

Confederate Gazette

Camp Hosts Christmas Gala

The Seventh annual Christmas Gala was held on December 5th at Wes' in downtown Temple. Approximately 45 people attended the event, and were treated to a meal of barbeque and catfish, along with homemade desserts.

At the meeting Camp officers for 2010 were elected. Elected as the Camp Commander was John Larson from Troy, elected 1st Lieutenant Commander was Robert Berry, elected 2nd Lieutenant Commander was Jimmy

Dossey from Gatesville, and elected Adjutant was Joe

Lee-Jackson Dinner in January.



White from Temple. These men will be installed at the

A Silent Auction and raffle were held by the Wildflower Rose Chapter. The funds raised by the auction will benefit the flag pole project at the South Belton Cemetery. A total of \$315 was raised from the auction and the raffle.

Presiding over the meeting was 1st Lieutenant Commander John Larson, who reported that the Camp Store made \$540 in sales from the Liendo Reenactment.

22nd Lee-Jackson Set For Jan. 16th

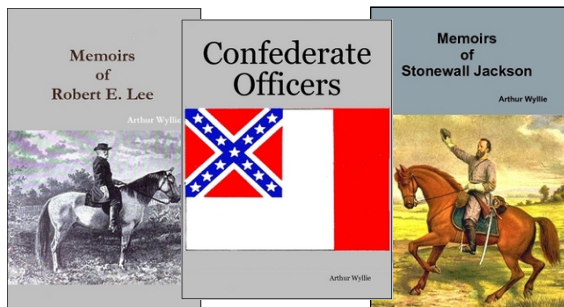
The Major Robert M. White Camp #1250 will hold its 22nd Annual Lee-Jackson Dinner on Saturday night, January 16, 2010. The event will be held at the Sammons Community Center in Sammons Park in Temple. The festivities will begin with a social hour at 6:00 PM followed by a dinner at 7:00 PM. The cost of the meal will be \$15 per person.

The featured speaker for the event will be Arthur Wyllie, author or editor of over 26

American history.

The dress for the event is either period, formal, cocktail, or "Sunday best" attire.

This annual event honors Robert E. Lee and Thomas J. "Stonewall" Jackson who both have January birthdays. The Camp has held the dinner continuously since the Camp was founded in 1988.



Books by the Lee-Jackson speaker, Arthur Wyllie

books on War Between the States or other aspects of



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CONFEDERATE PROFILE

Texas Frontier Veteran



James Patrick Major

He was a veteran Indian fighter from the Texas and Oklahoma frontier. He was well suited to answer the Confederacy's call for help.

James Patrick Major was born on May 14, 1836, in Fayette, Missouri. He was the son of Samuel Collier Major. He received an appointment to the US Military Academy at West Point in 1852 and graduated four years later, 23rd in his class of 49. Fitzhugh Lee also graduated in Major's class.

Upon graduation Major was brevetted a 2nd Lieutenant and assigned to cavalry school at Carlisle, PA. He was promoted to a full 2nd Lieutenant in December of 1856 and assigned to frontier duty at Fort Clarke, Texas with the Second U.S. Cavalry.

He was involved in many Texas frontier fights with Indians, including the Comanches and the Kiowas. In one fight near Wichita Village in Oklahoma on

October 1, 1858 he killed three Comanches with his own hands. Major was commended for his "conspicuous gallantry," during that fight. From 1859 to 1861 he was at Indianola at the Commissary Depot.

In 1859 he married Eliza Chalmers, a sister-in-law of Tom Green. The couple would have only one child, a daughter. As war loomed, Major resigned from the US Army on March 21, 1861 and offered his services to the Confederate Army. He initially served, as lieutenant colonel, on the staff of General David E. Twiggs and then under General Earl Van Dorn, whom he had served with on the Texas frontier.

At the Battle of Wilson's Creek Major commanded a regiment, 679 men, of the Missouri State Guard on August 10, 1861. Back with Van Dorn he helped successfully defend Vicksburg in the summer of 1862.

In 1863 Major, promoted to a colonel, commanded three

Texas cavalry regiments during operations along the Teche River in Louisiana. He was wounded during an attack on Federal fortifications at Donaldsonville, Louisiana on June 28, 1863, but would not leave the field of battle.

During the Red River Campaign, Major was again promoted to brigadier general on the recommendation of General Richard Taylor, as a cavalry commander. He served first under General Tom Green and later under General John A. Wharton. Under Wharton's death Major was in command of all the Trans-Mississippi cavalry.

On June 11, 1865 Major was paroled at New Iberia, Louisiana. Post war he left the United States spending some time in France, before returning to the US. He settled in Louisiana as a planter.

Major remarried in 1871 to Mrs. Emily Schiff becoming the

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Major killed three Comanches single handedly

Battle of Wichita Village

It was a forerunner battle of the War Between the States, featuring several men who would win their laurels in a few short years.

