings bank in Brenham in 1866. Dewitt became

the sole owner and operator of the bank when his brother died in 1884. He also was a major shareholder in the Texas Mutual Life Insurance of Galveston and had railroad interest as well.

In 1860 he married Malinda C. Lusk, the daughter of Samuel C. Lusk. Together they had five children. His wife passed away in 1869. Giddings died of heart disease in Brenham on August 19, 1903, and was buried in Prairie Lea Cemetery.



Grave of Dewitt Giddings in Brenham