

# Confederate Gazette

## Texas Division Reunion Held

*By Jimmy Dossey*

The Major Robert M White Camp #1250 delegation was led by Camp Commander Jimmy Dossey, Past Division Commander Greg Manning, Camp Adjutant Mike Belcher, and past Camp Commander John Larson Jr were also delegates. There were 125 delegates present with the total attendance at 205.

A ladies historical tour was offered with 17 ladies attending. Some of the Division members participated in the

100<sup>th</sup> anniversary dedication of the CSA Monument in downtown Victoria.



*Camp Commander Jimmy Dossey receives Bronze Cross award at the Reunion. (Photo by David Moore)*

The highlight of the business sessions was the election of

Johnny Holley to 1<sup>st</sup> Lt Commander. The former Commander had resigned earlier in the year. It was also decided that the 2013 reunion would be held in Pottsboro. The bid for the 2014 reunion will be awarded in October of this year.

Five members of the Camp received the Bronze Cross. They were Mike Belcher, Brandon McGregor, Kelton Haney, John Larson, III, and Jimmy Dossey. John Larson Jr. was awarded the Gold Cross.

## Camp Member in Run-off For Congress

Camp #1250 member Wes Riddle is in a run-off for the Republican nomination for U.S. Congress from District 25. In a crowded primary with 12 candidates, Riddle finished second to former Texas Secretary of State Roger Williams, who will be his runoff opponent on July 31<sup>st</sup>.

Riddle, from Gatesville, is a staunch conservative and is the founder of the Central Texas Tea Party.

Riddle is a 20-year U.S. Army veteran who saw combat in the Middle East. He is a

graduate of the United States Military Academy at



*Wes Riddle, Camp member, who is running in Republican Run-Off for U.S. Congress.*

West Point and received his Master's degree from Oxford

University. He is a former professor at both West Point and Central Texas College.

Although as a non-profit organization the SCV cannot endorse any candidate, certainly Camp members as individuals can. Wes is looking for people who can volunteer their time and resources to help him win in the runoff.

The Riddle Campaign HQ is located in Belton at 110 East Central, (254) 939-5597.

Visit his web site at: [www.WesRiddle.com](http://www.WesRiddle.com).



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 Camp #1250

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# CONFEDERATE PROFILE

## *Unranked General*



**James Spencer Rains**

**Rains fought at Carthage, Wilson's Creek and Pea Ridge**

**A**lthough he never was officially a general in the Confederate Army, he did command joint state militia and Confederate troops.

James Spencer Rains was born in Tennessee on October 2, 1817 to Asahel and Malvina (Duncan) Rains of Warren County. Little is known of Rains' early life, but by 1840 he was living in southwest Missouri near the town of Saracoxie. He was a farmer and very interested in politics. He served as the Newton County Judge from 1841 to 1842 and was elected as a Democrat to the Missouri House of Representatives in 1844 and later served in the Missouri state Senate.

In 1845 Rains was appointed by the Federal government as an Indian agent for the Neosho tribe in present day Oklahoma, then in 1848 he became an Indian agent in the Osage River Agency in Kansas. In 1850 he journeyed to California where

he assisted in the formation of the California state militia and was given the rank of general in the militia.

By 1855 Rains was back in Missouri and had switched parties to the Know-Nothings and in 1858 took up his old state senate seat. In 1860 Rains failed in a run for U.S. Congress as a Know-Nothing candidate. In 1861 he was elected to the U.S. House but never took his seat as sectional issues between the North and the South flamed up. Rains was staunchly on the side of the South.

In 1861 Missouri's pro-Southern governor, Claiborne Fox Jackson, appointed Rains as a brigadier general in the 8<sup>th</sup> Division of the Missouri Guards. Rains was an excellent recruiter but failed as a commander. One friend said of Rains, he "was profoundly ignorant of everything pertaining to military affairs." Rains was also a commander who preferred to

be liked by his men, rarely telling them no, consequently the 8<sup>th</sup> Missouri was known for a lack of discipline.

Rains commanded a division of state militia troops, serving under Confederate command in the battles of Carthage, Wilson's Creek, Lexington, and Pea Ridge. He was wounded in the fight at Pea Ridge. He was briefly arrested by Confederate Major General Earl Van Dorn after he was critical of Van Dorn. In April of 1862 when Van Dorn ordered his men to march to Mississippi, Rains decided not to follow.

Later in 1862 Rains was given command of a mixed unit of Missouri state troops and Confederate regular forces in northwest Arkansas. Later in 1862 Rains was relieved of duties for "incompetence and insobriety," the later an apparently well-earned charge.

*(Continued on page 3)*

## Dueling Militia Forces in Missouri

The state of Missouri was deeply divided by the Civil War. As its citizens were divided so were the state militias.

Missouri had dueling state militias, one side supporting the Union effort and the other side supporting the Confederate effort,

The Union militia was called the "Missouri State Militia." It was conceived in 1861 and began service in 1862. It's primary purpose was to conduct offensive operations against Confederate guerrillas and recruiters as well as oppose raids by regular Confederate

force.

The Confederate force was known as "Missouri State Guard." It was formed by the Missouri legislature in 1861. It was well organized and was opposed to the Union occupation of Missouri. The unit also had its own flag.

# July Dinner Speaker

Scott Bowden will be the Camp #1250's July special Dinner speaker. Bowden will speak on "Robert E. Lee—The Maker of Morale and the Molding of the Army of Northern Virginia."

