

# Confederate Gazette

## Ceremonies Held in Belton

The Major Robert M. White Camp #1250 held its' annual Confederate History Month ceremonies in Belton on April 13<sup>th</sup>.

Two events were held. The Confederate First National flag was raised on the flag pole next to the Confederate Soldier's

monument at the courthouse. John Larson, Jr. gave a talk about the units raised for the Confederate war effort from Bell County.

At the South Belton Cemetery, Confederate Battle flags were placed on each Confederate veteran's

States Census.

A disappointing and very sparse crowd attended both events, although the courthouse ceremonies attracted some Belton Market Day participants.

Confederate History Month was established

by the Texas legislature in 1999. Each year Camp #1250 celebrates the month with an event in Belton.



*Left: Al Harris (l) and John Larson, Jr. (r) prepare to raise First National Flag. Right: Sandra Perry speaks at the South Belton Cemetery. (Photos by John C. Perry)*

grave. Sandra Perry gave a talk on what Bell County was like during the war, mainly based on the 1860 United

## Court Rules Against the SCV

In 2011 the Texas Department of Motor Vehicles ruled against the Texas Division-SCV's application to create specialty license plates.

The Texas Division sued on the grounds that the plate was protected by free speech. Unfortunately, U.S. District Judge Sam Sparks, in Austin, ruled in

April that Texas was not obligated to release a plate



*Proposed Texas specialty license plate recently rejected.*

that contradicts its rule against derogatory or inflammatory symbols. Be-

cause the design includes a Confederate Battle flag, part of the SCV's logo, the plate design is considered by the state to be unacceptable.

The Texas Division is considering what steps to take. One option would be for the Division to appeal to the Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals.



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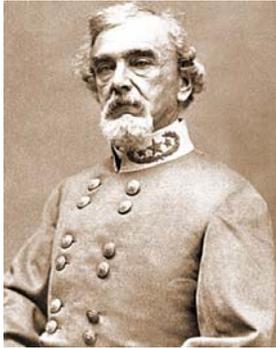
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# CONFEDERATE PROFILE

## *Ordnance Man*



**Benjamin  
Huger**

**Huger graduated 8<sup>th</sup>  
in his class from  
West Point**

**A**lthough he was a war hero during the Mexican War his military record was tarnished during the Peninsula Campaign, but he continued to serve the Confederacy part of the time in Marshall, Texas.

Benjamin Huger was born in Charleston, SC, on November 22, 1805, son of Francis Kinloch and Harriet Lucas Pinckney Huger. He was the grandson of Major General Thomas Pinckney of American Revolutionary War fame.

After attending local schools Huger received an appointment in 1821 to the United States Military Academy at West Point. He graduated in 1825 finishing 8<sup>th</sup> out of a class of 37. He was mustered into the U.S. Army on July 1, 1825 as a second lieutenant. He served as a topographical engineer and he held a variety of duty stations until 1832 when he joined the army's ordnance department, where he would spend the rest of his

U.S. Army career.

He married a cousin Elizabeth Pinckney in 1831. Together they would have five children, including one son, Frank, who attended West Point graduating in 1860.

From 1841 to 1846 Huger commanded the Fort Monroe Arsenal until he was appointed Major General Winfield Scott's chief of ordnance during the U.S. Army invasion of Mexico.

Post Mexican War Huger returned to command the Fort Monroe Arsenal and also arsenals at Harper's Ferry and Pikesville, Maryland. In 1856 he was sent to Europe to observe the Crimean War. In 1860 he returned home to command the Charleston Arsenal. He remained in the U.S. Army even after South Carolina left the Union, not resigning until the hostilities commenced at Fort Sumter.

He was appointed by the Confederate Army as a brigadier

general on June 17, 1861. He was promoted to Major-General on October 7, 1861. Huger was placed in command of the department encompassing the Norfolk, Virginia area in May of 1861. He soon came to believe he was too weak to withstand a Federal attack as George B. McClellan's Union army approached, so he dismantled his fortifications, set fire to the Navy Yard, blew up the captured *USS Merrimac* (later to be raised at the CSS Virginia) and evacuated the city in May, 1862.

Although he came under fire by some for his actions President Jefferson Davis gave him command of a division under Joseph E. Johnston. Huger performed poorly during the Battle of Seven Pines and the Seven Days' battles. He was harshly censured for what seemed his slow movements at Seven Pines, which led to an investi-

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## Confederate Marshall

Marshall, Texas was an important city to the Confederacy. By 1860 Marshall was the fourth largest city in the state and was surrounded by prosperous farms and plantations.

As Union troops moved through Arkansas and after Vicksburg fell in 1863, Marshall became arguably the most important

Confederate city west of the Mississippi River.

The Confederate state government of Missouri moved to Marshall from 1863 to 1865. The town became the center of operations for Kirby Smith's Army of the Trans Mississippi. Benjamin Huger led the Trans Mississippi Ordnance Depart-

ment from Marshall.

The Marshall Powder Mill produced gunpowder, some small and artillery ammunition and repaired small arms for the Confederacy.

Marshall, Texas, in the last half of the war, made a major contribution to the Confederate States of America.

# Gazette Completes 25 Years

The *Confederate Gazette*, which is the official newsletter of the Major Robert M. White Camp #1250, with this edition will finish 25 years of publication.

