

Confederate Gazette

MOC to Remain?

In July reports began circulating through the Richmond, Virginia media that the Museum of the Confederacy (MOC) was in talks to merge with the American Civil War Center at Historic Tredegar in Richmond and the Virginia Historical Society, also headquartered in Richmond.

The MOC is perhaps the finest collection of Confederate artifacts in the world. The museum located in

downtown Richmond has over 130,000 Confederate items and the museum runs



Entrance to the Museum of the Confederacy in Richmond.

the White House of the Confederacy, Jefferson Davis' home during the war, next to

the museum. The MOC just last year opened a branch in Appomattox, Va.

Many voiced strong concern that the MOC would close its' downtown location which is landlocked and that it's vast collection would be disbursed.

The SCV voiced opposition to any merger. Michael Givens, Commander-in-Chief in an August 1st Press Release stated, "The Museum

(Continued on page 3)

150th Sabine Pass Events Set

The 150th anniversary of the Battle of Sabine Pass will be held on September 7th - 8th at the actual battle-grounds. Called Dick Dowling Days, named in honor of the Confederate commander. The event will be held at Sabine Pass Battleground State Historic Site near Port Arthur. The address for the

event is 6100 Dowling Rd. in Port Arthur, Texas.



Dick Dowling Memorial at Sabine Pass, erected by the State of Texas

A reenactment of the famous battle will take place

on Saturday September 7th with two scheduled battles at 10:00 AM and 2:00 PM.

There will be camps set up for visitors to visit and many demonstrations are planned. Many different vendors are expected to attend. The event is free and open to the public.



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

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: Richard Dowling	2
Davis Guard Medal	2
Flag to Fly in Richmond	3
Camp Calendar	3
August Meeting Recap	4

CONFEDERATE PROFILE

He Drove the Yankees Out of Texas



**Richard William
Dowling**

**Dowling moved to
Texas after his
parents died**

He led the men that received the only military medal awarded to Confederate soldiers during the war. One of the medals was sent to Confederate President Jefferson Davis, as a memento. Davis, perhaps realizing the significance of the medal, treasured the symbol of valor. He was carrying the medal when he was captured by Federal soldiers in 1865.

Richard William Dowling was probably born in Tuam, Ireland in 1838. He was one of seven children. His parents left Ireland around 1846, settling in New Orleans. After his parents died in Louisiana, Dick and at least three of his siblings relocated to Houston, in the early 1850's.

The year of 1857 was an eventful year in the life of the 19 year old Dowling. He took a wife, Elizabeth Anne Odlum, from a well to do Houston Irish family, and he opened a business, a saloon in Houston.

In 1859, Davis joined the Houston Light Artillery, a voluntary militia unit, and the following year switched to the Davis Guards, a predominately Irish infantry militia unit formed by members of his wife's family. By February of 1861, as war loomed over the nation, the Davis Guards was one of seven volunteer companies that formed in Galveston.

Dowling, as a 1st Lieutenant in the Davis Guards, was shipped to the lower Rio Grande valley to secure the surrender of Federal forces after Texas left the Union. There was no loss of life in accepting the surrender of Federal forces, but on the expedition the Davis Guards earned the reputation as a difficult and hard to manage unit.

Dowling was described in 1862, as, "a modest, retiring, boyish-looking Irish lad." He had red hair and during the war wore a walrus mustache.

The Davis Guards were reassigned to the 3rd Texas Artillery, as Company F, and next saw action in the recapturing of Galveston from the Federals on January 1, 1863. Dowling was praised for his actions in the fight for directing artillery fire against a wharf, where Union troops were barricaded.

In September of 1863, the Trans Mississippi Confederate high command knew what was coming, a Union invasion force approaching southeast Texas. The Yankee force included an armada of ships, 22 transport ships, carrying 5,000 men and 4 Union gunboats.

As part of the coastal defense against the Union force, Dowling and his men were sent to shore up the remains of an old fort at the entrance of Sabine Pass. The 26 year old Dowling commanded what was little more than a mud fort, known as Fort Griffin.

(Continued on page 3)

Davis Guard Medal

The heroics of Dick Dowling and his Davis Guards at the Battle of Sabine Pass in September of 1863 prompted the Confederate Congress to recognize the men. In 1864 Congress called their actions, "the most brilliant and heroic achievements in the history of this war."



The medal was made from a smoothed Mexican silver dollar which was then engraved (*see*

front of medal to left). The back said, "Sabine Pass, Sept. 8th, 1863." Each member of the Guard received one.

Jefferson Davis also had one and it was in his possession when he was captured by Federal troops in 1865.

Flag to Fly in Richmond

A group of Virginia residents, known as Virginia Flaggers say that they are purchasing a plot of land and intend to use it to fly a 15-foot Confederate battle flag in the view of motorists driving on I-95 near Richmond.

Susan Hathaway explained that the group would begin installing in August. "The Virginia Flaggers are thrilled to announce that we have finalized a lease to acquire property adjacent to Interstate 95, just South of Richmond, and will be erecting a 50 foot pole, on which a 10' x15' Confederate Battle Flag will fly 24/7, 365 days of the year," Hathaway said. "The flag will serve to welcome visitors and commuters to Richmond, and remind them of our honorable Confederate history and heritage."

