

# Confederate Gazette

## Bricks Placed At Maxey Plaza

One of the final steps in the restoration work at South Belton Cemetery has been completed. The paving bricks in front of the three monuments and flag poles were installed last month. The bricks form a plaza just in front of the monuments and



*Newly finished Maxey Plaza at the South Belton Cemetery in Belton. Photo: John C. Perry*

the plaza has been named the Maxey Plaza in honor of Camp Charter Member, Larry Jack Maxey. Maxey died on December 14, 2009 and

his wife, Kathy, made a donation that helped complete the restoration project in honor of her husband. A plaque in the plaza honors Maxey. The Camp will hold a dedication ceremony in the Spring. The project was started in 2008 as a joint effort with

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## SCV Holds Rally in Downtown Richmond

The Sons of Confederate Veterans held a National Heritage Rally in downtown Richmond, Virginia on February 25<sup>th</sup>. The event was timed to coincide with the establishment of the Confederate government in Richmond on February 22, 1862, 150 years ago.



*Heritage march in Richmond. Photo: P. KEVIN MORLEY Richmond Times-Dispatch*

About 400 people attended the event, which included a march down Monument Ave.

in Richmond and ended at the Robert E. Lee statue. The SCV's Commander-In-Chief, Michael Givens addressed the crowd. There were a handful of protesters, one had a home made sign that read, "We're glad your stinking rebels lost the war." There were a few heated words between the

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# CONFEDERATE PROFILE

## *Legion Commander*



**Thomas Reade Rootes Cobb**

**Cobb left the Confederate Congress to form Cobb's Legion**

**H**e was an ardent believer in slavery and secession and gave his life to the cause for which he believed in. He was one of the few Confederate officers to command a true legion of soldiers.

Thomas Reade Rootes Cobb was born in Jefferson County, Georgia on April 10, 1823 at his family's plantation known as Cherry Hill. His parents were John A. Cobb and Sarah Rootes Cobb. While he was still a child, his family relocated to Athens, Georgia.

Cobb attended the University of Georgia, where he was a member of the Phi Kappa Literary Society. He graduated at the top of his class in 1841. A year after graduating he was admitted to the Georgia Bar and began practicing law.

In 1844 he married the daughter of the Supreme Court of Georgia Chief Justice Joseph Henry Lumpkin, Marion Lump-

kin. They had two sons and four daughters, but only three daughters survived their childhood.

Cobb found success as a lawyer and from 1849 to 1857 he was a reporter of the Supreme Court of Georgia. In 1851 he wrote the well-respected, *The Digest of the Statute Laws of the State of Georgia*, which was a supplement to the state's existing code of laws. He also wrote fifteen volumes of reports from the Supreme Court, and he authored a substantial part of the *Code of the State of Georgia*, which went into effect after his death. He helped co-found the University of Georgia School of Law with his father-in-law, Joseph Henry Lumpkin, for whom the school was named.

Cobb was a deeply religious man, a member of the Presbyterian Church in Athens. He was also a strong believer in education. With his sister he helped create a secondary

school for girls in Athens. The school, which opened in 1859, was named in honor of Cobb's daughter who died at age 13 the previous year.

Cobb and his older brother Howell were ardent supporters of slavery and states' rights. In 1858 Cobb laid out a defense of slavery in his book, *An Inquiry into the Law of Negro Slavery in the United States of America*. The book argued that Africans were inferior to whites and slavery was a legitimate way to help the Africans have a better life.

Prior to the election of Abraham Lincoln as U.S. President, Cobb had argued that Georgia and the other Southern states should remain in the Union, but with the election of Lincoln he changed his position. With his older brother he travelled across the state supporting immediate secession and he was a delegate to the state

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## What is a Legion?

The word legion comes from the Latin word, "legio." In Roman times the term legion referred to the Roman Army's unit of about 5,000 men that included infantry and cavalry. By the time of the War Between the States the word evolved to mean any military unit, smaller

than a full army, that contained men of all three units of service, infantry, artillery, and cavalry with a single integrated command.

One of the most well know War Between the States legions was known as Cobb's Legion. It was organized and initially led by

Thomas R.R. Cobb. As originally organized it did contain men from the three different army branches with seven infantry companies, four cavalry units, and one artillery unit.. The model didn't work well during the war and Cobb's Legion was eventually split up by branches.

