

Confederate Gazette

Donation For South Belton

Kathy Maxey made a \$5,000.00 donation to the Major Robert M. White Camp #1250 for its South Belton Cemetery Project. Maxey made the donation in honor of her late husband, Larry Jack Maxey of Chilton, who passed away on December 14, 2009.

Larry was a Charter Member of the Camp and served as the Camp's Commander in 1995. Kathy asked that the money be used for the

South Belton Cemetery, a project that Larry strongly supported.

Camp Member John C. Perry presented the check to the Camp at the February Camp meeting. He also made a motion that the donation be used for three new flag poles at the cemetery and that the flag poles be named in honor of Larry. Perry's motion was approved unanimously by the Camp.

The cemetery flag poles were the next phase of the Camp's restoration project. The three poles will fly the U.S., Texas, and Confederate flags.

In addition to his Camp service, Larry also served as a Lieutenant Commander of the Central Texas Brigade in 1994 and 1995 and as a former Texas Division Quartermaster. He was a loyal member of the SCV for nearly 25 years.

Davis Youth Camp Set For Texas

The SCV's Sam Davis Youth Camp will be held in Central Texas at Three Mountain Retreat near Clifton, Texas. The youth camp is open to all kids, girls or boys, ages 12 to 18. The camp will be held June 13th through June 19th.



by many schools systems.

The youth camp is named for Confederate soldier Sam Davis of Smyrna, Tennessee, also known as the "Boy Hero of the



Confederacy." He was captured by Federal forces on November 20, 1863 and charged with being a spy.

He was threatened with execution unless he revealed the

names of Confederate spies. He refused, saying his last words "I would die a thousand deaths before I would betray a friend." Sam Davis was executed by the Union Army on November 27, 1863.

Applications for the youth camp must be completed and turned in no later than June 1, 2010.

Cost for the event is \$495 and includes all meals and lodging. Visit the Camp's web site www.samdavisyouthcamp.org for details.



Major
Robert M. White
Camp #1250
Sons of Confederate
Veterans
Temple, Texas

www.scvtemple.com

John Larson, Jr.
Camp Commander
9645 FM 438
Troy, TX 76579

John C. Perry
Newsletter Editor
P.O. Box 794
Salado, TX 76571

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White Camp #1250

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CONFEDERATE PROFILE

Pickett's Charge Survivor



**James Lawson
Kemper**

**Kemper lead
brigade during
Pickett's Charge**

He was one of the few men to advance during Pickett's Charge at Gettysburg to survive the famous assault.

James Lawson Kemper was born in Madison County Virginia on June 11, 1823, the son of William and Maria E. Allison Kemper. Kemper attended Virginia Military Institute and later graduated from Washington College (now Washington & Lee) in Lexington, Virginia, graduating in 1842.

Upon his graduation he studied law and began a law practice by 1843. He suspended his law practice to volunteer for the U.S. Army during the Mexican War. He served as a captain, but the war ended before Kemper could see any combat action.

Post war he returned home to Virginia where he resumed his practice of law. He became active in Virginia politics and served in the Virginia House of Delegates from 1848 to 1860,

serving as the Speaker of the House in 1858-60.

As war clouds loomed over the nation Kemper did not favor secession. However, when Virginia left the Union, Kemper immediately offered his services to Virginia, serving as a brigadier general in the Provisional Army of Virginia. He formed a regiment, that would become the 7th Virginia Infantry, and entered Confederate Army service as a colonel.

He fought with his regiment at First Manassas and during the Peninsula Campaign in 1862. He performed well at the Battle of Williamsburg on May 5, 1862, earning high praise from his commander, A.P. Hill, who said Kemper was, "conspicuous throughout for his daring and energy." He was promoted to brigadier general after the Battle of Seven Pines on May 31 and June 1, 1862.

Upon his promotion he was given command of the 1st Brigade under James Longstreet,

as part of the Army of Northern Virginia under Robert E. Lee. He performed well as a brigade commander at the Second Battle of Manassas, helping to crush the Union flank, and less well at the Battle of Sharpsburg, causing Lee's flank to be exposed. He and his men were held in reserve at Fredericksburg and he also missed action at Chancellorsville, as his unit had been detached temporarily away from Lee's army, serving in North Carolina.

Kemper and his brigade re-joined Lee's army in time for the invasion of the North in 1863. His unit was one of the last of the invasion forces to head north, serving under the command of division commander, George Pickett. Being the freshest forces on the field, Pickett's division was given the lead role in attacking at on the third day at the Battle of Gettysburg.

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Kemper on the "Charge"

James L. Kemper was one of the division commanders during the renowned "Pickett's" Charge at Gettysburg on July 3, 1863. Post war there was a blame game on who was responsible for the failure of the attack. Kemper, with his first hand view of the charge, didn't really want to join in the fray,

but did make some observations.

