

Confederate Gazette

Camp Adds Four Members

By Michael Belcher

The March Camp meeting Camp #1250 had a good crowd in attendance and was highlighted by the swearing in of four new camp members.

The four new members we swore in are Terry Michael Tyler, whose ancestor was Thomas (T.C.) Furr, who was a Private in Company K, 36th Regiment, Arkansas Infantry. Milton Ray Lentz, whose ancestor was Samuel Jar-

rett Lentz, who was a Private in Company C, 4th Regiment, Texas State Troops (1863-



New Camp members sworn in at March meeting. (Photo by John C. Perry)

1864). Michael Lee Moore, whose ancestor was Joseph Franklin Griffin, Sr., who was a Private in Company E, 28th Regiment, Texas Cavalry

(Randal's Regiment, 1st Texas Lancers). Daniel Wayne Hall, whose ancestor was Andrew Jackson Simmerman, who was a Private in Company H, 63rd Regiment, Virginia Infantry (McMahon's Regiment). Commander Jimmy Dossey conducted the ceremony.

Al Harris gave a most interesting program on animal mascots during the war.

At the meeting two other

(Continued on page 3)

History Month Activities

The Major Robert M. White Camp #1250 will formally celebrate Confederate History Month in Texas on Saturday, April 13th in Belton.

Camp members and friends are asked to gather at the Confederate statue at the Bell County Courthouse at 1:00 PM. The Confederate First National flag will be raised and there will be a

brief program given at the Confederate soldier's statue on the Courthouse grounds.

Following that event the group will immediately reform at the South Belton Cemetery where the Camp will honor the Confederate soldiers buried there.

That evening the Camp will hold its quarterly dinner meeting at the Cotton Patch

Café in Temple. The event will begin at 6:00 PM with a social hour, with the meeting beginning at 7:00 PM. The speaker for Saturday evening will be Joe Walker from Waco who will speak on "Texas and the First Medal Of Honor."

Confederate History Month was established by the Texas legislature in 1999.



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Inside this issue:

Profile on: Stephen Dodson	2
George Custer and Dodson Ram-	2
Confederate Veteran Online	3
Camp Calendar	3
Parks Renamed in Memphis	4

CONFEDERATE PROFILE

Southern Patriot



**Stephen Dodson
Ramseur**

**Ramseur graduated
from West Point in
1861**

He was such a Southern patriot that he didn't even wait until his native state, North Carolina, left the Union, but travelled to Alabama, which was already a part of the Confederacy, to enlist in the Confederate cause.

Stephen Dodson Ramseur was born May 3, 1837 in Lincolnton, North Carolina in the rolling hills of the North Carolina Piedmont. His parents were Jacob Able and Lucy Mayfield Dodson Ramseur. He was known by friends as Dodson and to his family as Dod.

He received his early education in Milton, NC, but then went to Presbyterian Davidson College where he became friends with the college's mathematics professor, Daniel Harvey Hill. Hill, a West point graduate, was instrumental in getting Ramseur an appointment to West Point where Ramseur graduated 14th out of a class of 41 in 1861.

Ramseur was appointed as a 2nd Lieutenant in the US Army in an artillery unit, but his service was short lived. He resigned in April of 1861 as the Southern states left and formed the Confederacy. He volunteered for Confederate Army service in Montgomery, Alabama, since his native state had not yet left the Union. While he was in Alabama, North Carolina left the Union and joined the Confederacy. He was elected captain of the Ellis Light Artillery in Raleigh and Ramseur rushed back to join his new unit.

By May he became the lieutenant colonel of the 3rd North Carolina Infantry, but was knocked out of commission when he was injured with a broken collarbone after being thrown from his horse. He wasn't able to return to active duty until the spring of 1862. It was just in time to be part of the defense of Richmond from Union General George B.

McClellan's Peninsula Campaign.

Ramesur saw his first major combat role at the Battle of Malvern Hill on July 1, 1862, the last of the Seven Days' Battles. He led a pointless and unsuccessful charge against a strong Union line and was severely wounded in the right arm just above the elbow. Initially he refused to leave the field, but was finally convinced to be treated at a hospital.

While recuperating from his wound, Ramseur was promoted to brigadier general on November 1, 1862 given the command of a brigade made up of four North Carolina regiments. This promotion made Ramseur, at age twenty-five, the youngest general in the Confederate army. Also while recuperating at his aunt and uncles' plantation home he fell in love with Ellen "Nellie" Richmond. Before

(Continued on page 3)

Ramseur and Custer

They were both at West Point at the same time and developed a friendship that would last despite them taking different sides in the Civil War.

George Armstrong Custer from Ohio and Stephen Dodson Ramseur from North Carolina met at the Point and became close friends. They were very differ-

ent personalities, but both were skilled horsemen, which perhaps attracted them to each other. Custer was quite fond of alcohol and Ramseur was also known to partake of such beverages.

Their friendship would endure through the war and Custer was there for Ramseur in the

end. Custer was at Cedar Creek when Ramseur was shot and then captured. It was almost like a West Point homecoming as Custer along with Henry Du Pont, who had a room across from Ramseur at the Point, rushed to his side as he lay dying. Although in severe pain Ramseur appreciated their visit.

