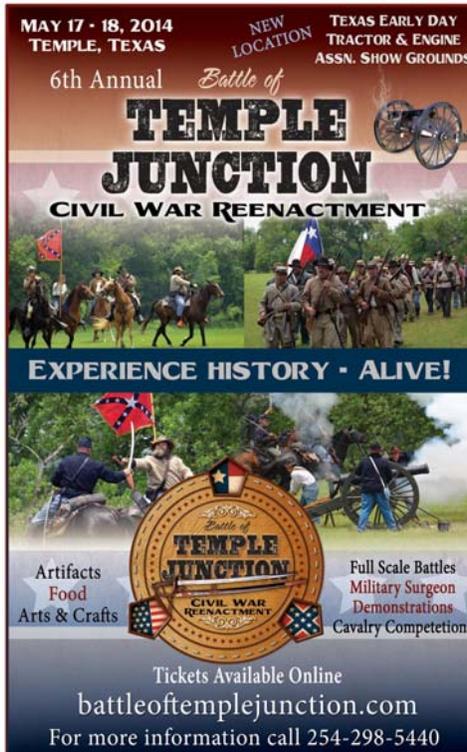


# Confederate Gazette

## Reenactment Set To Go

The sixth annual Battle of Temple Junction will be held Saturday and Sunday, May 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> along with an Education Day on Friday May 16<sup>th</sup> at a new venue in 2014. The event, like last years, is co sponsored by Camp #1250 and the City of Temple.

This years event will be held at the Texas Early Day Tractor and Engine Association Show Grounds located on Eberhardt Road just off I-35. The site includes 48 acres.



Poster for the reenactment.

As in past years the event will host full scale battles on Saturday and Sunday. John Larson, Jr. is heading up those efforts.

This year reenactors can register for the event online, as well as spectators can purchase tickets online.

In addition to the soldier's camps, there will be a medical demonstration, period sutlers and cavalry competition.



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## Ceremonies Held in Belton

By Michael E. Belcher

The Confederate Memorial Ceremony on Saturday, April 12<sup>th</sup> commenced at 5 PM at the South Belton Cemetery, with Compatriot Steve Wooley being the speaker.

Steve spoke about Sergeant Robert Lewis Chalk, a Confederate soldier that was buried there. A wreath was placed on the Confederate monument by Linda Wooley, and the First National Flag of

the Confederacy had been raised earlier over the cem-



Stars and bars flies at the Bell County Courthouse. (Photo by Michael E. Belcher)

etry.

This was followed by a ceremony at the Confederate Soldier Monument on the northwest corner of the Bell County Courthouse, where Mrs. Judy Tyler, a UDC member spoke about a short history of the United Daughters of the Confederacy, and why she is a UDC member.

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# CONFEDERATE PROFILE

## *North Texas Rebel*



**John Taylor  
Coit**

**J**ohn Taylor Coit was born on July 6, 1829, in Cheraw, Chesterfield County, South Carolina to John Caulkins and Ann Maria (Campbell) Coit. He graduated from Princeton in 1850 and returned home to practice law. He married Catherine Malloy Bunting, from Lumberton, North Carolina on January 2, 1856 in Cheraw. Together they would have five children, one girl and four boys.

In 1858 Coit ventured west, eventually purchasing a farm of 320 acres on the Dallas County and Collin County line. Once he was established he sent for his wife, other family members and six slaves. In 1862 Coit organized a company of cavalry from the Dallas-Collin County area. It would eventually become Company E of the 18<sup>th</sup> Texas Cavalry Regiment with Coit as its captain. The 18<sup>th</sup> Texas Cavalry also had men from Bell, Williamson, and Travis counties as members.

Coit family would stay on the farm and his young son is quoted as being envious of his father's opportunity to fight Yankees, an aunt wrote that he said, "he was going to camp where Pa was and was going to set fire to the Yankees and burn them all up."

The 18<sup>th</sup> Texas Cavalry saw duty first in the Indian Territory of what is now Oklahoma and then they were dismounted and transferred to Arkansas in May of 1862. In August they were transferred to the strategic Confederate fort at Arkansas Post –also known as Fort Hindman. The fort overlooked the Arkansas River on a 25 foot bluff. By January of 1863 the Confederates had mustered about 5,500 men to defend the fort, but approaching them was a Union army of over 33,000 plus an armada of gunboats. After three days of fighting the Confederates surrendered.

Coit as a POW would eventually find himself at Camp Chase in

Ohio. The men of the 18<sup>th</sup>, including Coit were exchanged later in 1863. In September of 1863 he and the 18<sup>th</sup> were part of General Patrick Cleburne's Division, Army of Tennessee. Coit had been promoted to lieutenant colonel and the 18<sup>th</sup> had been combined with 17<sup>th</sup>-24<sup>th</sup> - 25<sup>th</sup> Texas Cavalry (all dismounted). As part of James Deschler's Brigade they saw action at the battle of Chickamauga. Coit was seriously wounded in the fight.

He was treated in multiple hospitals for his injury and did not recover sufficiently enough to return to the battlefield. Coit ended his time in the Confederate Army in San Antonio as a recruitment officer. When the war was over Coit was physically unable to farm so he rented out his farm and moved to Dallas.