The Battle of Wichita Village occurred in south-central Oklahoma near the present

town of Rush Springs, OK, about 65 miles south of Oklahoma City. The fight occurred on October 1, 1859 when US troops in the 2nd US Cavalry attacked a Comanche village.

The US troops, 4 companies of men, were led by Major Earl

Van Dorn, a future Confederate general. They were preceded by Indian scouts led by Lawrence "Sul" Ross, another future Confederate general. Also taking part in the attack was future Confederate general James P. Major.

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Camp Member Passes Away

Larry Jack Maxey 64, of Chilton, a Charter Member of the Major Robert M. White Camp #1250 and Past Camp Commander died on Monday December 14, 2009.

Larry was born October 3, 1945 in Marlin Texas, to Jack and Dorothy Maxey. Larry was a graduate of Chilton High School, Temple Junior College, and received a BA Degree from Baylor University. He retired from the State of Texas as a Medicaid Eligibility Worker, two years ago.

Larry served as the Camp's fifth Commander in 1995. He also served as a Lieutenant Commander of the Central Texas Brigade in 1994 and 1995 and as a former Texas Division Quartermaster.

Larry was an avid reader and collector of War Between the States literature. He was a loyal member of the SCV for nearly 25 years.



He was a member of the First Baptist Church of Chilton where he served as a Deacon for many years. He was also a member of the Chilton Volunteer Fire Department, Chilton and King Solomon Masonic Lodge, 32nd degree Scottish Rite Mason, and Chilton Cemetery Association.

Larry is survived by his loving wife Kathy Maxey; daughter Lori Mitchell and husband Scott; four grandchildren and brother James Maxey and wife Sharon;

His funeral was held on December 16th at the First Baptist Church in Chilton. Camp Member John C. Perry represented the Camp #1250, serving as a pallbearer at the funeral.

Perry, who visited Larry the day before he passed away, said that Larry told him how much he thought of the Camp and hoped we continued to do well with the South Belton Cemetery project.

Texas Frontier Veteran

(Continued from page 2)

brother-in-law of former Louisiana governor and Confederate general, Paul D. Hébert. He and his new wife did not have any children who survived into adulthood.

He died in Austin, while on a business trip, on May 8, 1877



Burial crypt of James P. Major

just 6 days short of his 41st birthday. He was buried in the crypt of his father-in-law John Andrews, at the Ascension of our Lord Catholic Church Cemetery in Donaldsonville, LA.

Larry Jack Maxey was a Charter Member and Past Camp Commander

Camp Schedule

January 16, 2010

Annual Lee-Jackson Dinner, Location: Sammons Community Center, Temple, Social at 6:00 PM. Dinner at 7:00 PM Speaker: Art Wylie.

February 9, 2010

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

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.

**Next Meeting:
Lee-Jackson Dinner
January 16th
Sammons Community
Center
6:00 PM**

Confederate Gazette

P.O. Box 794 Salado, Texas 76571

Next Meeting:
Lee-Jackson Dinner-Jan 16th
Sammon's Clubhouse
Sammon's Park-Temple
6:00 PM Social

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SMU Places War Images Online

Southern Methodist University in December launched a new web site of photographs and other images from the War Between the States. The online exhibit is entitled "Civil War: Photographs, Manuscripts, and Imprints."

The web site location is: <http://digitalcollections.smu.edu/all/cul/civ/>

The exhibit is taken from digital images which were made from items held

by SMU's DeGolyer Library.



Capt. George W. Chilton, 3rd Texas Cavalry Regiment image from Southern Methodist University, Central University Libraries, DeGolyer Library.

Each online image includes descriptions including and the photographer's name, date, time, etc. Battle sites include: the battlefields of Fisher's Hill, Cedar Creek near Winchester, Virginia, Harper's Ferry, Antietam and Hagerstown, Maryland.

The exhibit also features a number of Texas images from the time period.

Sesquicentennial Bill Introduced

A new US Congress bill to establish a commission to commemorate the sesquicentennial of the War Between the States, SB 1838 was jointly introduced by Mary Landrieu (D-LA) and Jim Webb (D-VA).

The bill calls for a commission which would cooperate with and assist the states and various national organizations with programs and activities to ensure a suitable national observance of the 150th anniversary of the Civil War. The bill also authorizes a grant program for the development of programs, projects, and activities on the Civil War.

At press time the bill is still in committee.

Battle of Wichita Village

(Continued from page 2)

The US cavalry launched a surprise early morning assault. With the smoke of gun fire combined with an early morning fog, the attack was a total surprise and the Comanches didn't stand a chance.

Over 70 Indians were killed in the fight and US Cavalry lost 3 or 4 men with one missing. Among the wounded were Van Dorn. The Indian village was destroyed along with their crops. Many Indian historians describe the attack as a massacre that included the deaths of women and children. The official battle report, however does not bear that out.