

# Confederate Gazette

## South Belton Designation

By Tom Hughes

The final item in the overall restoration project of South Belton Cemetery has finally been received and installed. The South Belton Cemetery was designated a "Historic Cemetery" back in 2003 at the request of Camp #1250.

The application for the medallion was submitted to the Bell County Historical Commission in September of 2012. It was then forwarded to the Texas Historical Commission in Austin for approval and manufacturing. The cost of the medallion was shared

with the City of Belton through the office of Sam



*New marker designation at the South Belton Cemetery. (Photo by Tom Hughes)*

Listi, Belton City Manager.

South Belton Cemetery was founded in 1850. The first burial was in 1851, and the final burial occurred in 1944. The cemetery has seen difficult times over the years as the responsibility for upkeep and maintenance has changed hands several times, finally coming under the jurisdiction of the City of Belton in 1951. One item of interest is that the Belton chapter of the Daughters of the Confederacy purchased block burial stones for all of the veterans in the cemetery in 1916.

## Virginia Saving Battlefields

The *Civil War News*, in their October issue, reported that the State of Virginia has made a major contribution in the effort to save Virginia battlefields.

Virginia Governor Bob McDonnell recently announced 13 battlefield preservation grant awards totaling \$2,252,663 that will help protect 1,265 acres. The funds come from the Civil War Site Preservation Fund (CWSPF) that McDon-

nell and the Virginia General Assembly established as a permanent fund in 2010.

The grant recipients, Central Virginia Battlefields Trust, Civil War Trust, Richmond Battlefields Association and Shenandoah Valley Battlefields Foundation will match state funds either to purchase the approved lands or to obtain easements on specific tracts.

All awards will result in the donation of perpetual ease-

ments to the Virginia Department of Historic Resources.

Some of the land being purchased with the funds include: Appomattox Court House Battlefield. (90.4 acres), Ball's Bluff Battlefield. (3.2 acres), Cedar Creek Battlefield. (174 acres), Malvern Hill Battlefield. (1 acre), Saylor's Creek Battlefield (130 acres), and Second Manassas (3.1 acres).



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

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White Camp #1250

### Inside this issue:

Profile on: John C. Carter 2

Carnton House at Franklin 2

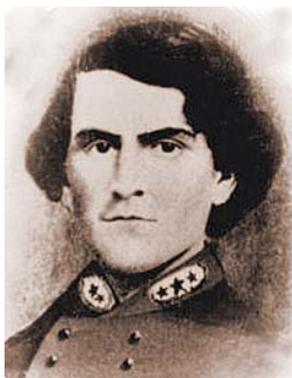
October Meeting Recap 3

Camp Calendar 3

Battlefield Guides 4

# CONFEDERATE PROFILE

## *Courageous Carter*



**John Carpenter  
Carter**

**At Murfreesboro  
Carter won  
commendations**

**H**e was one of the six Confederate generals mortally wounded at the Battle of Franklin in late 1864. Like most of the others killed he was well respected and had won one distinction after another during the war.

John Carpenter Carter was born in Waynesborough, Georgia. He was the son of Edward J Carter and Angelina Matilda Carpenter. Little is known of his childhood years. He attended the University of Virginia from 1854 to 1856. He transferred to Cumberland University in Lebanon, Tennessee and studied law. He graduated and was admitted to the Tennessee bar. He apparently decided to stay in Tennessee, after falling in love and marrying the daughter of a local judge and one of his law professors. He married Louise Dixon Caruthers and they had three children. In addition to practicing law in Lebanon he also taught law at Cumberland. Prior to the outbreak of war he had moved to

Memphis and had practiced law there.

When the Confederacy was formed, Carter offered his services, joining the 38<sup>th</sup> Tennessee Infantry as a captain. Carter commanded a company at the Battle of Shiloh, where he was recognized by the commander of the 38<sup>th</sup> Tennessee, Colonel R. F. Looney. In his official battle report Looney wrote: "Capt. John C. Carter deserves the highest praise for his great coolness and high courage displayed throughout the entire engagement. At one time he took the flag, and urging his men forward, rendered me great assistance in moving forward the entire regiment."

