

# Confederate Gazette

## Camp to Celebrate 25 Years

On Saturday, July 13<sup>th</sup> the Major Robert M. White Camp #1250 will hold a special dinner meeting to celebrate the Camp's 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary. The meeting will be held almost 25 years to the day from the Camp's first meeting held on July 12, 1988 at the home of John C. Perry in Temple. The 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary meet-

ing will be held at the Morris Ballroom of the Sammons Community Center, located at 2220 West Avenue D in

dinner. Cost of the meal is \$20.00 per person.

The speaker for the meeting is John C. Perry, who will talk about the history of the Camp. A newly updated and reissued Camp history book, *Bell County in Gray*, will be distributed to all those in attendance.



*Camp members at Camp #1250's Charter Dinner Meeting at the Stagecoach Inn in Salado on April 29, 1989. The Camp received its charter at the meeting.*

Temple. The event will begin with a social hour at 6:00 pm followed by a barbecue

## 2013 Texas Division Reunion

By: Jimmy Dossey

The 2013 Division Reunion was held June 7, 8 and 9 at Tanglewood Resort in Pottsboro, Texas. The Saturday business session of the division reunion was attended by 146 delegates from around the state.

The Major Robert M White Camp sent six delegates to the Reunion. This was more than the camp had sent in several years. They were Greg Manning, Mike Belcher, Nick Teague, John

Larson Jr, James Al Harris, and Jimmy Dossey.

The first order of business



*Camp members at 2013 Texas Division Reunion (Photo by David Moore)*

was electing a new Division Commander, Johnny Holley

was selected. David Moore was selected First Lt. Commander. Gary Bray was selected Second Lt. Commander.

Four amendments were presented. Two failed and two passed. They were mainly housekeeping amendments. One of them dealt with every member receiving at least one copy per year of the Texas Division Newsletter.

That afternoon, during the Brigade meetings, Mike Belcher

*(Continued on page 4)*



Major  
Robert M. White  
Camp #1250  
Sons of Confederate  
Veterans  
Temple, Texas

[www.scvtemple.com](http://www.scvtemple.com)

Jimmy D. Dossey  
Camp Commander  
115 Lakewood Dr.  
Gatesville, TX 76528

John C. Perry  
Newsletter Editor  
P.O. Box 794  
Salado, TX 76571

© 2013 Major Robert M.  
White Camp #1250

### Inside this issue:

Profile on: Joseph D. Sayers	2
Temple Camp Honors Sayers	2
Map to Sammons Center	3
Camp Calendar	3
Arlington House Reopens	4
May Camp Meeting	4

# CONFEDERATE PROFILE

## *Texas Governor*



**Joseph Draper  
Sayers**

**Sayers was part of  
Sibley's force in  
New Mexico**

**T**his future governor of Texas earned the right to be made the commander of the famous Valverde Battery. This battle hardened Texan had shown his metal in battle and was rewarded with the command of the battery.

Joseph Draper Sayers was born in Grenada, Mississippi, on September 23, 1841, the son of David and Mary Thomas Peete Sayers. In 1851 his family moved to Texas, settling in Bastrop, Texas, southeast of Austin.

He attended Bastrop Military Institute from 1852 to 1860, where one of his classmates was Sam Houston, Jr. When the war broke out in 1861 Sayers immediately joined the 5<sup>th</sup> Texas Cavalry (also known as the Fifth Regiment, Mounted Volunteers). Sayers was part of brigadier general Henry Hopkins Sibley's Confederate forces that invaded the New Mexico Territory in 1862.

At the Battle of Valverde on February 21, 1862 Confederates captured five cannons, three six-pounders and two twelve-pound howitzers. Colonel Tom Green wrote in his battle report of the Battle of Valverde, "Lieut. Joseph D. Sayers, adjutant of the Fifth, during the whole day, reminded me of a hero of the days of chivalry. He is a gallant, daring, and dashing soldier, and is as cool in a storm of grape, shell, canister, and musketry as a veteran. I recommend him, through the general, to the President for promotion."

