

# Confederate Gazette

## Christmas Party Dec. 1<sup>st</sup>

The Major Robert M. White Camp #1250's tenth annual Christmas Gala will be held at the Cotton Patch Café in the Temple Mall on Saturday, December 1<sup>st</sup>.

The Christmas party will kick off with a social hour beginning at 6:00 PM followed by a dinner at 7:00 PM. As usual, people in attendance can simply order off the Cotton Patch Café's menu.

This event follows similar events held each December for the last nine years, where camp members,

friends, and guest reviled in an old time Southern-styled



Christmas party.

At the Camp event there will be an election of camp offic-

ers for 2013. Officers elected at the December meeting will be installed at the Lee-Jackson Dinner in January, 2013.

Dress for the Christmas Gala can be either period or modern clothes, casual wear or Christmas season party wear.

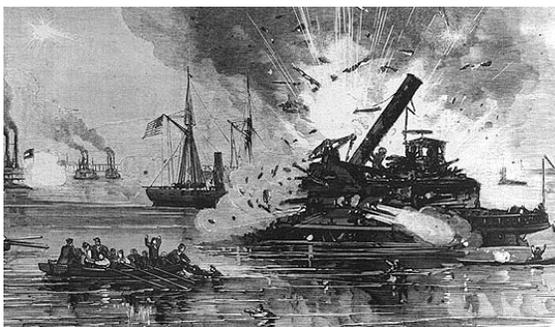
The party will be held in lieu of the regular December Camp meeting. There will not be a speaker at this meeting.

## 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Battle of Galveston

The Galveston Historical Foundation will host the Battle of Galveston Reenactment, Tours, and Encampments in January.

The event will mark the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Confederate victory at the Battle of Galveston on January 11 through 13, 2013. The Battle of Galveston, which took place during the early morn-

ing hours of January 1, 1863, is widely acknowledged as the most important military



*Destruction of the USS Westfield at Battle of Galveston*

event in Galveston's history. Commemorative events taking place include battle reenactments, lectures, living

history encampments, a wet-plate collodion photography demonstration and a variety of special tours and programming focusing on Galveston's part in the 1863 battle.

Living history encampments will be established by the 19<sup>th</sup>-Century Living History Association, Inc. and the 1<sup>st</sup> Texas Brigade.

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**Major  
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Camp #1250  
Sons of Confederate  
Veterans  
Temple, Texas**

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Camp #1250

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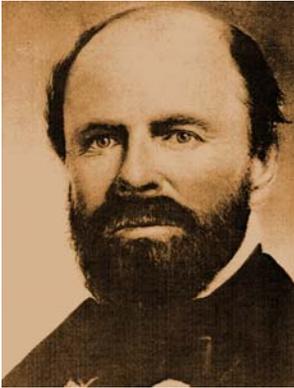
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# CONFEDERATE PROFILE

## *Rebel Businessman*



**Colin J.  
McRae**

**McRae helped to  
found the  
Selma Arsenal**

**H**e was a natural businessman, so he helped the Confederacy, not as a soldier, but as a businessman, aiding the financial efforts of the struggling nation.

Colin J. McRae was born in North Carolina in 1815, but his family moved to Mississippi when he was about four years old, settling in Winchester. His father owned a mercantile business and was one of the first cotton brokers in the area to move cotton by barge. His younger brother was John who would become a U.S. Senator (1851-1852) and later serve as Mississippi's governor (1854-1857).

When McRae's father died in 1835 young Colin inherited the family business expanding the cotton trading aspect. He served briefly in the Mississippi legislature, but in 1840 he moved to Mobile, Alabama. He continued as a cotton broker and was cofounder of Boykin &

McRae.

He was staunchly in favor of Alabama's succession and served on the Alabama delegation to form the Provisional Government of the Confederate States. He was also a signer of the Confederate Constitution.

When war broke out McRae assisted with attempting to secure the Mobile harbor area but his prime concern was over arms and ammunition for the Confederacy. He was able in 1861 to secure a contract with the Confederate government to cast cannon and erected a foundry at Selma, Alabama.

Selma would eventually become one of the most important military manufacturing centers in the South. McRae eventually sold his interest in what would become the Selma Ordnance and Naval Foundry to the Confederate government.

Because of his strong business background in 1863 McRae was asked by the Confederate gov-

ernment to assist the government with financial issues in Europe. It seems that the Confederacy's first efforts in this regard were unsuccessful. McRae accepted the job and became the Confederacy's Chief Fiscal Agent in Europe arriving in the spring of 1863.

One of first assignments was to help with negotiation to refinance the Erlanger Cotton Bond. This was a bond that the Confederate government had arranged for in Europe to be the financial "currency" the Confederate government could use in trading with different European countries. The \$15 million bond was backed by the cotton exports on the South.

McRae also led an investigation and audit of Confederate Ordnance Department purchasing agent Caleb Huse and his dealings with S. Isaac Campbell & Company, the largest military supplier to the Confederacy.

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## The Selma Arsenal

Officially it had a number of different names, but collectively it is commonly referred to as the Selma Arsenal. One of the co-founders was Colin J. McRae who saw the need for an arms and ammunition factory for the Confederacy.