As a result of his actions at Shiloh, Carter was promoted to the rank of colonel and assumed command of the 38<sup>th</sup> regiment. He served equally as well at Perryville, where he was wounded, and Murfreesboro (Stone's River). At Murfreesboro Carter won commendations for an

attack on the Federal right and he is listed as being wounded during the battle, although he doesn't mention it in his battle report. His regiment advanced over an open field under heavy Federal fire. Their unceasing charge unnerved the Union line and Carter and his men chased them into the woods. They captured about 500 prisoners and seven pieces of artillery.

Carter again led his regiment in the Confederate victory at Chickamauga. They missed the fighting at Chattanooga, as he and his Tennessee boys were on detached duty. During the Atlanta campaign Carter assumed command of the entire brigade, replacing Marcus J. Wright, and was promoted to brigadier general as of July 7, 1864. During the fight at Jonesboro, Carter was in temporary command of Benjamin F. Cheatham's division.

After the fall of Atlanta, Carter and his men travelled with John Bell Hood on his ill-fated Tennes-

*(Continued on page 3)*

## Carnton House

The Carnton House is located in Franklin, Tennessee and became a focal point for the wounded and dying during the Battle of Franklin on November 30, 1864.

Construction of the home began in 1815 and was largely completed in the 1820s. It was built by Randal McGavock a wealthy Tennessean.

During the Battle of Franklin it served as a Confederate hospi-



tal and it is estimated that 300 wounded Confederates were

cared for by the McGavock family inside the home.

Six generals were killed or mortally wounded during the battle. Those who died were Patrick Cleburne, John C. Carter, John Adams, Hiram B. Granbury, States Rights Gist, and Otho F. Strahl. All but Carter and Gist were laid out on the back porch of Carnton

## October Meeting Recap

By Michael E. Belcher

Camp Compatriot 1st Lieutenant Commander James "Al" Harris, was the guest speaker, and his presentation topic was on the "University Greys", Company A of the 11th Mississippi Infantry Regiment. Part of the Army of Northern Virginia, the Greys served in many of the most famous and bloody battles of the war.

The rifle company joined the 11th Infantry at its inception on May 4, 1861 after Mississippi seceded from the Union. Their name "University Greys" derived from the gray color of the men's uniforms and from the fact that almost all of the Greys were students at the University of Mississippi. Nearly the entire student body (135 men) enlisted; only four students reported for classes in fall 1861, so few that the university closed temporarily.

The most famous engagement of the University Greys was at Pickett's Charge during the Battle of Gettysburg, when the Confederates made a desperate frontal assault on the Union entrenchments atop Cemetery Ridge. The Greys penetrated further into the Union

position than any other unit, but at the terrible cost of sustaining 100% casualties—every soldier was either killed or wounded, and several were captured.

After Gettysburg, the depleted Greys were merged with Company G (the "Lamar Rifles"). The unit continued to fight until the last days of the war. In 1866, after the University of Mississippi reopened its doors, the class of 1861, who skipped

*(Continued on page 4)*

### Courageous Carter

*(Continued from page 2)* see campaign. At the Battle of Franklin, Carter was in command of a brigade, as Hood's army advanced on entrenched Federal lines in Franklin. Carter's brigade was part of Cheatham's Corp and John C. Brown's division that was responsible for advancing on the Federals, west of the Franklin and Columbia Turnpike.

As Brown's division moved forward, on November 30, 1864, towards the Union lines, Carter's brigade was second in line next to Otho F. Strahl's brigade and behind brigades

commanded by States Right Gist and George W. Gordon. Brown's division had to cover a battle line of a half of a mile in width, with two brigades on the front line and two behind them.

