

Confederate Gazette

Maxey Plaza Dedicated

About fifty people attended a dedication ceremony on Saturday, October 13th at South Belton Cemetery. The event was two fold, to dedicate the Larry Jack Maxey Memorial Plaza and to thank the Maxey Family and all who have donated time and money to the South Belton Cemetery.

Camp member John C. Perry served as the master of

ceremonies and Texas Division Commander Granvel

Block was the featured speaker.

Thanks to former Camp member James Kinnear of Gatesville, all three flags, U.S., Texas, and the Confederacy's First National were flying high on the windy afternoon. All the flags have been re-secured by James after the Confederate flag had been torn down and stolen at an event in the cemetery in April of 2011.

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The Maxey Family help cut the ribbon for the Larry Jack Maxey Memorial Plaza. Kathy Maxey, Larry's wife in the black and daughter Lori Michell far right in white, and grandkids help with the ribbon cutting. (Photo by Tom Hughes)

Cleburne Statue Placed in Arkansas

A life sized statue of General Patrick Ronayne Cleburne was unveiled in October in Helena, Arkansas.

Cleburne called Helena home before the War Between the States broke out and his statue is across the street from where he lived in Helena. During the war he was known as the Confederacy's "Stonewall of the West" and was killed at the battle of Franklin, Tennessee.

Cleburne was born in Ireland but immigrated to the United States eventually settling in Helena.

The \$36,000 statue was commissioned by Helena



Museum of Phillips County and made possible by grants from the Arkansas Arts at

Franklin. Council to the Arkansas Delta Arts Partnership and the Helena-West Helena Advertising and Promotion Commission.

The statue was created by sculptor J. David Nunneley, of Broken Arrow, Oklahoma. He said he tried to capture Cleburne as he was on the last day of his life, November 30, 1864. He said, "he is standing on a spot that was described as breezy hill and he had just met with his General, John Bell Hood." Cleburne was later killed in the fighting at Franklin.



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CONFEDERATE PROFILE

One Tough Texan



**James Campbell
Bates**

Bates entered as a private and finished as a Lt. Colonel

The editor of his papers calls him, "intelligent, well educated, courageous, physically hearty, burning with resentment of the Yankees, and deeply committed to Confederate victory," but his Yankee adversaries may have just called him "One tough Texan!"

James Campbell Bates was born in Overton County, Tennessee on May 14, 1837. When he was only three years old his father died and his mother, Nancy (McDonald) Bates, moved the family to Henderson, Texas. There the family would be close to his mother's family. In 1856 the extended family moved to Paris, Texas. The sharp young Bates attended school in Paris, but later returned to Tennessee attending Bethel College and he would later graduate from the University of Virginia.

By 1860 Bates was back in Texas and he was appointed as a census marshal in Paris for

Lamar County by the Federal government. As the nation became unraveled after the election of Abraham Lincoln Texas left the Union and joined the Confederate States of America in February of 1861. As Texans answered the Confederacy's call for men, Bates joined the 9th Texas Cavalry. The unit officially was mustered into the Confederate Army on October 14, 1861 and was primarily made up of men from Tarrant, Grayson, Fannin, Lamar, Hopkins, Titus, Red River, and Cass counties.

Bates entered the 9th Texas Cavalry as a private, but quickly rose through the ranks. He was elected the 3rd Lieutenant of Company H of the 9th Texas. The unit was first sent to the Indian Territory in present day Oklahoma. At the Battle of Chusto-Talasa (also known as Bird Creek) on December 9, 1861, a Confederate victory, near present day Tulsa, Bates was recognized for saving a

wounded soldier while he was under fire.

In March of 1862 the 9th Texas was involved in the Confederate loss at the Battle of Elkhorn Tavern (also known as Pea Ridge). Later that month Bates was promoted to 1st Lieutenant and in May was promoted to Captain. The remainder of 1862 the 9th Texas saw action in and around Corinth, Mississippi. At the Battle of Corinth in October 1862 the 9th Texas saw heavy fighting while trying to shield the Confederates withdrawing.

By 1863 the 9th Texas was involved in trying to relieve the beleaguered Confederate troops in Vicksburg, Mississippi but saw only skirmishing action. The 9th Texas was ordered east in 1864 to help the Confederate Army's, under Joseph E. Johnston, effort to stop Union General William T. Sherman's advance on Atlanta, Georgia. The 9th Texas was

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The Story of War

James C. Bates was a well-educated, college graduate, Texas soldier when he joined the 9th Texas Cavalry of the Confederate Army. He quickly rose through the ranks until he was severely wounded during the Atlanta Campaign in 1864. Throughout the war he wrote

letters home. He was a prolific writer and he described all that he saw during the war.