# Hunley Freed



## Legion Commander



The Confederate submarine *H.L. Hunley* was freed from its supports and is now completely visible, the first time since 1864 when it sunk in the Charleston, South Carolina

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Secession Convention.

Georgia left the Union on January 19, 1861 and Cobb was elected to the Provincial Con-

gress of the Confederacy, which contained all three of the key elements of an army, infantry, cavalry, and artillery. The unit would soon be known as Cobb's Legion, although it was also known as the Georgia



*HL Hunley free of its truss*  
Photo: Randall Hill, Reuters



*Cobb Family plot in Oconee Hill Cemetery in Athens, Georgia.*

harbor.

The Confederate sub which sank the *USS Housatonic* on February 17, 1864 never returned to port after sinking the US ship.

The wreckage of the *Hunley* was found likely in 1970, the actual date is in dispute. In 2000 the *Hunley* was raised using a 17,000 pound metal truss. The truss has supported the *Hunley* until it was re-

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gress of the Confederacy, meeting in Montgomery, Alabama. He served on the committee that drafted the Confederate constitution and apparently one of the key authors of the document which was hand written in his handwriting.

Apparently he became dissatisfied with the progress of the Confederate Congress and resigned in August of 1861. He returned home to form an army legion, an army unit

Legion, and it was assigned to what would become the Army of Northern Virginia.

Cobb received a commission as a colonel and led his men at Seven Days, Second Manassas, and Sharpsburg (Antietam). About six weeks later he left the remnants of his Legion when he was given a brigade in McLaws' division. He was promoted to brigadier general, but was severely wounded at

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**Cobb was promoted from Colonel to Brigadier General**

## Camp Schedule

### March 13, 2012

Regular Camp meeting at Cotton Patch Café, Temple Mall, 7:00 PM. Speaker: Past Texas Division Commander Greg Hector

### April 14, 2012

Quarterly Camp Dinner meeting

at Cotton Patch Café, Temple Mall, 7:00 PM. Speaker: Granvel Block, Texas Division Commander.

### May 8, 2012

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



### June 12, 2012

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

**Next Meeting:  
March 13<sup>th</sup>  
Cotton Patch Café  
6:00 PM Social  
7:00 PM Dinner**

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**Next Meeting:  
March 13th  
Cotton Patch Cafe  
6:00 PM Social  
7:00 PM Meeting**

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## Hunley Freed

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moved on January 12<sup>th</sup>, freeing the *Hunley* for the first time.

Later this year a major effort will be mounted to remove sea water



*Stern of the Hunley showing propeller shaft.* Photo: Randall Hill, Reuters

salt from the submarine. The approximate nine month process will need to be done before efforts can be made to chip off the remaining concretion off the *Hunley*.

## Rally in Richmond

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SCV's color sergeant and the protesters when they refused to



*SCV's CIC Speaks in Richmond*  
Photo: P. KEVIN MORLEY Richmond Times-Dispatch

step aside. Richmond police stepped in and made way for the SCV. An airplane flew overhead with a banner that read, "Richmond Embrace Your Confederate History."

## Maxey Plaza Finished

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the City of Belton, who owns the cemetery. The cemetery is home to about 100 Confederate veterans who are buried in the cemetery. There are also men who were former Texas Rangers, men who fought for the Republic of Texas, veterans of the Battle of San Jacinto, and one Union soldier. Many prominent early Bell County citizens are interred there. In 2003 the cemetery was designated as a Texas Historical Cemetery.

The cemetery was established shortly after Belton was formed in 1850. The oldest grave is dated May 21, 1851 and the cemetery is one of the first public cemeteries in Bell County.

## Legion Commander



*Thomas R.R. Cobb*

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the Battle of Fredericksburg by a Union artillery blast at

Marye's Heights near the Suken Road. He was carried to a house in the rear. From the house he was taken to he could see the house where his mother was born and his parents wed. He apparently bled to death from the wound which damaged his femoral artery, dying on December 13, 1862.

Cobb is buried at Ocone Hill Cemetery in Athens.