The fighting was some of the fiercest seen in the entire war. A private in Carter's brigade, Sam R. Watkins described it as: "As we marched through an open field toward the rampart of blood and death, the Federal batteries began to open . . . 'Forward, men,' is repeated all along the line. A sheet of fire was poured into our very faces . . . 'Forward, men!' The air is loaded with death missiles . . . I had made up my mind to die, felt glorious . . . I got to their side (Federal line). But in fifty yards of where I was, the scene . . . seemed like hell itself . . . Dead soldiers filled the entrenchments . . . It was a grand holocaust of death . . . I do not know who is to blame."

Carter and his men had entered a death trap. As they reached the Union lines, due to the angle of their lines, they were trapped in enfilading Federal fire on their right and flanking fire on their left. Both Strahl and Gist were killed outright and Gordon was captured. Carter was shot

*(Continued on page 4)*

**Battle of Franklin: "It was a grand holocaust"**

## Camp Schedule

### November 12, 2013

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

### December 7, 2013

Annual Camp Christmas Party at Cotton Patch Café, Temple

Mall, 7:00 PM.

### January 11, 2014

26<sup>th</sup> Annual Lee-Jackson Dinner, Gober Party House 6:00 PM Social with Dinner at 7:00 PM. Speaker: Dr. Charles D. Grear, author of *The Fate of Texas: The Civil War and the*



*Lone Star State.*

### February 11, 2014

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

**Next Meeting:  
November 12<sup>th</sup>  
Cotton Patch Cafe  
6:00 PM Social  
7:00 PM Meeting**

# Confederate Gazette

P.O. Box 794

Salado, Texas 76571

## Next Meeting: November 12th Cotton Patch Cafe 7:00 PM Meeting

▶ Page 4

### Battlefield Guides

The Civil War Trust has available free Battlefield Guides for a number of different Civil War battlefields.

The Trust's Battle Apps are designed to work on Apple iOS devices (iPhone, iPad, iPad Mini, iPod touch) and most Android-smartphones.

Many of the Civil War Battle App® include various time-phased maps that will allow you to see where Union and Confederate

units were located on the battlefield at various key moments. One can walk where the Hampton Legion or Iron Brigade stood –

the units and your location are right on the map.

Some of the Civil War Battle App® guides come equipped with the Field Glasses® augmented reality viewer. Activate the viewer and hold the phone to the horizon. You will now be able to find key battlefield landmarks superimposed on the modern landscape. Click on various points of interest and access key facts about the location.

These are available for the Apple or Android app stores or the Trust's web site at [www.civilwar.org](http://www.civilwar.org).



### Oct. Meeting Recap

*(Continued from page 3)*

graduation exercises 5 years earlier to go off and fight a war, was called back to receive their diplomas. CPT Francis A. Pope was the only one who showed up.

A new member was sworn into Camp #1250, Marvin Gary Vann of Lampasas, Texas, who joined on his 2<sup>nd</sup> Great Grandfather.

### *Courageous Carter*

*(Continued from page 3)*

charging Federal breastworks, in the twilight hour, as he led his men trying to reinforce Gist's brigade. He and his men were near the famous Carter (no relation) House in Franklin when he was hit. Hood's attack at Franklin was over as nightfall mercifully came. It ended

in utter disaster for the Army of Tennessee.

The wounded Carter was taken from the battlefield south down the Columbia Pike, across Winstead Hill to the Harrison Home. He would not recover from his wounds and died there on December 10, 1864. His remains were buried in nearby Columbia in the Rose Hill Cemetery. Services were conducted by his brigade chaplain.

In all six Confederate generals, Carter, Gist, Strahl, John Adams, Patrick Cleburne, and Hiram Granbury were mortally wounded at Franklin. Tradition had it that all six men were laid out on the back porch of the McGavock House, near Franklin, the day after the battle. Since Carter did not die until ten days later, the legend is not true. Apparently only four were laid there all but Gist and Carter.