The meeting will be held Saturday night at 7:00 pm on July 14<sup>th</sup> at the Cotton Patch Café in Temple (at the Temple Mall).

Bowden is a graduate of Texas Christian University and ten-time award-winning author of 25 titles connected to Napoleonic and American military

history.

Two of his works, including *Last Chance for Victory: Robert E. Lee* and the *Gettysburg Campaign*, are included in the curriculum at the United States Army Command and General Staff College.



Scott Bowden

Scott's newest title is an eight-volume work on Robert E. Lee's generalship, and is titled: *Robert E. Lee at War: The Mind and Method of a Great American Soldier*. The series will begin to be released this year.

## Plaque Vigil To Resume

Texas Division Commander Granvel Block has called on the Texas Division of the Sons of Confederate Veterans to resume the

Plaque Vigil at the Texas Supreme

Court building in Austin. A new web site has been set up to assist the effort, [www.plaquevigil.org](http://www.plaquevigil.org). All Division Camps are being asked to



DEDICATED TO TEXANS WHO SERVED THE CONFEDERACY

help in the vigil.

The Texas Division SCV is currently suing the State in an effort to get the original plaques, honoring Texas

troops to the Confederacy, restored to the building. The plaques were removed by then Governor George Bush in 2000.

## James Rains

(Continued from page 2)

Rains then made a personal retreat to Texas. He joined up with his older brother, Emory, in Wood County. His brother had come to Texas when he was a teenager and when Texas was still a republic. Emory was a well-respected politician and leader. Rains County in east Texas is named for Emory as is the town of Emory.

By 1864 James Rains returned to Missouri, at the bequest of the Missouri governor, to go on a recruitment campaign. Rains claimed he raised thousands of men for the Confederate cause.

In 1865, after the war was over, Rains settled in Texas, living first in Wood County, but by 1867 he was living in Kaufman County. He was a farmer, lawyer, railroad promoter and again got involved in politics. He associated with the Greenback political party and in 1878 unsuccessfully ran for Texas' Lieutenant Governor. Rains died in Kaufman County on May 19, 1880 at the age of 62. He is buried in Lee Cemetery in Seagoville.

Supreme Court Building Plaque Vigil To Re-start

## Camp Schedule

### July 14, 2012

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

### August 14, 2012

Regular Camp meeting at Cot-

ton Patch Café, Temple Mall, 7:00 PM. Speaker: Buddy Wheat, speaking on the South's Spiritual Revival during the war

### September 11, 2012

Regular Camp meeting at Cotton Patch Café, Temple Mall,



7:00 PM. Speaker: Beau Purdom

### October 13, 2012

Quarterly Camp Dinner meeting at Cotton Patch Café, Temple Mall,

Next Meeting:  
July 14<sup>th</sup>  
Cotton Patch Café  
6:00 PM Social  
7:00 PM Dinner

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**Next Meeting:**  
**July 14th**  
**Cotton Patch Cafe**  
**6:00 PM Social**  
**7:00 PM Meeting**

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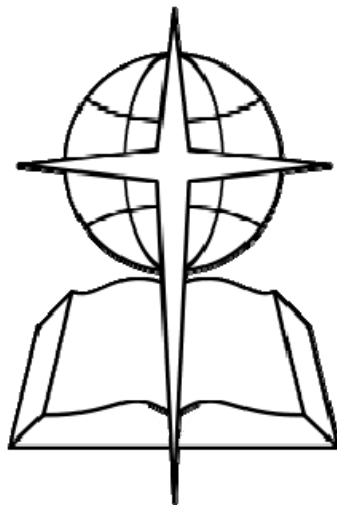
## Are Southern Baptist Still Southern?

The Southern Baptist Convention is the largest Protestant denomination in the United States with about 16 million members. The church was founded in 1845 when the Baptist, like other Protestant denominations, split along North-South lines prior to the Civil War.

Some of the denominations reunified post war, but the Southern Baptist never did. Beginning in the latter half of the 20<sup>th</sup> century the Southern Baptist became more and more diverse. Today it is estimated that about 20% of its membership is made up of minority group members.

In 1995 the denomination renounced its "racist" past and its former support of slavery. Today

the church body has its first African-American president, Fred



*Logo of the Southern Baptist Convention*

Luter, Jr. There are an estimated one million African-American members in the Southern Baptist

church today.

Over the years a number of efforts have been made to delete the word "Southern" from its name. Each time it has come up the church's representatives have soundly defeated the proposed name change.

However, at the last church convention the church body voted not to change the name but to add a descriptor to the name, "Great Commission Baptist." Churches are allowed to use the descriptor in lieu of the Southern Baptist name. Although the name itself officially remains unchanged some see it as the beginning of the end for the "Southern" in Southern Baptist.

## Sam Davis Youth Camp in August

The Sam Davis Youth Camp will reconvene for its 2012 season in August in Clifton, Texas.

The event will be held again this year at the Three Mountain Retreat in Clifton on August 5<sup>th</sup> - August 11<sup>th</sup> and is open to both boys and girls ages 11 to 18.

The goal of the camp is to educate today's youth on our Southern heritage and the true history of the War For Southern Independence.

Additional information is available on the Division web site under "Sam Davis Youth Camp." Deadline for a camp application is July 31<sup>st</sup>.