For the first nine years the *Gazette* was produced eleven months of the year, not printing an issue in August to allow the editor time to attend the SCV's national reunion. Since 1999 the *Gazette* has been published twelve times per year.

file, traditionally found on page two. The first profile appeared in 1988 in the *Gazette's* ninth issue, it was on James Longstreet. Since then there have been 217 profiles. All but a handful have been written by Perry. "I try to find interesting Confederate personalities and write about them. Several people have encouraged me to put them all in a



## NEW SCV CAMP TO FORM!

**New Camp Planned for Temple**  
A group of Confederate Veterans camp is being formed in the Temple area. Currently the nearest SCV camp to Temple is either north in Austin or south in Houston. Several Temple residents who are members of the Major Robert M. White Camp in Houston are attempting to re-establish a camp in Temple.

## SONS OF CONFEDERATE VETERANS THE CONFEDERATE GAZETTE

**Rededication Ceremonies Set For May 6th**  
The Sons of Confederate Veterans will hold rededication ceremonies for the Major Robert M. White Camp in Temple, Texas, on May 6th. The ceremony will be held at 10:00 A.M. at the Temple High School. The program will include a presentation of the Camp's flag, a reading of the Camp's constitution, and a presentation of the Camp's history. The ceremony will be held in the presence of the Camp's members and their families.

## The Gazette



## CONFEDERATE GAZETTE

**CAMP PARTICIPATES IN AREA ACTIVITIES**  
The Major Robert M. White Camp #1250 participated in area activities on May 1st. The camp members and their families attended a picnic at the Temple High School. The picnic was held in the presence of the Camp's members and their families. The picnic was a success and the camp members and their families enjoyed the day.

The first issue of the *Gazette* was published in June of 1988. John C. Perry is the *Gazette's* founder and has been the editor since its inception. According to Perry the first issue of the *Gazette* was a two page newsletter that was sent to prospective Sons of Confederate Veterans members. "I was trying to start a SCV Camp in Temple, and the first issue was not much more than a two-page flyer, inviting people to attend an organizational meeting at my house," Perry said.

has been published continuously except for an eight-month period. "For a time I was serving as both the Texas Division Commander and the SCV's national Chief of Heritage Defense," Perry explained, "and something had to give." Perry discontinued the publication of the *Gazette* from January of 1998 through August of 1998. He resumed publishing the *Gazette* in September of 1998.

book, but I just haven't found the time to do so," Perry said. Perry admits that over the years he has repeated a few profiles, "Not many of our members were around ten or twelve years ago, so I have repeated some of the better ones," Perry indicated.

Since that first issue the *Gazette* has produced a total of 282 issues, including this one.

One hallmark of the *Gazette* has been its Confederate Pro-

The *Gazette* is now on its fifth different format. "I try to

(Continued on page 4)

The first *Gazette* issue was produced in June of 1988

Next Meeting:  
May 14<sup>th</sup>  
Cotton Patch Cafe  
6:00 PM Social  
7:00 PM Meeting

## Camp Schedule

**May 14, 2013**  
Regular Camp meeting at Cotton Patch Café, Temple Mall, 7:00 PM. Speaker: Jerry Nelson

**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.

**June 7-9, 2013**  
Texas Division Reunion, Tanglewood Resort near Pottsboro, TX. [http://scvtexas.org/State\\_Convention\\_6YYS.html](http://scvtexas.org/State_Convention_6YYS.html)



**June 11, 2013**  
Regular Camp meeting at Cotton Patch Café, Temple Mall, 7:00 PM. Speaker: To Be Determined

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P.O. Box 794

Salado, Texas 76571

Next Meeting:  
May 14th  
Cotton Patch Cafe  
6:00 PM Meal  
7:00 PM Meeting

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## April Camp Meeting

By Michael Belcher

A good crowd attended the April Camp #1250 meeting held on April 13, 2013 at the Cotton Patch Café. Featured speaker was Joe Walker of Waco who spoke on "Chasing the General, The Andrews Raid."

Two new members were sworn into the Sons of Confederate Veterans, Major Robert M. White, Camp No. 1250. They are James Anthony Harris, whose ancestor was



Jimmy Dossey swears in new members Mike Kelsey and James A. Harris. (Photo by Tom Hughes)

James M. Chism, a private in Company L, 24<sup>th</sup> Regiment, Mississippi Infantry; and Michael Wayne Kelsey, whose ancestor was Francis Marion Dockery, a private in Company A, Alabama Prison Guards, Commander Jimmy Dossey conducted the ceremony.

The Sons of Confederate Veterans War Service Medal was presented to Camp 2<sup>nd</sup> Lieutenant Commander, Nicholas Edward Teague for his honorable

service to our country during Operation New Dawn and Operation Spartan Shield, while serving abroad in Iraq and Kuwait.

### >> Gazette 25 Years <<

(Continued from page 3)  
change the look of the *Gazette* ever so often to try to keep it fresh," Perry explained. "Every time I change it, I usually get a complaint or two, people seem not to like change. The last change was done to add more color to the publication," Perry said.

In 1997, in the *Gazette's* issue celebrating ten years of publishing, Perry was quoted as saying that he wasn't sure if he could go another ten years. Now he has completed 25 years. "I never thought I would last this long as editor," Perry said. How much longer? "That's up to the Good Lord and the Camp," Perry said.

## Ordnance Man

(Continued from page 2)

gation by the Confederate Congress. Huger was relieved of field command by Robert E. Lee on July 12, 1862.

Huger was assigned to be Assistant Inspector General of artillery and ordnance for the Confederate Army, and in July of 1863 was appointed Chief of Ordnance for the Trans-Mississippi Department. Part of his time as Chief of Ordnance he was headquartered in Marshall, Texas. He held that position until the war ended.

Post war he farmed first in North Carolina and then in Virginia. With his health beginning to fail he returned to Charleston. Huger died in Charleston in 1877 and is buried in Green Mount Cemetery in Baltimore, Maryland.