

Confederate Gazette

Camp Celebrates 25 Years

Camp #1250 held a special dinner meeting on Saturday July 13th at the Sammons Park Community Center. About 60 people attended the event and heard John C. Perry speak.

Perry spoke on the founding of the Camp. Perry and two other Camp Charter members, Herb Cowan and Dr. Weldon Cannon were present.

Perry described how the Camp was started and the



Cake celebrating 25 years. (Photo by John C. Perry)

early days of the Camp.

At the meeting a book, *Bell County in Gray*, written by Perry, was passed out to all Camp members.

The book tells in general the story of the Sons of Confederate Veterans in Bell County and specifically about the history of Camp #1250. A copy of the book was made available at no charge to Camp members.

Belton's 4th of July Parade

By: Jimmy Dossey

Continuously since 1996 the Major Robert M. White Camp #1250 has entered a float in the Belton 4th of July Parade.

Once again Compatriot Kelton Haney was generous in loaning the Camp his trailer. Sgt. Nick Teague used his truck to pull the float. The float was decorated

this year by Tom Hughes, Al Harris, Mike Belcher, Nick Teague, Terry Tyler, and Mr. and Mrs. Milton Lentz.

Mrs. Lentz was accompanied by several young ladies in period clothing. They rode on the float as did several of



Camp float at 2013 4th of July parade in Belton. (Photo by John C. Perry)

our camp members, who were in uniform. Kelton Haney followed the float in

his truck and John Larson Jr and Heather followed on horse back.

The Belton 4th of July Parade is one of the largest in the country and was viewed by over 30,000 spectators. It was also covered by some local TV stations. The float was received favorably throughout the entire route. The Camp had a much larger turnout of members this year, and this made it a very enjoyable event, thanks to all who participated!



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White Camp #1250

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CONFEDERATE PROFILE

Valor at Gettysburg



**Richard Brooke
Garnett**

**Garnett and
Stonewall Jackson
Clash**

He rode into history as part of Pickett's Charge with valor and honor, yet his dead body was stripped of its valuables by thieving Yankees and today the exact location of his final resting place is unknown.

Richard Brooke Garnett, son of William H. Garnett and Anna Maria Brooke was born November 21, 1817 likely in Essex County, Virginia. His family was quite well to do and Garnett, along with his twin brother, William Henry Garnett, Jr., were born at one of the family's three large plantations, "Rose Hill", "Font Hill", or "Mount Pleasant."

He was educated locally in Essex County and also in Norfolk. He received an appointment to the U.S. Military Academy at West Point in 1836. Garnett graduated in 1841, 29th in the class, only two spots behind his cousin, Robert Selden Garnett Jr., who was his inseparable boyhood friend.

Upon graduation Garnett was commissioned as a second lieutenant in the 6th US Infantry and saw service in the field during the Second Seminole War in Florida from 1841 to 1842. After the war he served in various duty stations in Missouri, Arkansas, Louisiana, Texas the Dakotas, and California.

In 1861 he was serving as a captain in California along with Winfield S. Hancock and Lewis A. Armistead. He was anti-secession, but when his home state left the Union he resigned his commission and headed back east.

Garnett offered his services to the Confederacy and was offered a position as a first lieutenant in Cobb's Georgia Legion, which he commanded for two months. In November of 1861, he was appointed a brigadier general and later assigned to lead what had come to be known as the "Stonewall Brigade" after its first command-

er, Thomas J. "Stonewall" Jackson, who had been promoted to major general.

He saw action in the Shenandoah Valley Campaign of 1862, but earned the ire of Jackson when at Kernstown, Garnett ordered his men to pull back when low on ammunition and outnumbered. Jackson relieved Garnett from command and had him arrested. A court martial trial was started in August, but suspended after one day due to the Battle of Cedar Mountain. Garnett never had the opportunity to clear his name.

Lee ordered Garnett in September of 1862 released from arrest and to return to active service as a brigade commander, filling in for the injured George E. Pickett in James Longstreet's corp. He performed well at Sharpsburg and was given permanent brigade command when Pickett was promoted to command a divi-

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The Mystery of Garnett's Sword

Richard B. Garnett's body was never recovered from the Gettysburg battlefield. He was wearing a brand new uniform and it is suspicioned that Yankees stripped the body of its valuables including his sword, insignia, etc.

Fast forward 30 years to Baltimore, Maryland, when former

Confederate general George Steuart was in a pawn shop. He saw what he believed to be Garnett's sword, engraved with Garnett's name. The sword was marked "R.B. Garnett, U.S.A.," a sword he had when he was in the U.S. Army and used at Gettysburg. Steuart purchased the sword from the pawn shop.

Unfortunately, Steuart died in 1903, before he was able to locate a member of the Garnett family. In 1905, Steuart's nephew located a niece of Garnett and gave the sword to her. In 1919 the Garnett family donated the sword to what is now the Museum of the Confederacy in Richmond.

