

Confederate Gazette

Confederate History Month

The Major Robert M. White Camp #1250 will formally celebrate Confederate History Month in Texas on April 10th-11th. The Camp will kick off the celebration with its quarterly dinner meeting at the Cotton Patch Café in Temple, Saturday April 10th. The event will begin at 6:00 PM with a social hour, with the meeting beginning at 7:00 PM.

The next day, Sunday April 11th, the Camp will hold its tenth annual Confederate History Month ceremonies in Belton. Camp members and friends are asked to gather at the Confederate statue at the

Bell County Courthouse at 1:00 PM. The Confederate

laid at the Confederate soldier's statue.



First National Flag being raised at courthouse in April, 2009.

First National flag will be raised and a wreath will be

Following that event the group will reform at the South Belton Cemetery where the Camp will honor the Confederate soldiers buried there. Steve and Linda Wooley will do a first person portrayal of a Confederate Veteran and his wife buried at the cemetery.

After those ceremonies, everyone is invited to a lunch at Confederate Park in Belton. A barbeque meal, to be catered by Wes' in Temple, will be served. To satisfy your sweet tooth the local Order

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Reenactment On Track For May

The Second Annual Battle of Temple Junction is set for May 21-23, 2010. This years event is being entirely run by the Major Robert M. White Camp #1250.

The schedule for this years reenactment is similar to last years, with an Educational Day on Friday May 21st, followed by two days of re-

enactments, on Saturday and Sunday, May 22-23rd.



Battle of Temple Junction Logo

The Camp has currently raised nearly \$5,000 for the event, including a major donation from the City of Temple and the Bell County Historical Commission.

Volunteers are needed through out the three day event. Please contact Camp Commander John Larson if you can help.



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CONFEDERATE PROFILE

At the Beginning & the End



John C. Vaughn

Vaughn was captured in Vicksburg, Mississippi

He participated at the very beginning of the War, with the firing upon Fort Sumter and was involved in the last Confederate council of war held by Jefferson Davis.

John Crawford Vaughn was born in Grayston County, Virginia on February 24, 1824. While just a youngster his family moved from Virginia to Monroe County in eastern Tennessee where he spent most of his youth. When the U.S. went to war with Mexico, Vaughn offered his services and entered the army with the 5th Tennessee Volunteers, although he saw no combat during the war.

After the war Vaughn became a merchant in Sweetwater, Tennessee. Prior to the outbreak of the War Between the States Vaughn was the Sherriff of Monroe County. He was in Charleston, South Carolina when Confederate batteries fired on Fort Sumter in Charleston harbor. Vaughn

actually assisted in firing a round at the fort.

Vaughn returned home to Tennessee to help raise an infantry company from his home county and from Knoxville, with enough men to form a regiment. He was elected colonel of the 3rd Tennessee Infantry. He and his men first saw action in western Virginia and later at the First Battle of Manassas, where his regiment captured Union artillery, the first taken by the Confederates in the field.

He returned to Tennessee to command a brigade, composed of the 60th, 61st and 62nd Tennessee Infantry. He was promoted to brigadier general in September 22, 1862. Vaughn and his men were assigned to help defend Vicksburg, Mississippi and when Vicksburg was surrendered on July 4, 1863, Vaughn was captured. He was paroled and exchanged the next day.

Vaughn was reunited with the 3rd Tennessee Infantry and two

other regiments in eastern Tennessee and in late 1863 his brigade was to convert to mounted infantry. In May of 1864 he and his men were sent into the Shenandoah Valley. At the Battle of Piedmont, Virginia on June 5, 1864, the Confederates were defeated and Vaughn was wounded.

He spent the rest of the war in eastern Tennessee leading smaller-scale guerilla style operations, mostly with mounted troops. As a guerilla style fighter Vaughn earned a reputation as a brutal fighter. He and his men gave "no quarter" when dealing with bushwhackers.

At the very end of the war Vaughn was with Confederate President Jefferson Davis as part of his escort as Davis attempted to elude Federal capture. At Abbeville, South Carolina, Vaughn was one of the five brigade commanders who took part in the last coun-

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Yankees Target Vaughn Family

Confederate Brigadier General John C. Vaughn was the only general on either side whose family was captured and imprisoned.

In July of 1864 various members of Vaughn's family were arrested at their home in east-

ern Tennessee by order of Union General William Tecumseh Sherman. They were placed in a boxcar and shipped to Jeffersonville, Indiana.

The females in the Vaughn family were released sometime in September of 1864, but

Vaughn's elderly father was kept in prison until the war was over.

