

# Confederate Gazette

## 26<sup>th</sup> Lee-Jackson in January

The Major Robert M. White Camp #1250 will hold its 26<sup>th</sup> Annual Lee-Jackson Dinner on Saturday night, January 18, 2014.

The event will be held at the Gober Party House located at 1516 West Ave H Street in Temple. The festivities will begin with a social hour at 6:30 PM followed by a dinner at 7:00 PM. The cost of the meal will be \$20 per person.

A silent auction will also be held in connection with the annual dinner.

The featured speaker for the event will be author Dr. Charles D. Gear. Dr. Gear is the author of *The Fate of Texas: The Civil War and*

*the Lone Star State*. Dr. Gear received his Ph.D. in history at Texas Christian University and has taught at Prairie View A&M University



*Dr. Charles D. Gear*

for the past four years. He teaches the United States history survey courses as well as advanced courses in early American and Latin American history. A specialist in Texas and Civil War history, Dr. Gear has au-

thored four articles, three book chapters, in addition to his current book.

Dr. Gear has received the Lawrence T. Jones III Research Fellowship in Civil War Texas History for the Texas State Historical Association, is a recipient of the fellowship to the 2007 West Point Summer Seminar in Military History, and the Burney Parker Research Fellowship for the Texas Collection at Baylor University.

The dress for the event is period, formal wear, cocktail, or "Sunday best" attire.

This annual event honors Robert E. Lee and Thomas J. *(Continued on page 3)*

## Museum of the Confederacy To Merge

As reported in the September issue of the *Gazette* as a rumor, it was formally announced in late November that the Museum of the Confederacy (MOC) in Richmond, Virginia will cease to be a stand alone museum.

The long standing Confederate tribute museum will merge with the American

Civil War Center at Historic Tredegar also in Richmond.

Waite Rawls III, president and CEO of the Museum of the Confederacy, and Christy Coleman, president of the American Civil War Center, will jointly serve as the leaders of the new organization.

The new museum, whose name has not yet been se-

lected, will build a new 30,000 square foot building at the current site of the American Civil War Center.

The White House of the Confederacy, in downtown Richmond next to the MOC's current location, will continue to serve as a location to tell the story of President Jefferson Davis and his family,



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# CONFEDERATE PROFILE

## *The Raggiested Rebel*



Thomas H. Bomar

In 1864 Bomar assumed command of the 38<sup>th</sup> Georgia

He had fought with all his might only to be captured by Union forces. When he was released in 1865 he was given the dubious title of “the Raggiested Confederate of them all,” and was awarded the first set of new clothing given to released POWs.

Thomas H. Bomar was born in Cumming, Georgia to Dr. Benjamin Bomar and Sarah Elizabeth Haynes on November 4, 1842. The family moved to Atlanta when Bomar was five years old and his father would become the second mayor of Atlanta.

Young Bomar attended Georgia Military Academy in Marietta and was a senior at the school when the war broke out. Bomar enlisted at age 19 in the Chestatee Light Artillery, a battery in which he was elected a lieutenant. His unit was first a part of the 38<sup>th</sup> Georgia but was soon detached and assigned to the Department of South Carolina, Georgia, and

Florida. Bomar quickly rose to the rank of captain, effective October 13, 1861 and early in the war his unit saw duty first in Savannah. They were later sent to the Charleston, SC area and Bomar was promoted to major effective July 2, 1863. On May 5, 1864 he and his men were transferred back to the 38<sup>th</sup> Georgia Infantry, part of the Georgia Brigade of the Army of Northern Virginia.

Bomar served as the commander of the 38<sup>th</sup> Georgia Infantry under brigade commander Clement A. Evans. He joined the 38<sup>th</sup> in time for Lt. General Jubal Early’s summer of 1864 raid in the Shenandoah Valley and threat on Washington, D.C. He saw action on the Confederate right at their victory at the Battle of Monocacy on July 9, 1864.

At the Battle of Cedar Creek, fought on October 19, 1864, after an initial surprise Confederate attack was successful Bomar and his men were over

run on the Confederate left when the Federals made a strong counter attack. Bomar was captured in the fight. He was imprisoned at Fort Delaware, on an island in the Delaware River. It was an old fortress converted to hold Confederate POWs and Federal political prisoners.

Bomar would spend the remainder of the war there. When the war was over Bomar was not immediately released as he and 16 others initially refused to sign an oath of allegiance. He eventually was released in August of 1865.

