

Confederate Gazette

Battle of Temple Junction Held

The 4th Annual Battle of Temple Junction was held on May 18th–20th at 2405 Industrial Blvd. in Temple. The site was moved this year due to major

construction along Loop 363, Camp member John Larson, Jr. coordinated the event again this year.

About 100 reenactors participated in the event, down from previous years. Spectators were roughly the same as last year perhaps a bit more.

This year funding was provided by the City of Temple

(for advertising), the Military Affairs Committee of the



Temple Chamber of Commerce, and the Bell County Historical Commission.

Spectators were able to see two battles fought on Friday

and Saturday. There was also a Field Hospital display, a blacksmith exhibit, and those in attendance were able to roam through Union and Confederate campsites.

Funding was sufficient to advertise the event in the Temple Daily Telegram, Waco



*Above right: CS troops attempt to flank Federals.
Above left: Field piece*

Tribune Herald, Austin American Statesman, and Killeen Daily Herald.

On Friday nearly 100 kids participated in Education Day events coordinated by Tom Hughes.

Gazette Begins 25th Year

No one likely noticed, but if you look at the masthead above with this issue we began the 25th year of publishing the *Confederate Gazette*.

The first issue of the *Gazette* was done in June of 1988. The first issue was a two-page announcement of the intention to restart a SCV Camp in Temple. The *Gazette*

was trying to get people to attend an organizational meeting at the home of John C. Perry in Temple.

"It is hard to believe I have been doing this for nearly 25 years," *Gazette* editor John C. Perry said. "it takes me anywhere from 8 to 10 hours to do an issue," he said. "The most fun part is doing the monthly Confederate

profile, I am so amazed at what I find out about our Confederate heroes as I do the research," Perry said.

He cautioned that he doesn't have another 25 years to do this at his age. "We need to start developing someone in the wings to take over," Perry said. "I will have to hang it up one of these days," he said.



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CONFEDERATE PROFILE

Confederate Bull



Elisha Franklin Paxton

Paxton was wounded at First Manassas

His nickname was "Bull," but he was a respected Confederate officer and one of Stonewall Jackson's favorite officers.

Elisha Franklin Paxton was born March 4, 1828, in Rockbridge County, Virginia. He was the son of Elisha Paxton and Margaret McNutt Paxton. His grandfather had commanded a company at the Battle of Yorktown during the Revolutionary War and his father had served in the War of 1812.

Young Paxton attended local schools until he went to Washington College in Lexington, Va. at age 15, graduating two years later. From there he went north and attended Yale graduating from there at age 19. He took on post graduate studies at the University of Virginia studying law.

After he was admitted to the bar, he left Virginia for Ohio where he worked on land claim

cases. In 1854 he married Elizabeth White. Together they would have 4 children, three of which survived him. One son Frank moved to central Texas, residing in San Saba County. In 1860 Paxton purchases a large home near Lexington called Thorn Hill, the home still stands today.

Paxton was described as being 5' 10" tall and was apparently very muscular, as he was described as being "stout." He earned the nickname "Bull," at an early age, based on his physique and his determination. He was known as a lifetime abstainer from any alcohol and suffered from eyesight problems that prevented him from seeing up close. That condition eventually caused him to leave the legal profession.

He favored Virginia's secession from the Union and quickly volunteered his services to the Confederate Army. In spite of no military training he became a lieutenant in the Rockbridge

Rifles, initially part of the 1st Virginia Brigade. He served under fellow Lexingtonite Thomas J. Jackson, although they weren't on speaking terms prior to the war.

He saw his first major action at Manassas Junction (Bull Run I) in July of 1861 with the 4th Virginia Infantry. As he described it to his wife, "I received a ball through my shirt-sleeves, slightly bruising my arm, and others, whistling 'Yankee Doodle' round my head, made fourteen holes through the flag which I carried in the hottest of the fight." Paxton wrote many letters home to his wife during the war. They were published in 1907 in a book called, *Memoir and Memorials: Elisha Franklin Paxton, Brigadier-General, C.S.A.*

In October of 1861 he was appointed as a major in the 27th Virginia Infantry. He lost his position with the 27th the fol-

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The Bull's Famous Descendant

Confederate General Elisha Franklin Paxton has a famous descendant, his great grandson, Bill Paxton. Paxton, a native Texan, has been in many movies including *Terminator*, *Aliens*, *Twister*, *Apollo 13*, and *Titanic*. He most recently appeared in the History Channel's series, *Hatfields & McCoy's*.



To study for the part in *Hatfields & McCoy's*, Paxton read his great grandfather's letters from the front-lines as a Confederate officer.

"As an actor you can read about the history and visit the place where the feud took

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Left: Bill Paxton as Randall McCoy

Shiloh Exhibit

If you have plans to visit New Orleans this summer or fall you want to be sure to visit Confederate Memorial Hall.

