

# Confederate Gazette

## Reenactment To Move

The Battle of Temple Junction will move in 2013. This years reenactment will take place on May 17<sup>th</sup> through May 19<sup>th</sup> at the Bend of the River Ranch located on I-35.

The new location borders the Leon River and has many large pecan trees, so it should make an ideal location for the reenactment.

This year the City of Temple has stepped up to the plate and will be the co-sponsor.

Camp #1250 will assist the city in running the event.

At the event Friday May 17<sup>th</sup>



*Confederate forces await a Union attack at the 2012 Battle of Temple Junction. (Photo by John C. Perry)*

will be Education day. Tom Hughes is heading up that effort. The first year of the

reenactment we had about 600 children there, with the City resuming sponsorship we hope to have many more than what we have had in past years. Tom is soliciting Camp volunteers to help that day. Tom requests that if you have friends or acquaintances with demonstrable knowledge or skills to please let him know.

John Larson, Jr. will again

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## Texas Division Reunion Set For June

The Texas Division annual Reunion is set for June 7<sup>th</sup> through June 9<sup>th</sup> at the Tanglewood Resort located in Pottsboro, Texas. The reunion will be hosted by the Lee-Bourland Camp #1848 in Gainesville, Texas.

Tanglewood Resort is located on Lake Texoma just north of the Dallas-Fort Worth area. The property includes an 18 hole 7,000 yard championship golf course. This year's reunion

will hold a golf tournament at 8:00 AM on Friday June 7<sup>th</sup>. Cost of the golf tournament is \$60.00 per person.

The Reunion will hold its annual get together dinner on Friday evening at 7:00 PM at the Tanglewood Convention Center. Cost for the event is \$25.

The Awards Luncheon on Saturday June 8<sup>th</sup> will be held at Noon and the cost is \$30.00 per person.

"Glen Eden Revisited" is the theme for the ball on Saturday night at 6:45 PM. Cost for the ball is \$65.00 per person.

Regular hotel rooms are \$125 per night, special lake view rooms are \$150 per night and Tanglewood has villas for \$250 and up.

For more information visit the Division's web site at: [www.http://scvtexas.org/State\\_Convention\\_GYY5.html](http://scvtexas.org/State_Convention_GYY5.html)



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# CONFEDERATE PROFILE

## *The Other Lee*



**Sydney Smith Lee**

**Lee was the Commandant of the US Naval Academy**

He was perhaps as well known pre War Between the States as his younger brother, but by war's end his brother was one of the most famous men in the country and although he answered the Confederacy's call and served his new nation he is mostly forgotten today.

Sydney Smith Lee was born at Stratford Plantation, Westmoreland County, Virginia on September 2, 1802, the third child of Henry "Light Horse Harry" Lee and Anne Carter. In his youth Sydney Smith Lee was known as "Rose" and as an adult he was generally called Smith. He was five years older than his brother Robert Edward. He and his younger brother were very close growing up.

In 1820 when Lee was only 18 he received an appointment as a midshipman in the US Navy. He rose quickly through the ranks and in 1848 saw action during the Mexican War. At the

Battle of Veracruz on March 24, 1847, it was the only time that Lee and his brother Robert would serve together. There was a combined naval and land operation and Smith Lee was in charge of a naval battery that had been brought on shore to shell Mexican positions. Robert E. Lee would later write, "I am at a loss what I should have done had he been cut down before me. I thank God that he was saved. He preserved his usual cheerfulness, and I could see his white teeth through all the smoke and din of the fire."

Post Mexican War Smith Lee was the commander of the Naval Ship Yards in Philadelphia and then served as the commandant of the US Naval Academy in Annapolis, Maryland from 1848 to 1851. The year younger brother Lee became the Superintendent of the US Military Academy, Smith received a coveted assignment as the commander of the flagship of Commodore Matthew C.

Perry's expedition to Japan.

For the remaining years prior to the War Between the States Lee was the chief of the Bureau of Coast Survey in Washington, D.C. When the nation became unraveled after the 1860 election of Abraham Lincoln, neither Robert nor Smith wanted their native Virginia to leave the Union. The two brothers met with a cousin, Samuel Phillips Lee to decide what to do if Virginia left the Union. The two Lee brothers agreed to follow Virginia if she left, but the cousin decided not to.

Smith resigned, after a 40 year career, from the US Navy the day Virginia left the Union, but his resignation was not accepted and he was dismissed five days later. When both Lee brothers offered their services to the Confederacy, Smith was given the more important role. Smith was sent to command Norfolk, Virginia the key naval

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## Confederate Naval Academy

One of the little known aspects of the Confederacy is that it did establish a Naval Academy. Although it never graduated any cadets the school did exist.

About 7 miles from Richmond on a 90 foot bluff over the James River is Drewry's Bluff. The fort helped repel Union ships sailing up the James

River in May of 1862. Smith Lee was engaged to strengthen the fort and by the summer of 1863 the Confederacy decided to establish a Naval Academy at the location.

The training vessel was an old side wheeled steamer, the CSS *Patrick Henry*. The academy was in existence for two years,

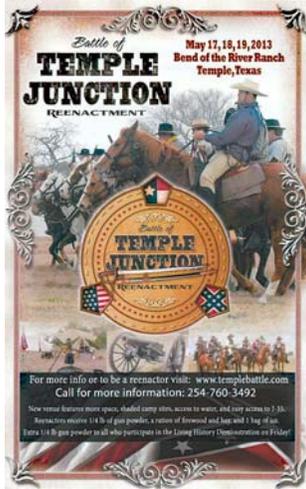
before the *Patrick Henry* was scuttled as Richmond was falling to Federal forces.