The facilities produced cartridges, saltpeter, powder, shot and shell, rifles, cannons and steam rams. At its peak in 1863 it had over 100 buildings and employed about 10,000 workers. It rivaled Tredegar Iron Works in Richmond, Va. in pro-

ducing military goods for the Confederacy.

The arsenal was not captured by Federal forces until late in the war. Nathan Bedford Forrest, was badly outnumbered and forced to withdraw and the Arsenal fell on April 1, 1865.

# Books & Prints For Sale

Gary Richards, a former Camp member, is selling a lot of his Civil War collection.

He has consigned his books to Fletcher's Book Store in Salado, so go by and see what they have.



*Above: "Charge through the Peach Orchard" by John Paul Strain and Right: "Picketts Mill" by Rick Reeves*



He is also selling two prints, "Charge through the Peach Orchard" by John Paul Strain, showing Major General John C. Breckenridge leading a Confederate charge at Shiloh and "Picketts Mill" by Rick Reeves, showing Granbury's Texas Brigade thwarting an attack by a Federal Division during the Atlanta Campaign.

Gary wants \$350 if you buy a single print or \$600 if you buy both prints. Contact Gary via email at: gwr@valornet.com and don't forget to visit Fletcher's Books in Salado to see his many Civil War topic books

## 150<sup>th</sup> Reenactment

*(Continued from page 1)*  
The public is invited free of charge to visit the encampments, located in Galveston's historic downtown, from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Saturday and 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Sunday.

Noted author and Camp #1250's November speaker, Edward T. Cotham, Jr., will be conducting various paid tours visiting the sites of the battle. Cemetery historian Linda McBee will also offer Civil War cemetery tours of Galveston's historic Episcopal cemetery on Broadway.

## Rebel Businessman

*(Continued from page 2)*  
Although McRae's effort cleared Huse of any wrong doing the English supplier, S. Isaac Campbell & Company had to settle with the Confederate government due to a series of overcharges.

When the war ended in 1865 McRae remained in England and became the center of the United States investigation into the Confederacy's accounting records. Convinced that the Confederacy was still hiding money, the United States took McRae to court in England in order to investigate his accounting books.

The U.S. case against McRae was eventually dismissed by the British courts, but charges against him were not lifted in the U.S. McRae felt like he could not return to the U.S.

McRae decided to immigrate to British Honduras, now known as Belize. He went into business there with Joseph Benjamin, brother of Confederate Secretary of War and Secretary of State, Judah P. Benjamin.

*(Continued on page 4)*

**Post War McRae  
Fled To British  
Honduras (now  
Known as Belize)**

## Camp Schedule

**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 Go-

ber Party House, Ave H and South 31<sup>st</sup> St., 7:00 PM. Speaker: Scott Bowdin.

**February 12, 2013**  
Regular Camp meeting at Cotton Patch Café, Temple Mall, 7:00 PM. Speaker: To be determined



**March 12, 2013**  
Regular Camp meeting at Cotton Patch Café, Temple Mall, 7:00 PM. Speaker: To be determined

**Next Meeting:  
December 1<sup>st</sup>  
Cotton Patch Café  
6:00 PM Social  
7:00 PM Party**

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P.O. Box 794 Salado, Texas 76571

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Cotton Patch Cafe  
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## Lynyrd Skynyrd and the Battleflag

A Confederate Battleflag flap briefly arose and then died with the Southern rock group Lynyrd Skynyrd, best known for their rock-n-roll hit "Alabama."

While promoting their new album on CNN in September, the band was asked about disassociating with the Confederate Battleflag. Band member Gary Rossington said, "It became such an issue about race and stuff . . . the '70s and late '60s . . . but I think through the years, people like the KKK and skinheads and people kind of kidnapped the Dixie or Rebel flag from the Southern and the heritage of the soldiers. We didn't want that to go to our fans or show the image like we agreed with any of

the race stuff or any of the bad things."

That caused quite an uproar with their fans. Rossington clarified



their position with a posting on their web site. "Myself, the past members and the present members (that are from the South), are all extremely proud of our heritage and being from the South. We know what the Dixie

flag represents and its heritage; the Civil War was fought over States rights."

He further stated that, "We still utilize the Confederate (Rebel) flag on stage every night in our shows, we are and always will be a Southern American Rock band, first and foremost. We also utilize the state flag of Alabama and the American flag as well, 'cause at the end of the day, we are all Americans. I only stated my opinion that the Confederate flag, at times, was unfairly being used as a symbol by various hate groups, which is something that we don't support the flag being used for. The Confederate flag means something more to us, Heritage not Hate."

## Rebel Businessman

*(Continued from page 3)*

In fact Joseph borrowed \$25,000 from his brother to go into business with McRae. The two operated cattle, mercantile and mahogany businesses in Belize along Saturday Creek. Benjamin eventually sold his interest to McRae.

Colin was never offered a pardon by the U.S. government, so he never returned home, not even for a visit for fear he would be arrested. He was visited by his brother in Belize in 1868, but John, unfortunately became very ill and died while there.

Colin died at his estate in Belize, at age 61 in 1876 and was buried there.