July Meeting Recap

By Michael E. Belcher

Camp Compatriot and Former Texas Division Commander John C. Perry was the guest

speaker at the Major Robert M. White Camp No. 1250 Twenty-fifth Anniversary

Dinner. John's presentation topic was on the "History of our Camp".

John is a founding member of the Camp from its re-chartering on April 29, 1989, and the inaugural and continuous camp newsletter editor of the *Confederate Gazette* for the full twenty-five years of its history. He also published the Camp's twenty-five year anniversary history book. He spoke first about the original Camp #100 in Temple, and Camp #10 in Belton, and some of the early years of the Sons of Confederate Veterans in central Texas. Then his talk turned to the re-founding of Camp #1250 in Temple and he

addressed the key activities, events, camp involvements and camp members from over the last 25 years. His presenta-



New Camp member Brian Douglas Tyler is sworn in at the July meeting (Photo by John C. Perry)

tion was informative, lively and at times somewhat comical, and was well

received by the Camp membership and guests in attendance.

Our dinner was catered by Schoepf's Barbecue of Belton. Participants also enjoyed a wonderful twenty-fifth anniversary cake.

A new member was sworn into the Sons of Confederate Veterans, Major Robert M. White, Camp #1250. He is Brian Douglas Tyler, who joined on two ancestors; the first ancestor was Thomas (T. C.) Furr, a Private in Company K, 36th Regiment, Arkansas Infantry; and the second ancestor was George Richard Gautier, a Private in Company B, 15th

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Valor At Gettysburg

(Continued from page 2)

When Jackson died, Garnett, despite his differences with him, travelled to Richmond to offer his respects and was a pall bearer at Jackson's funeral.

At Gettysburg, Garnett was in command of his brigade and was part of Pickett's Charge on July 3, 1863. Garnett led his brigade mounted as he had been kicked in the leg by a horse and the wound had become infected. In spite of being an obvious target he moved forward in the advance. Most accounts have Garnett reaching within 20 yards or so of the Union line at the "Angle" before he was hit. Various accounts say his horse was hit others say the rider less horse returned to Confederate lines.

Federal soldiers apparently stripped Garnett's body of its sword and other insignia before burying him in one of the mass graves on the battlefield. Unlike the Union dead, most of the Confederate dead were buried in trenches and their bodies weren't removed and brought South until the 1870s. Since his body was likely

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Garnett led his men on horseback at Pickett's Charge

Camp Schedule

August 13 2013

Regular Camp meeting at Cotton Patch Café, Temple Mall, 7:00 PM. Speaker: Frank Leslie, speaking on the exploits of his ancestors.

September 10, 2013

Regular Camp meeting at Cot-

ton Patch Café, Temple Mall, 7:00 PM. Speaker: Heather Larson

October 12 2013

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



November 12, 2013

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

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

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Next Meeting:
August 13th
Cotton Patch Cafe
7:00 PM Meeting

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New Museum Opens

A new museum opened on July 1st in Gettysburg. The Seminary Ridge Museum is a 20,000

square foot museum located in what once was Schmucker Hall on the Lutheran Theological Seminary campus in Gettysburg.

The building was there during the Battle of Gettysburg in 1863 and served as a hospital during and immediately following the epic battle. Its cupola served as an observation point for Union troops on July 1, 1863 and for Confederates during the remainder of the battle.



Seminary Ridge Museum

The goal of the new \$15 million museum is threefold, first to tell the story of the first day of

fighting at Gettysburg, second to tell of the care given of the wounded, and finally to focus on the "moral, civic, and spiritual debates of the Civil War era."

Valor At Gettysburg

(Continued from page 3) among the many unknown Confederates brought to Hollywood Cemetery in Richmond for reburial, a marker was placed in that section which commemorates Garnett's courage and his ultimate sacrifice for the South.

>> July Meeting Recap <<

(Continued from page 3) Regiment, Texas Cavalry (Johnson's Brigade). Commander Jimmy Dossey conducted the ceremony. Also a new member, Jere Patterson, was approved for membership in a unanimous vote.

Awards received from the SCV Texas Division for Camp members that were presented at the dinner were: Texas Division Bronze Cross for Meritorious Service, Dewey D. Wheat, Jr., Nicholas Teague, and Thomas Hughes.

SCV Certificates of Appreciation for participation in the 2013 Battle of Temple Junction were presented to: Jimmy Dossey, Darlene Dossey, John C. Perry, Sandra Perry, Ricky Copp, Terry M. Tyler,

Michael E. Belcher, Nancy Kelsey, Thomas Hughes, John Luther Larson, Jr., and James Harris.

Awards that were approved, and presented at the SCV National Reunion, in Vicksburg, Mississippi, on July 19, 2013. John L. Larson, Jr. received an SCV Commendation Medal from for his continued work in support of our Camp over the last year, Steve Wooley received an SCV Meritorious Service Medal for his continued work in support of our Camp over the last year and Michael E. Belcher received an SCV Meritorious Service Medal from the National organization for his work in support of the Texas Division. He also received the Dixie Club Bronze Medal for recruiting.