In a 1886 letter Kemper said that he did not want to cast a disparagement on any other divisions, but he only saw members of Pickett's Division come close to the Union lines. Kemper wrote, "... from the beginning to the end of that

charge, up to the time when Pickett's division found itself in the cul-de-sac of death unto which it had been hurled, where it met an overpowering fire in front, and raking fires both from the right and the left, I never saw any command or any troupe (sp) on the Confederate side except the three brigades of Pickett's division."

Colonel Reb To Be Replaced at Ole Miss

"Colonel Reb," the venerable mascot of the University of Mississippi is to be replaced by a new mascot. A vote among students on February 23rd indicated a desire to pursue a new school mascot.

Ole Miss formally dropped "Colonel Reb" in 2003 when it attempted to move away from its Old South roots. Since then the school has not had a mascot. A positive vote on the 23rd was in favor of beginning a process to find a new mascot and a no vote was for continuing to not have a mascot.

Of Ole Miss' approximately 18,000 students only 3,366 voted, about 75% voted in favor of finding a new mascot. The school hopes to select a new mascot by the beginning of football season.

There are a number of organized efforts to stop the selection of a new mascot.



Former Ole Miss mascot, "Colonel Reb"

One group, the Colonel Reb Foundation was formed in 2003 when the mascot was originally dropped, had bought advertisements in the student newspaper in hopes of producing a "no" vote on the proposal.

There is no change in the nickname of the school, it will remain the "Rebels." There have been numerous suggested mascot replacements, one popular one would be based on a river boat gambler.

Pickett's Charge Survivor

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Lee decided to launch a frontal assault on the Union forces situated on Cemetery Ridge. The attack would require the Confederates' nearly one mile long line to advance about three-quarters of a mile through predominately open fields to the Union lines. Kemper and his five regiments of Virginia infantry (1st, 3rd, 7th, 11th, and 24th) began the attack on the Confederate right. They moved forward with the rest of the approximately 12,500 Confederates, but as they crossed the Emmitsburg Road they took heavy flanking fire. Kemper, who was leading his men on horseback, rose from the saddle and yelled, "There are the guns, boys, go for them!"

Shortly after rallying his men Kemper was hit by Union fire in the groin area and in his thigh. He was close enough to the Union lines to be initially captured by them. As Kemper describes it, his men would have nothing of that and they rushed the Federals firing at them until they fled. He was

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Kemper at Gettysburg:

"There are the guns, boys, go for them."

Camp Schedule

March 9, 2010

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

April 10, 2010

Camp Quarterly Dinner meeting Cotton Patch Café, Temple Mall. 7:00 PM. Speaker: TBD.

May 11, 2010

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

June 4-6 2010

Texas Division Annual Reunion at the Doubletree Inn (Highway 75 and Campbell) in Richardson, Texas



June 8, 2010

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

**Next Meeting:
March 9th
Cotton Patch Café
Temple Mall
7:00 PM**

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New Man At Gettysburg

A new Superintendent has been named at the Gettysburg National Military Park and Eisenhower National Historic Site. Effective March 1, 2010 James Robert "Bob" Kirby, former superintendent of Petersburg National Battlefield since 2001, will take control.

Kirby replaces former Gettysburg Superintendent John A. Latschar who was reassigned on Oct. 26, 2009.

Kirby has a Bachelor of Arts degree in recreation and leisure studies and he has a Master of



Robert "Bob" Kirby

Science degree in recreation and park management from San Francisco State University.

In speaking of his new position, Kirby told the *Petersburg Progress-Index*, "It's a tremendous challenge. It's an icon park. It's a huge honor to be asked to be superintendent of a nationally-significant cultural resource."

The former Gettysburg Superintendent,

Latschar, was reassigned after it was discovered that he had over 3,400 sexually explicit images on his office computer.

Pickett's Charge Survivor

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then carried back to the Confederate lines by his men, seriously wounded. He encountered Lee as he was being taken to a field hospital where he told Lee, "do full justice to this division for its work today." His wounds were too great to be evacuated when Lee withdrew from the field on July 5th, so Kemper was captured by the Federals. After being treated for his wounds by Union surgeons Kemper became a prisoner of war until he was exchanged on September 13, 1863. He was unable to return to field duty, but was given commander of the Reserve

Forces of Virginia and would be promoted to the rank of major general on September 19, 1864.

After the war was over, Kemper returned home to practice law. He reentered Virginia politics and served as the first post Reconstruction governor of the state from 1874 to 1878 as a Democrat. He then retired to private life. He suffered from pain with the Gettysburg

wound in his groin for the rest of his life.

He died April 7, 1895 and is buried with a simple grave marker at the Kemper Family Cemetery in Orange County, Virginia.



Grave marker of Kemper