Southern Patriot

Veteran Online

(Continued from page 2)

he returned to active duty he and Nellie were engaged to be married.

With his right arm still in a sling, Ramseur returned to active duty in December of 1862. At the Battle of Chancellorsville, Ramseur's was the lead brigade in Stonewall Jackson's famous flank march of May 2, 1863. His brigade got well ahead of other Confederate units, nearly running out of ammunition, before being reinforced. His brigade lost 50% of its strength in the assault and Ramseur was hit in the leg on May 3rd by a shell fragment.

Ramseur was roundly praised for his actions at Chancellorsville. J.E.B. Stuart, in temporary command of the corps after Jackson was mortally wounded, ordered three cheers for Ramseur brigade's aggressive assault and recommended that Ramseur be promoted to major general.

At Gettysburg on July 1, 1863 Ramseur's brigade moved against the Union right. Ramseur swung around to the left, across the Mummasburg Road and attacked the Union posi-

tions from the rear causing them to make a panicked retreat. As Ramseur was pursuing them towards Cemetery Hill, his commander Robert Rodes ordered him to halt the pursuit. Although dismayed at the orders, Ramseur followed them. His unit saw no more action for the remaining two days of the epic fight.

In October of 1863 Ramseur married Nellie and they were able to enjoy a three-week honeymoon in the North Carolina mountains. During winter quarters of 1863-64 he and Nellie found a boarding house to rent allowing them to be together for several months. As the spring campaigns began in 1864 Nellie informed him that she was pregnant.

Ramseur performed quite well during the Wilderness fights and at Spotsylvania Court House, and he earned praise from Robert E. Lee. His strong performance was rewarded with a promotion to major general, and assuming the command of General Jubal Early's division.

He suffered some ups and
(Continued on page 4)

The SCV's national magazine, *The Confederate Veteran* is now available online at the SCV web site, www.scv.org.

The web address for the March/April issue is: www.scv.org/CV/March-Apr_2013.pdf.

The User Name to enter is Nathan and the password is Forrest. Future editions will always include an online edition.

March Meeting

(Continued from page 1)

members were approved for membership in unanimous votes, long time friend of the Camp, Michael Wayne Kelsey, along with Eric McKinnley Flinchum.

At the meeting we also awarded an SCV War Service Medal to Rev. Dewey Dewitt "Buddy" Wheat, Jr. for his service to this country during Operation Desert Storm and Operation Enduring Freedom, and Operation Anaconda; while on duty in various countries to include Germany, Lebanon, Israel, Saudi Arabia, Iraq, Afghanistan and in areas of North Africa.

The Confederate Veteran is now available online

Camp Schedule

April 13, 2013

Confederate History Month Ceremonies at Bell County Courthouse at 1:00 PM, immediately followed by ceremonies at South Belton Cemetery.

April 13, 2013

Quarterly dinner meeting at

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

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 on Leon River.

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

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Next Meeting:
April 13th
Cotton Patch Cafe
6:00 PM Meal
7:00 PM Meeting

▶ Page 4

Memphis Renames Three Parks

In an effort to erase their Confederate past, the City of Memphis, Tennessee has changed the names of three parks that were originally named in honor of Confederate heroes.

Nathan Bedford Forrest Park was re-named Health Sciences Park, because it is located in a hospital and healthcare area of the city. This is the park where Forrest is buried and contains a large monument in honor of Forrest.

Jefferson Davis Park has been renamed Mississippi River Park and Confederate Park has been renamed to Memphis Park.



The parks were renamed after a unanimous vote by the Memphis City Council on February 5th. Lee Harris a member of the city council said the quick vote was intended to head off a proposed Tennessee state law which would keep cities from changing the names of parks or other monuments named after military figures and events, including those from the Civil War.

The SCV is protesting the action and is supportive of a save our parks organization in Memphis that is opposed to the renaming of the parks. Their web site is: citizenstosaveourparks.org.



Southern Patriot



(Continued from page 3)

downs in his new role during the Early's Valley Campaign of 1864. He was defeated by a smaller force at Rutherford's Farm in July 1864, did well at the Second Battle of Kernstown, but then faltered again at the Third Battle of Winchester in September 1864.

On October 19, 1864 Early attacked Union lines at the Battle of Cedar Creek driving the Union forces away and capturing their camp. The Federals counterattacked and Ramseur rallied the tired Confederates to hold back the charge. They held back the attack for nearly two hours. Ramseur rallied his men and issued commands as he remained mounted. He made for an easy target, having two horses shot out

from under him and he received another arm wound. On his third horse he was hit by a bullet that passed through both his lungs. He was put on an ambulance, but it was captured by Federal troops. He was taken to General Phillip Sheridan's Union headquarters, but doctors there were not able to save him. His last words were, "Bear this message to my precious wife, I die a Christian and hope to meet her in heaven."

Just a few days before the fight, Ramseur had received a message that his wife had delivered and that both she and the baby were fine. Unfortunately, the message failed to tell him the baby's gender, so he died not knowing. His newborn was a baby girl, Mary.