About a total of 180 men attended the academy. Before the end of the war about forty of the men had "graduated" with the title of Passed Midshipmen.

# Battle of Temple Junction

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head up the reenactments on Saturday and Sunday, May 18<sup>th</sup> and May 19<sup>th</sup>. John is looking for as many uniformed personnel as can be mustered. Cannons and cavalry animals will be rewarded accordingly.

With the new venue this years event promises to greatly surpass last years reenactment. All camp members are urged to help, if you haven't been able



to participate in other Camp activities this is the one time we ask for you to volunteer. Contact Tom Hughes for help with Education Day at thughes003@global.net and John Larson at: saddler@embarqmail.com.

Camp members and friends can also help by spreading the word about the event through various social media outlets such as Facebook and Twitter. Please help by contacting Tom or John.

## February Camp Meeting

By Michael Belcher

Camp #1250 was pleased to welcome a new Camp member, Danny Allen Murphy of Killeen, who was sworn in at the February 12<sup>th</sup> Camp meeting. Danny's ancestor was 1<sup>st</sup> Lieutenant Jehu Lewis Tincher, who served in Thumond's Company, Virginia Cavalry (Partisan Rangers).

The speaker for the February meeting was Buddy Wheat from Gatesville who spoke on "Role of Chaplains in the Union and Confederate Armies, during the War Between the States."

The Camp decided to make a bid for the 2015 Division Reunion.

## The Other Lee

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command in the Eastern Theater.

Navy Secretary Stephen Malloy was an advocate of building ironclads for the Confederate Navy. Being more old school Lee wasn't, but following orders had the USS *Merrimack* raised and converted into an ironclad, the CSS *Virginia*. Lee even questioned if the new ship would even float.

Following the *Virginia's* draw with the *Monitor* in March of 1862 and the *Virginia's* subsequent repairs, Smith found himself at odds with his brother, Robert, who was serving as a military advisor to President Jefferson Davis. Robert wanted Smith to send the *Virginia* to sail up the coast to help stop Union General George B. McClellan's advance on the Virginia peninsula. The *Virginia's* commander confused by conflicting orders ended up cruising back and forth and not helping stop the Federal advance.

Later, in May Smith apparently failed to warn the *Virginia's* commander that Union forces

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Lee questions the viability of the CSS *Virginia*

## Camp Schedule

### March 12, 2013

Regular Camp meeting at Cotton Patch Café, Temple Mall.  
7:00 PM. Speaker: Joe Walker from Waco

### April 13, 2013

Quarterly dinner meeting at Cotton Patch Café, Temple Mall.

7:00 PM. Speaker: To be determined

### May 14, 2013

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



### May 17-19, 2013

Battle of Temple Junction Reenactment, Bend of the River Ranch, located on Interstate 35, just north of Belton

Next Meeting:  
March 12<sup>th</sup>  
Cotton Patch Cafe  
6:00 PM Social  
7:00 PM Meeting

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P.O. Box 794 Salado, Texas 76571

Next Meeting:  
March 12th  
Cotton Patch Cafe  
6:00 PM Meal  
7:00 PM Meeting

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## Lincoln The Movie

By John C. Perry

Well I broke down and went to see the Steven Spielberg movie "Lincoln." I really hadn't planned on going, but Sandra wanted to see it so I went.

I expected to leave the theatre mad, but actually didn't leave angry, just disappointed that many people will see Abraham Lincoln as a great hero and really not know the full story about him and his beliefs.

First the positives. I thought the acting was very well done but I was even more impressed with the video work and the setting of the scenes. Spielberg is a mas-

ter of that and it showed.

The negative is we see only a small slice of Lincoln's life and one would leave thinking of his strong advocacy of eliminating slavery. What they don't know is his earlier positions where he said he would allow slavery forever if it would save the Union. Also, I wonder how many people know about the original proposed 13<sup>th</sup> Amendment preserving slavery forever.

Good movie, worth seeing, but please don't draw your conclusions about him from this movie, study your history first.



## The Other Lee

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were closing in on Norfolk and the *Virginia* had to be scuttled.

He was later sent to command the Confederate positions at Drwery's Bluff, 7 miles from Richmond on the James River. During the Battle of Drewry's Bluff, Smith timidly refused to take command because the battle had already started when he arrived. Smith would later be reassigned to North Carolina, and has his career begin to falter as his brother's career began to rapidly rise. Smith served in a number of other posts for the Confederacy, but never saw action again. His last assignment was to convert Confederate sailors into infantrymen and have them man the trenches

at the end of the war. He did that, but failed to join his men, ending the war in Richmond as it fell.

Post war he returned to land he owned in Stafford County and tried to eke out an existence as a farmer. Lee died apparently from a liver ailment on July 22, 1869. His brother Robert arrived a day late for the funeral. Robert called Smith's death "a sad gap in our family...a grievous affliction to me which I must bear as well as I can."

Smith Lee was survived by his wife Anna and they had two children, who survived into adulthood, Fitzhugh Lee and Henry Carter Lee, both of who served in the Confederate Army. Smith was buried in Old Christ Church Cemetery in Alexandria.