Vaughn's family were the only family members of a Confederate general incarcerated as hostages during the war.



Camp members and friends gather at South Belton Cemetery last year in honor of Confederate History Month.

Confederate History Month Observance

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of the Confederate Rose will hold a bake sale.

All Camp members and friends are urged to attend this annual event. The Camp has held ceremonies in Belton in honor of Confederate History Month every year since 2001.

The Texas Senate, in 1999, passed resolution number 526 which proclaims that April is Confederate History Month in Texas. It is officially celebrated in Texas as well as in six other Southern states.

The 10,000 lb. Dahlgren cannon recovered is one of 1,200

Cannon Recovered in Texas

Late last year it saw light for the first time since January 1, 1863. The 11-foot-long Dahlgren cannon, weighing almost 10,000 pounds, was raised to the surface last year. The

cannon was formerly located on the *USS Westfield*, which

was intentionally sunk by Union forces to prevent its capture by Confederate forces, after it grounded in the channel during the 1863 Battle of Galveston.

PBS&J, a Tampa, Florida based

engineering and construction management company located the wreck of the *USS Westfield* in 2005, as they were doing work on a \$71 million U.S. Army Corps of Engineers project to

deepen the Texas City Channel along the Texas coast.

The Dahlgren

cannon recovered is one of 1,200 made during the War Between the States. It once fired 9-inch shells, and some shells were also recovered

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10,000 lb Dahlgren Cannon

At the Beginning and the End

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civil of war held by Davis.

Vaughn was paroled at Washington, Ga., May 9, 1865. Post war he returned to eastern Tennessee and served in the Tennessee state senate. Toward the end of his life Vaughn was living in Georgia, where he was a farmer and a merchant. He died near Thomasville, Georgia on September 10, 1875.

Camp Schedule

April 10, 2010

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

April 11, 2010

Confederate History Month Annual Celebration beginning at Bell County Courthouse at 1:00 PM, followed by a memorial

event at the South Belton Cemetery and a barbeque lunch and Southern fellowship at Confederate Park in Belton.

May 11, 2010

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



May 21-23, 2010

Battle of Temple Junction Reenactment. Volunteers are needed. Contact Commander John Larson.

Next Meeting:
April 10th
Cotton Patch Café
Temple Mall
7:00 PM

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Salado, Texas 76571

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2010 Texas Division Reunion

The Texas Division Reunion will be held in Richardson Texas on June 4-6, 2010. The annual event will be hosted by the William H. L. Wells Camp #1588 in Plano.

Events will kick off on Friday evening, June 4th, at the hotel with a Memorial Service at 5:30 PM. A dinner will be held that evening at 7:00 PM. Cost for the dinner is \$25 per person.

The opening ceremonies will begin at 8:30 AM on Saturday June 5th. The Awards Luncheon will be held at Noon, tickets are \$30 each.

A "Planter's Society Ball" will be held that evening at 7:00 PM, with tickets being \$50 per person. The featured speaker will be the SCV's

Commander-in-Chief, Chuck McMichael.

A Division Executive Council will be held on Sunday morning, June 6th at 9:00 AM.

All of the event swill be held at the Doubletree Hotel on North Central Expressway in Richardson.

Special SCV room rates are available, for \$89.00 plus tax. To secure this rate you must contact Buddy Burch from the William H.L. Wells Camp at 2970 Warm Springs, Richardson, TX 75082 or you may e-mail him at: buddy.burch@gmail.com.

Registration forms are available on the Texas Division's web site.

Cannon Discovered in Texas

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from the wreck.

The *USS Westfield*, an 822-ton side-wheel gunboat, was built in 1861 in New York City as a Staten Island civilian ferryboat. The ship was purchased by the Navy in November 1861 and placed in commission in January 1862. It was sent to the Gulf of Mexico in February, and took an active part in the April campaign to open the lower Mississippi River and capture New Orleans.

During the following three months, the gunboat supported the mortar schooner flotilla in operations up the river toward Vicksburg. The *USS Westfield* was sent to join the blockading force off Texas later in the summer of 1862, then partici-



Cannon balls recovered from the Westfield

pated in the capture of Galveston in early October of 1862.

As the Union fleet retreated after the Battle of Galveston, the *USS Westfield's*, Captain William Renshaw, ordered the ship destroyed to protect it from falling into the hands of the Confederates. The captain and 13 crewmembers made preparations to blow up the ship; however the vessel exploded prematurely, killing all 14 of the men on board.