

Confederate Gazette

Lee-Jackson on January 21st

The Major Robert M. White Camp #1250 will hold its 24th Annual Lee-Jackson Dinner on Saturday night, January 21, 2012.

The event will be held at the Cultural Activities Center located at 3011 North 3rd Street, 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 \$18 per person.

The featured speaker for the event will be 3rd Texas Division Commander David Moore.



Special guest, H.K. Edgerto, speaking at 2011 Lee-Jackson Dinner.

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

For more information and reservations contact Steve Wooley at 254-986-2264 or via email at wool44@em-barqmail.com.

This annual event honors Robert E. Lee and Thomas J. "Stonewall" Jackson who both have January birthdays. The Camp has held a special January dinner, since the camp was founded in 1988. Until 1998 the event honored just Lee, but Jackson was

Division Sues State of Texas

On December 8th the Texas Division of the Sons of Confederate Veterans sued the State of Texas for the State's decision to reject the SCV application for specialty license plates, claiming a violation of the 1st and 14th Amendments to the U.S. Constitution.

In a Press Release Texas Division Commander Granvel Block stated, "Like many other non-profit organizations in Texas, the Texas SCV

sought from the State of Texas, through the Department Motor Vehicles (DMV) Board, approval of a specialty license plate, both to raise awareness of their endeavors and to raise additional money to fund their activities.

This action is in regards to the recent denial by the of the specialty license application presented to the Department of Motor Vehicles Board by the Texas Division Sons of Confederate Veter-

ans. Currently, the SCV has specialty automobile license plates available to vehicle drivers in 9 other states. The Division had hoped to have a specialty plate in advance of the Civil War Sesquicentennial."

The official public comments were heavily in favor of the SCV's application, but at a DMV hearing, by an 8-0 vote and without any discussion, the DMV voted to reject the SCV's application.



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White Camp #1250

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CONFEDERATE PROFILE

Prince John



**John
Pegram**

**Pegram graduated
10th in his West
Point class**

It was the event of the social season in war torn Richmond. The handsome young Confederate General, called the "most eligible bachelor in the Confederacy," and one of Richmond's social elite, called by Major Henry Kyd Douglas, "the most beautiful woman I ever saw in any land," were being married. As Federal forces closed in on Richmond in early 1865, it was a wonderful diversion from the ragging war. The splendid St. Paul's Episcopal Church was filled to the brim with the Confederacy's social elite, including President Jefferson Davis and his wife. Sadly, only three weeks later to the day, the star crossed lovers were no more. The same church was filled with mourners, the gallant Confederate warrior had been struck down. The joy of the wedding was replaced with the grief of a church crowded with a young widow and saddened Richmond citizens, now jolted back to the realities of war.

John Pegram was born in Petersburg, Virginia on January 24, 1832. He was born into a well to do and distinguished Virginia family. In 1850, he entered the Military Academy at West Point. Robert E. Lee was superintendent of West Point while Pegram was there. He became friendly with the Lee family, and was a groomsman in one of Lee's son's wedding. Pegram graduated in 1854, 10th in his class.

He was immediately assigned to frontier service, as 2nd lieutenant of dragoons. He served on the frontier until 1858, when he secured a two year leave of absence. During his period away from the army, he toured Europe. He returned to active duty in 1860, but it was short lived. He resigned from the U.S. Army on May 10, 1861, siding with his native Virginia, with a desire to serve the Confederacy.

He entered the Confederate Army as a captain in the caval-

ry. He served under Robert S. Garnett, in July of 1861, in the Confederacy's effort to try to hold on to the western part of Virginia. Eleven counties in western Virginia seceded from Virginia in June of 1861, and Garnett was attempting to secure control of the territory for the South. Unfortunately for the Confederacy, Garnett underestimated the Federal's willingness to attack Confederate positions on Rich Mountain. He left Pegram, now a lieutenant colonel, and only 1,300 men on Rich Mountain. Garnett felt the Federals would not attack up the mountain, but, attack they did. Grossly outnumbered, when the attack came, Pegram and his command were forced to fall back. They were overrun by the Federals in Beverly, where Pegram surrendered with about half of his command. The defeat helped secured West Virginia for the Union.

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Mrs. John Pegram

She was considered by many as one of the most beautiful women in the Confederacy. Hetty Cary was born in Baltimore in 1836. She was related to two of Virginia's "first families," the Randolphs and the Jeffersons.

Hetty was staunchly pro-South and although she was living in Union occupied Baltimore it didn't stop her from waving a Confederate flag. An officer of a Union regiment allegedly pointed Hetty out to his Colonel, asking, "Shall I have her

arrested?" The Colonel looked at her and replied: "No, she is beautiful enough to do as she pleases."

The *New Orleans Crescent* described Hetty as, (you) "will probably never see again, so

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Prince John

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Pegram had been injured on Rich Mountain, when he was thrown from his horse. He was able to continue on active duty, but by the time he reached Beverly, he was confined to bed.