To commemorate the Sesquicentennial of the Civil War and 150th Anniversary of the Battle of Shiloh, Memorial Hall has opened a Special Exhibit on the battle which will run through



Dec 31, 2012. At the exhibit you will see the uniforms, personal items and flags of some of the most prominent regiments in Louisiana that answered General PGT Beauregard's call for troops in 1862.

One exhibit case depicts the uniform coats and possessions of General Beauregard and General Braxton Bragg. In fact Beauregard may have been wearing the very articles of clothing at 2:30 p.m. on April 6

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Confederate Bull

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lowing spring in regimental elections, likely due to his hard hand as a commander. Jackson appointed Paxton to his staff first as a Quartermaster and eventually as his adjutant general and as a temporary chief of staff. By November of 1862, much to the dissatisfaction of other officers, senior in rank to Paxton, he was promoted from major to brigadier general and was given command of the Stonewall Brigade. In a letter home Paxton wrote, "I have received an order conferring upon me the title of Brigadier-General and assigning me to the command of Jackson's old brigade. I made no application for it, and if I had consulted my own inclination should have been disposed to remain in my present position."

Paxton's first major fight as the Stonewall Brigade commander was at Fredericksburg on December 13, 1862. His performance has been criti-

cized by some historians, but his brigade mainly was held in a reserve position during the battle.

Prior to 1863 Paxton was described by some as a "Godless" man and not one prone to practice religion. If that is true it certainly



changed by 1863. In his letters home he frequently mentions attending church services and how he finds strength in God.

Henry Kyd Douglas, Jackson's chief of staff, post war wrote to a Paxton son saying, "He was a very regular reader of the Bible, and, I think, often talked with Gen'l Jackson on the same subject. He was thoroughly impressed with the conviction that he would die early in the opening campaign, and was determined to prepare for that fate." In one letter home Paxton describes Christian soldiers, "To such men death is no enemy, but a messenger expected from God sooner or later, and welcome

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Shiloh Exhibit in New Orleans runs through the end of the year

Camp Schedule

June 12, 2012

Regular Camp meeting at Cotton Patch Café, Temple Mall, 7:00 PM. Speaker: Central Texas Brigade Commander Charles Oliver, speaking on Colonel Harold Simpson's version of the Battle of Sabine Pass.

July 14, 2012

Quarterly Camp Dinner meeting at Cotton Patch Café, Temple Mall, 7:00 PM. Speaker: Author Scott Bowdin speaking on his new book series on Lee.

August 14, 2012

Regular Camp meeting at Cot-



ton Patch Café, Temple Mall, 7:00 PM. Speaker: Beau Purdom, speaking on the life of John Hunt Morgan

**Next Meeting:
June 12th
Cotton Patch Café
6:00 PM Social
7:00 PM Meeting**

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Shiloh Exhibit

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when he received word that Gen. Albert Sidney Johnston had been killed, leaving him in command of the Army of the Mississippi.

Several flags are on display including the flags of the Orleans Guard Battalion and the Confederate Response Battalion as well as letters of men from both sides who fought in the battle.

Museum admission is \$8 for adults and \$5 for children 14 and younger. The museum is open from 10 am to 4 pm Tuesday through Saturday.

For additional information call (504) 523-4522, email mem-hall@aol.com or visit www.confederatemuseum.com.

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as the quick path to a holier and happier life."

During the Battle of Chancellorsville on May 2, 1863 his brigade was ordered to hold Germanna Junction while Jackson flanked the Federals. That evening, after Jackson had been hit by friendly fire, Paxton was ordered to move forward. The next morning the Stonewall Brigade attacked the Union lines. Leading his men, dismounted and at the front of his brigade Paxton, was shot in the chest. He lived about an hour before he passed away.

Douglas informed Mrs. Paxton of her husband's death and he described Paxton's death, "As soon as he was struck he lifted his hand to his breast-pocket. In that

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pocket I knew he kept his Bible and the picture of his wife, and his thoughts were at that moment of heaven and his home. Beloved and esteemed by officers and men, his loss is deeply mourned, and the brigade mingle their tears with those of his family relations."

Post war Douglas would write that Paxton, the night before his death, told him he would be killed the next morning, told him where all his personal effects were located, and asked him to be the one to write his wife. Douglas also wrote that he had told Jackson about Paxton's death and how he was reading his Bible the last time Douglas saw him. Douglas said, as Jackson lay mortally wounded, that tears filled Jackson's eyes, and he said it was just like Paxton

to be reading his Bible. Paxton is today buried in Stonewall Jackson Memorial Cemetery in Lexington, just yards from his former commander's final resting place.

Bull's Descendant

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place, but that really doesn't give you a way in. So I grabbed a book off my library shelf that my Dad had given me." "His letters to my great, great grandmother showed this man's sense of right and wrong, duty and honor, and religious conviction," Paxton said.

The six hour series will continue to air in June on the History Channel.