The Valverde Battery was formed to man the prized cannons on June 1, 1862, at Fort Bliss, Texas. Volunteers came from three different cavalry units. Sayers was given command of the battery as a captain. Sayers and the battery went with Sibley's brigade to Louisiana after the New Mexico invasion failed.

In April of 1863 Sayers and the

battery were engaged in a fight at Fort Bisland on the Atchafalaya River in Louisiana. The Confederates who were manning the fort were able to capture the Union gunboat, *Diana*. Sayers was wounded in the fight and would never return to the Val Verde battery.

Sayers would next serve on the staff of Brigadier General Tom Green as assistant adjutant general with the rank of major. He would end the war in Meridian, Mississippi, on May 10, 1865 when he was paroled.

He returned to Texas settling in Bastrop, where he built a small frame home, taught school, and studied law. By 1866 he was admitted to the bar and began a ten year practice of law. Politics soon caught Sayers' attention and he ran for the state senate winning in 1873, serving until 1879. In 1875 he began a three-year stint as chairman of the Democratic

*(Continued on page 3)*

## Temple Camp Named For Sayers

When the SCV Camp was first formed in Temple in 1898 it was the 100<sup>th</sup> Camp in the SCV. It should be noted that the official name of the SCV back then was the United Sons of Confederate Veterans, the "United" was dropped in 1912.

The Temple Camp was numbered 100, A Camp in Belton

bested Temple by being charted before Temple. The Belton Camp was #26.

One of the first orders of business was to honor someone with a Camp name. The Temple Camp selected former Confederate Major Joseph D. Sayers, from Bastrop.

No records remain on why the

Temple Camp selected Sayers, but more than likely it was because he had been elected Governor of Texas the same year the Temple Camp was formed.

The Temple Camp, bearing Sayers name, grew rapidly, but apparently failed to survive the Depression in the 1930s.

# June Meeting Recap

By Michael Belcher

Camp Compatriot Thomas Hughes, was the guest speaker, and his presentation topic was on his recent vacation touring several battle sites, mostly National Monuments, that were important locations during the War Between the States.

It was an informative, lively and somewhat comical presentation, and was well received by the Camp membership in attendance.

A new member was sworn into the Sons of Confederate Veterans, Major Robert M. White, Camp No. 1250. He is Ricky Gene Copp, whose ancestor was David W. Jester, a 1<sup>st</sup> Sergeant in Company B, 1<sup>st</sup> Regiment, Mississippi Infantry (Johnston's Regiment of Mississippi Volunteers). Commander Jimmy Dossey conducted the ceremony.

Awards received from the SCV Texas Division for Camp mem-

*(Continued on page 4)*

## Texas Governor

*(Continued from page 2)*

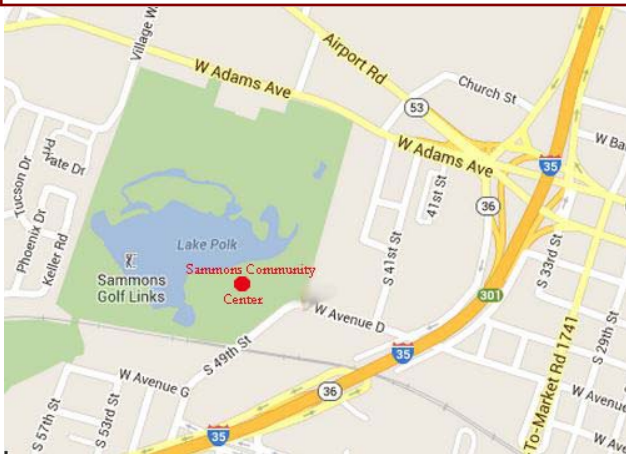
state executive committee and in 1878 served a one-year term as the state's lieutenant governor.