Pegram was confined to a Federal prisoner of war camp until January of 1862. After being paroled, Pegram was promoted to colonel and assigned to General Braxton Bragg's staff, as chief of engineers, in Mississippi. He was transferred to Tennessee, where he served as chief of staff for General Kirby Smith. He participated in Smith's invasion of Tennessee. In November of 1862, he was promoted to brigadier general and given command of a cavalry brigade, serving under Nathan Bedford Forrest. He saw action at both the battles of Murfreesboro and Chickamauga.

Pegram was then transferred to the Army of Northern Virginia, where his younger and lower ranked, but better known brother, Willie Pegram, was serving. The elder Pegram was given command of an

infantry brigade, made up of Virginia regiments, in Early's Division. He performed well as a brigade commander, serving through the Wilderness Campaign. At the Wilderness fight on the second day, his brigade repelled persistent Federal assaults, but Pegram was wounded in the leg. He was forced to recuperate, and saw no action from May 1864 to August, 1864. In September of 1864, Pegram was given command of Early's Division, but was never formally promoted to major general.

Pegram did have one vain weakness. Like his younger brother, Willie, Pegram was very nearsighted, but unlike his brother he refused to wear thick glasses. One brigade surgeon proclaimed Pegram unfit for command without the benefit of spectacles.

The dashing Pegram, called, "the most eligible bachelor in the South," was never less engaged to be married. In 1862, he had proposed to a socialite, Hetty Carey, originally of Baltimore. Henry Kyd Douglas described Miss Carey as, "one of the handsomest

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Mrs. John Pegram

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beautiful a woman!" .. It is worth a king's ransom, a lifetime of trouble, to look at one such woman."



She eventually found her way to Richmond and made history by helping to produce the first three Confederate battle flags, based on the Beauregard design.

She was courted by so many Confederate generals that it led her cousin to say, "Hetty likes them that way; gilt-edged with stars!" When John Pegram won her hand, rivals called him the "prize winner."

Hetty and John's wedding was the social event of the year, but their marriage was short lived when Pegram was killed at the Battle of Hatcher's Run on February 6, 1865. Three weeks to the day Hetty was attending her husband's funeral.

Post war Hetty returned to Baltimore. In 1879 she remarried, and she passed away in 1892.

Hetty helped produce first Confederate battle flags

Camp Schedule

January 21, 2012

Annual Lee-Jackson Dinner, Cultural Activities Center, 3011 North 3rd Street, Temple; 6:00 Social 7:00 PM Meeting. Speaker: 3rd Lt. Texas Division Commander David Moore

February 14, 2012

Regular Camp meeting at Cot-

ton Patch Café, Temple Mall, 7:00 PM. Speaker: Texas Division 1st Lt. Commander Mark Vogel

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.

**Next Meeting:
January 21st
Cultural Activities
Center
6:00 PM Social
7:00 PM Dinner**

Confederate Gazette

P.O. Box 794

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Next Meeting:

January 21st

Cultural Activities Center

6:00 PM Social

7:00 PM Meeting

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War Deaths Recalculated

A major new study is disputing the generally accepted war death numbers for the War Between the States.

Since about 1900 most historians have accepted the number of just under 620,000 deaths on both sides. Binghamton (New York) University historian J. David Hacker has come up with a new figure. Based on an analysis of census data, Hacker puts the total number of deaths at between 650,000 and 850,000.

Hacker analyzed the ratio of male to female survival rates in different age groups in the 1870 census as compared to the data from the 1860 and 1880 censuses. Based on the differences in the numbers for the 1860-1870

war decade compared to the non war decades before and after, he came up with a revised estimate. Hacker's work will be published in the December 2011 issue of the journal *Civil War History*, published by the Kent State University Press.

Camp Loses Reunion Vote for 2013

The Major Robert M. White Camp #1250 put in a bid to host the 2013 Texas Division Reunion. The event would have been held at the Cultural Activities Center in Temple.

At the Division's Executive Committee meeting in December the Camp's bid was defeated 9 to 11 by a Pottsboro, Texas location.

Prince John

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women in the Southland, with her classic face, her pure complexion, her auburn hair, her perfect figure and her carriage, altogether the most beautiful woman I ever saw in any land."

The young couple decided to get married in January of 1865. A special wedding ceremony was held on the 19th, at St. Paul's Episcopal Church in Richmond.

In early February, Pegram sent a brigade to reconnoiter east of Dabney's Mill on Hatcher's Run. They stumbled upon a Union division and fighting erupted. The outnumbered Confederates slowly withdrew, fighting as they pulled back. Both sides called for reinforcements. Georgia units in Evan's Brigade were on their way

back to camp when ordered to return to the front lines. They counterattacked, but were outnumbered and forced to retire. Fresh Confederate troops arrived on the scene and another charge was made.

The second assault was successful, driving away the Federals, but it was during this attack that Pegram was hit. He was on horseback when a musket ball struck him slightly above the heart, just below a locket with Hetty Pegram's picture. He fell to the ground, and soon died.

His young bride was notified and three weeks to the day funeral services were held for Pegram. He was buried in Hollywood Cemetery in Richmond..