The collection of writings, still in the Bates family, were published in 1999 by the Louisiana State University Press and were ably edited by Richard Lowe, entitled, *A Texas Cavalry*

Officer's Civil War: The Diary and Letters of James C. Bates.

It is interesting to follow Bates as he matures through the process. He begins his writings as a 24 year old novice with no military experience and ends as a battle harden vet.

Maxey Plaza Dedicated



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A rifle squad fired a musket salute and the ceremonies ended with the playing of Bag Piper Bill Herridge, from Gatesville.



Photos: *Above left, Maxey family views Larry Jack Maxey marker, Above right, Bill Herridge plays bag pipes, Middle left, Jimmy Dossey visits with Kathy Maxey, Middle right, Division Commander Granvel Block speaks at Cemetery.*

Above: Flags fly in Texas wind at South Belton Cemetery.

(All photos courtesy of Tom Hughes)

One Tough Texan

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part of Sul Ross' Cavalry Brigade and saw almost continuous action, including one stretch where the unit was under fire for 112 consecutive days.

On May 21, 1864 Bates was severely wounded. His men were guarding a bridge crossing north of Allatoona, Georgia on the Etowah River. After two Federal assaults the Union forces retreat and Bates, on horseback with his men, pursued them. As he was doing so, Bates was hit by a Yankee bullet in his mouth, knocking him off his horse and spraying his comrades with blood and flesh. The bullet knocked out several teeth, split his tongue, broke his jaw and then exited by his left ear.

His men likely gave him up for dead, in fact his commander, Sul Ross, feared him "mortally wounded" in his official report. Unconscious, he was taken to a hospital in Atlanta, about 50 miles away, where he lived but would face a long recovery period. He was unable to eat so physicians tried unsuccessful-

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**Bates Was Shot
In The Month on
May 21, 1864 at
Allatoona,
Georgia**

Camp Schedule

November 13, 2012

Regular Camp meeting at Cotton Patch Café, Temple Mall, 7:00 PM. Speaker: Ed Cottingham, "Battle of Galveston Bay 150 years later .

December 1, 2012

Camp Christmas Party at the

Cotton Patch Café, Temple Mall, 7:00 PM. (Party in lieu of regular camp meeting.

January 12, 2013

Annual Lee-Jackson Dinner, including Silent Auction at Gober Party House, Ave H and South 31st St., 7:00 PM. Speak-



er: Scott Bowdin.

February 12, 2013

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

**Next Meeting:
November 13th
Cotton Patch Café
6:00 PM Social
7:00 PM Dinner**

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November 13th
Cotton Patch Cafe
6:00 PM Social
7:00 PM Meeting

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Hays Ban

Once again the Hays High School, south of Austin, has gone on the attack against Confederate symbols, in spite of the school mascot being known as the "Rebels."



A 17 year old cheerleader was told that she could no longer drive her car to school because it had a bumper sticker with the words "Rebel Cheerleader" on top of a Confederate Battleflag.

The girl, M'Kayla Meyer of Buda has driven to school in the car with the sticker for two years. The district bans any display of Confederate flags.



One Tough Texan



(Continued from page 3)

fully to insert a feeding tube. After their failures, Bates took the tube himself and snaked it down his mouth. He described, in a letter home, of surviving on a diet of "soft boiled egg soup."

Prior to the fall of Atlanta to Sherman, Bates was transported to Auburn, Alabama to continue his recovery at a college that is now Auburn University. He eventually went to Brownsville, Mississippi to continue to recover, likely to escape Sherman's soldiers in Auburn. Bates was determined to return to his unit and to his men, but he was very badly wounded. In October Bates returned to the make shift hospital in Auburn. On

October 22nd Bates rejoined his unit in northern Georgia. He stayed up with the regiment as it was continually on the move, but it took its toll on Bates. Regimental surgeons saw that Bates was unfit for duty and Ross gave him a medical leave of absence.

Bates either returned home to Texas or back to Mississippi to continue to recover so he missed John Bell Hood's disastrous defeats at Franklin and Nashville in late 1864. By early April of 1865 Bates had returned to active duty rejoining the 9th Texas about 30 miles north of Jackson, Mississippi. He was appointed the rank of Lieutenant Colonel and was actually put in command of the regi-

ment while the normal regimental commander assumed brigade command. His active duty was short lived as the war ended only seven days later.

He returned home to Paris where he farmed, but apparently inspired by his attending physicians in the various military hospitals he decided to go back to school and study medicine. By the fall of 1866 he had enrolled in the University of Virginia Medical School in Charlottesville and later practiced medicine in Paris.

In 1868 he married his longtime girlfriend Thirmuthis "Mootie" Johnson. Together they would eventually have seven children, five sons and two daughters.

On August 11, 1891 Bates passed away. He was buried in Evergreen Cemetery in Paris.