She said that the group had received an "excellent deal on a pole" and would "complete this project at a cost of just under \$3,000."

Last year while protesting the Museum of the Confederacy's decision not to fly the flag in front of the museum, Hathaway told *The Richmond Times-Dispatch* that groups like the Ku Klux Klan had tarnished the

reputation of the Confederacy. "It's a symbol of my ancestors and what they fought for and what they gave their lives for in a lot of cases," she said.

MOC To Remain

(Continued from page 1) of the Confederacy holds an important trust as the repository of the world's finest collection of Confederate memorabilia. Recent reports indicate that the Museum of the Confederacy leadership is rapidly moving forward with a plan which will result in effectively closing the Museum of the Confederacy, selling its building in downtown Richmond, and dispersing its collection among several historical groups."

"The SCV strongly opposes this plan and urges the Museum of the Confederacy board to reconsider. While no doubt well-intentioned, this course of action will seriously jeopardize the integrity of the collection as well as the continued viability of the historic White House of the Confederacy which the Museum of the Confederacy also oversees," Commander-in-Chief Givens said.

Drove the Yankees Out

(Continued from page 2) Dowling's force included only 42 men. They had limited ammunition, a limited manpower, and only 6 cannons.

Dowling was told he could withdraw, if he would disable, his guns. The Confederate high command knew Dowling's 42 men couldn't stop a 26 boat and 5,000 man armada. However, Dowling chose a motto of, "victory or death," and decided to fight.

After a long bombardment with no response from the Confederates, the Federal invasion force felt sufficiently comfortable to steam on in. And in they came, the four Union gunboats blazed shot and shell at Dowling and his men in the mud fort. As the Federal ships came within range the Confederates opened up a red hot barrage, with all six guns blazing, on the first Union gunboat. Dowling's men fired without taking the precaution of swabbing their gun's barrels. One by one the Federal gunboats were disabled.

It was over quickly. The 43 Texans in 45 minutes had

(Continued on page 4)

Dowling had 42 men against 5,000 Yankees

Camp Schedule

September 10, 2013

Regular Camp meeting at Cotton 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: To Be Determined.



December 14, 2013

Annual Camp Christmas Party at Cotton Patch Café, Temple Mall, 7:00 PM. Speaker: TBD

**Next Meeting:
September 10th
Cotton Patch Cafe
6:00 PM Social
7:00 PM Meeting**

Confederate Gazette

P.O. Box 794

Salado, Texas 76571

Next Meeting:
September 10th
Cotton Patch Cafe
7:00 PM Meeting

▶ Page 4

August Meeting Recap

By Michael E. Belcher

Friend of the Camp, Compatriot Frank Leslie of Killeen was the guest speaker at the August camp meeting. He spoke about his and his wife's ancestors that fought against each other during the War Between the States. His ancestor fought for the Union, and his wife's ancestor fought for the Confederacy. Frank outlined the war through several battles over the years of the war, and showed the events that the two different ancestors were involved in at all times during the war until the wars end. It was an interesting discussion, very informative, and well received by the Camp membership and guests in attendance.

The Texas Division, 7th Brigade Commander, Michael E. Belcher addressed the camp and gave a brief report of the highlights of both the Division Executive Council meeting in June at Pottsboro, Texas, and the SCV National Reunion held in July at Vicksburg, Mississippi.

A new member was sworn into the Sons of Confederate Veterans, Major Robert M. White, Camp No. 1250. He is Justin Jere Patterson of Kempner, Texas, who joined on his ancestor; Edmund Dewitt Patterson, a 1st Lieutenant in Company D, 9th Regiment, Alabama Infantry. Commander Jimmy Dossey conducted the ceremony.

He Drove the Yankees Out of Texas

(Continued from page 3)

stopped 22 transport ships with 5,000 Yankee soldiers and four gun boats. The Texans had inflicted 400 casualties and captured what was left of 2 Union gun boats, the third one they stopped was towed away by the Federals. Losses among the Texans: zero.

Dowling and his Irish-Texas men became heroes not just in Texas, but across the South. It was said of Dowling and his Irish men, "Saint Patrick ran the snakes out of Ireland, and Dick Dowling ran the Yankees out of Texas!" Dowling and his men were awarded medals of valor.

Dowling and his Davis Guards saw no further action during the war, seeing only garrison duty at Sab-

ine Pass and they ended the war on duty in the defensive works on Galveston island.

After the war Dowling proved quite successful in a variety of business endeavors in the Houston/Galveston area. He was perhaps the leading retailer of liquor in the area, served as a member of the Board of Directors of Houston Gas Light Company, was half owner of a steamboat, and formed probably Houston's first oil exploration company, although it was not successful.

In 1867 Dowling contracted yellow fever. He seemed to have recovered, but ten days later, the illness returned, and he died on September 23, 1867 in Houston, where he was buried.