In Dallas he practiced law. He became a charter member of the First Presbyterian Church

*(Continued on page 4)*

**In 1863  
Coit became  
a POW**

## Surrender in Arkansas

Outnumbered over 6 to 1 Confederate forces were forced to surrender on January 11, 1863 at Arkansas Post, Arkansas (also known as Fort Hindman) on the Arkansas River. Surrendering to the Federals were members of the 18<sup>th</sup> Texas Cavalry.

The defeat at Arkansas Post cost the Confederacy fully one-fourth of its deployed force in Arkansas, the largest surrender of Rebel troops west of the Mississippi River prior to the final capitulation of the Confederates in 1865.

Union forces suffered 1,047

casualties, with 134 killed; Confederate about 5,500, almost all by surrender.

Although Union losses were high and the victory did not contribute to the capture of Vicksburg, it did eliminate one more impediment to Union shipping on the Mississippi.

# Memorial Services in Belton

*(Continued from page 1)*  
The First National Flag of the Confederacy was raised by



a color guard detail, composed of Compatriots James Kinnear, Doug Burleson, Justin Patterson and Joe Walker, all in Confederate uniforms. This was followed by a wreath laying at the monument by UDC member Joyce Jones.

The regular Camp meeting began at 6:00 PM at "The Gin" restaurant in downtown Belton. Gary Bray, the SCV Texas Division 2<sup>nd</sup> Lieutenant Commander was our guest speaker.

Commander Bray brought an assemblage of artifacts of

historical significance, from the War Between the States, which he discussed, as a show and tell type lecture. Among the pieces in the collection



*Photos: Left: Judy Tyler speaks at the Bell County Courthouse; Above: Steve Wooley speaks at the South Belton Cemetery; Right: Wreath placed at the Confederate monument at South Belton Cemetery. (Photos by Michael E. Belcher)*

were a death mask of Robert E. Lee; a replica of the *C.S.S. Hunley* gold piece; a large display of various types of ammunition; a musket rifle that was found in a cave; a pike spear point; a pistol from Gettysburg; pieces of Confederate

railroad tracks; a piece of Confederate hardtack; various reunion badges and belt buckles; slave chains and beads; slave trade money; a coal bomb; an amputee eating utensil; a Confederate hand grenade; a canister shell with



lead balls; an artillery cannon ball found at Fort Manhasset; cannon spikes; a flag souvenir from a UCV reunion; an original Confederate cavalry soldier uniform; and various newspaper articles and clippings.

Afterward, members were allowed to come up and look more closely at the collections and ask questions. His

*(Continued on page 4)*

**Texas Division  
2<sup>nd</sup> Lt.  
Commander  
Gary Bray spoke  
to the Camp**

## Camp Schedule

### May 13, 2014

Regular Camp meeting at Cotton Patch Café, Temple Mall, 6:00 PM Social / 7:00 PM Meeting. Speaker: Doug Baum of the Texas Camel Corps who will speak on the US Army Camel Corps and it's connection to the Confederacy.

### May 16-18, 2014

Battle of Temple Junction Reenactment, Texas Early Day Tractor and Engine Association Show Grounds, Temple

### June 6-8, 2014

Texas Division Reunion, Houston



### June 10, 2014

Regular Camp Meeting at Cotton Patch Café, Temple Mall, 7:00 PM. Speaker: Michael E. Belcher, 7th Brigade Commander

**Next Camp Meeting:  
May 13<sup>th</sup>  
Cotton Patch Café  
Temple Mall  
7:00 PM**

# Confederate Gazette

P.O. Box 794

Salado, Texas 76571

## Next Meeting: May 13th Cotton Patch Cafe 7:00 PM

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### Washington & Lee Demands

On April 21<sup>st</sup> black students at Washington & Lee University have issued an ultimatum: Denounce Robert E. Lee, one of the school's two namesakes, or face civil disobedience, the *National Review Online* recently reported. Students demanded that the school apologize for what they call Lee's "racist and dishonorable conduct," remove Confederate battle flags from the chapel and ban Confederate reenactors from the campus on Lee-Jackson Day, a state holiday.

Seven black law students, calling themselves "The Committee," say that if the school does not cave to their demands, they will engage in acts of civil disobedience until their demands are met. The students gave the school until September 1<sup>st</sup> to meet their de-

mands. "The time has come for us, as students, to ask that the university hold itself responsible for its past and present dishonorable conduct and for the racist and dishonorable conduct of Robert E. Lee," according to the *Washington Times*.

University President Kenneth Ruscio said he's created a special task force to consider the student's ultimatum. Ruscio says the task force will look into the school's history and "study the history of African Americans at the school." "While we are aware of some of that history, I believe we should have a thorough, candid examination," he added. Contact Dr. Ruscio at 204 West Washington Street, Lexington, VA 24450.

### April Ceremonies

(Continued from page 3)

presentation was informative, and well received by the Camp membership and guests in attendance.



*Texas Division's 2nd Lieutenant Commander Gary Bray holds up one of the artifacts he brought from the war. (Photo by Michael E. Belcher)*

Compatriot Joe Walker also brought a display of United Confederate Veteran convention and reunion badges and pins.

### North Texas Rebel

in Dallas and in fact Coit was a staunch Presbyterian. It was said that around his tent during the war there often were some vigorous religious discussions with Coit always taking a strong Presbyterian stand.

Coit and his family lived at a house in Dallas at the corner of Elm and Jefferson and Coit died on March 3, 1872. He was originally buried on a bluff of the Trinity River, but his body was later reinterred in Frankford Cemetery in Dallas.



*Coit's grave marker*