He married Orline Walton of Bastrop in February of 1879. In 1884 Sayers was elected to the U.S. House of Representatives. He served from March 4, 1885, until his resignation on January 16, 1899, when he became the Texas governor. While in Congress Sayers served as the chairman of the Committee on Appropriations.

He won election as governor in 1898 and then was reelected in 1900. After his tenure as governor, Sayers resumed his practice of law. He also served as a member of the State board of regents of the University of Texas at Austin in 1913, chairman of the State industrial accident board in 1914 and 1915, member of the State board of legal examiners 1923-1925, and was appointed as a member of the State pardon board in 1927. He died in Austin on May 15, 1929. His body was taken back to his adopted hometown of Bastrop, where he was buried in Fairview Cemetery.

**Sayers was elected governor of Texas in 1898**

## Directions to Sammons Community Center



The 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Dinner Meeting will be held in the Morris Ballroom at the Sammons Community Center in Temple at 2220 West Avenue D. The entrance to the community center is off Ave D. Two ways to reach the center are to turn on Ave D off the I-35 service road or off West Adams Ave. turn on 41<sup>st</sup> St which runs into Ave. D.

## Camp Schedule

### July 13, 2013

Regular Camp meeting at the Sammons community Center, 2220 W. Ave D in Temple, 6:00 PM social Speaker: John C. Perry.

### August 13 2013

Regular Camp meeting at Cot-

ton Patch Café, Temple Mall, 7:00 PM. Speaker: To Be Determined.

### September 10, 2013

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



### October 12 2013

Quarterly Camp Dinner meeting at Cotton Patch Café, Temple Mall, 7:00 PM. Speaker: To Be Determined.

**Next Meeting:  
July 13<sup>th</sup>  
Sammons Community  
Center  
6:00 PM Social  
7:00 PM Meeting**

# Confederate Gazette

P.O. Box 794

Salado, Texas 76571

Next Meeting:

July 13th

Sammons Community Center

6:00 PM Social

7:00 PM Meeting

▶ Page 4

## Arlington House Reopens

Robert E. Lee's Arlington House, officially known as the Robert E. Lee Memorial, located on what is now Arlington Cemetery recently reopened after being closed for six years for renovations.

Arlington House furniture, comprising 3,300 of the more than 41,000 artifacts in the collection, was stored in Pennsylvania according to the *Civil War News*. Museum curator Kimberly Robinson said everything was back in place for the reopening.

The house has 8,000 square feet and is fully furnished, though some areas can only be visited when enough staff are present. An exhibit case in Arlington House holds Lee's Bible and sword.

The site is open daily except for Dec. 25<sup>th</sup> and Jan. 1<sup>st</sup>, from 9:30 am to 4:30 pm.

### 2013 Division Reunion

(Continued from page 1)  
of Temple was selected as the new Brigade Commander of the Seventh Brigade of Texas. During the convention Mike Belcher made a presentation to the delegates for the 2015 reunion to be held in Temple.

The Lee-Bourland camp was the host camp of the reunion and they set a high standard for us to meet in 2015. We must all work together during these next two years to meet it

## >> June Meeting Recap <<

(Continued from page 3)

bers for this year at the Division Reunion:

Bronze Cross for Meritorious Service:

- James "Al" Harris
- Rev. Dewey D. Wheat, Jr.
- Kelton Haney
- Nicholas Teague
- Thomas Hughes

Silver Cross for Meritorious Service:

- Brandon McGregor
- Jimmy Dossey
- John Luther Larson, III
- Michael E. Belcher

Awards that if approved, will be

presented at the SCV National Reunion, in Vicksburg, Mississippi, on July 19, 2013:

- Compatriot John L. Larson, Jr. was nominated to receive an SCV Commendation Medal from the National organization for his continued work in support of our camp over the last year.
- Compatriot Steve Wooley was nominated to receive an SCV Meritorious Service Medal from the National organization for his continued work in support of our camp over the last year.