He returned to Atlanta where he first operated a school, but by 1870 was practicing as a civil engineer working mainly for railroads in the South. After a successful career with several railroads about 1890 he had moved to west Texas, living in El Paso for a while before settling in Pecos City. He continued to work as a civil

*(Continued on page 3)*

## The Victory That Wasn’t

The 38<sup>th</sup> Georgia Infantry, commanded by Major Thomas Bomar was involved in the Battle of Monocacy.

The battle was part of Lt. General Jubal Early’s movements in the summer of 1864 to attempt to draw Federal attention away from Robert E. Lee’s Army of Northern Virginia

which was under siege at Petersburg. Early with about 15,000 men moved up the Shenandoah Valley then near to Washington, D.C.

At Monocacy, Maryland, Early ran into a Federal force on July 9, 1864. A stubborn Union defense caused Early to order multiple assaults including one

in midafternoon by Bomar’s Georgians that wasn’t successful. The Confederates were finally successful in forcing the Federals to withdraw late that afternoon.

Clearly the Battle of Monocacy was a Confederate tactical

*(Continued on page 3)*

# December Meeting Recap

By Michael E. Belcher

At the December Camp meeting, Compatriot Steve Wooley spoke briefly, about how the Confederate forces fared in 1863, with an update on their situation during the Christmas of that year.

He began by discussing some of the Confederate victories and losses during the year, with mention given to those victories up until May, and then the turn in the tide toward the Union side with several Union victories including Vicksburg in May-June and Gettysburg in July, then Chattanooga in September and Knoxville in November.

Other than a victory at Chickamauga, which was a brief high point for the Confederacy in September, it was indeed a tough year. Fort Sumter survived another massive Union bombardment.

Lee survived another winter at New Hope Church with an inconclusive victory on December 2<sup>nd</sup>. Longstreet finished the year having failed in Tennessee, and many of his soldiers had bare feet during Christmas. The Texas troops

spent Christmas away from home in Louisiana. The city of Atlanta spent its last Christmas together, as it would fall into Union hands during 1864.

His presentation was informative, yet solemn and a bit gloomy. It was well received by the Camp membership and guests in attendance.

The 2014 slate of officers was approved by a vote of the camp membership. They are Jimmy Dan Dossey as Camp Commander; James "Al" Harris as First Lieutenant Commander; Terry Michael Tyler as Second Lieutenant Commander; and Michael E. Belcher as Camp Adjutant.

The 2014 officers will be officially installed at the Annual Lee-Jackson Dinner on January 18, 2014 at the Gober Party House in Temple.

It was decided to contribute \$100.00 to the Oakwood Cemetery Restoration Project in Richmond Virginia. It was also decided to contribute \$100.00 to a fund in the name of Jack Jones to the Central Texas Area Museum in Salado, Texas. Compatriot Jones passed away last month.

## Lee-Jackson Dinner



(Continued from page 1)

Grear's Book

"Stonewall" Jackson who both have January birthdays.

The Camp has held a special January dinner, since the camp was founded in 1988. Beginning in 1999 it was renamed the Lee-Jackson dinner.

## Raggedest Rebel

(Continued from page 2)

engineer and also started a land development company. Bomar died in Pecos City on March 12, 1927.

## Victory that Wasn't

(Continued from page 2)

victory, the battle is better known as the "The Battle That Saved Washington, D.C.," for it delayed Early's advance on Washington, causing him irreplaceable loss of manpower, spent remaining troops, and allowed the Federals to shore up their capital city defenses.

## Camp Schedule

### January 18, 2014

26<sup>th</sup> Annual Lee-Jackson Dinner, Gober Party House 6:30 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. Speaker: Rocky Sprott, on "Confederate Graves Register".

### March 11, 2014

Regular Camp meeting at Cot-



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

### April 12, 2014

Camp Dinner Meeting

**Lee-Jackson  
Dinner Speaker  
Writes Book on  
Texas in the War**

**Next Meeting:  
January 18<sup>th</sup>  
Gober Party House  
6:30 PM**

# Confederate Gazette

P.O. Box 794 Salado, Texas 76571

Next Meeting:  
January 18th  
Gober Party House  
6:30 PM Meeting

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## USS Westfield Artifacts

The *USS Westfield*, a converted steam sidewinder ferry boat, sank during the Battle of Galveston on January 1, 1863. The ship

was scuttled by its own crew to prevent it from being captured

by the Confederates. The detonation of the charges to sink it went off too soon killing the captain and 12 crew members.

In advance of US Army Corp of Engineer dredging operations in the Houston Ship Channel, the *Westfield* was discovered in about 47 feet of water. The Corp

raised what they could of the ship and the many artifacts found in and along the ship in 2009. The artifacts were sent to the Texas

A&M Conservation Research Lab for cleaning of marine life and restoration.

tion.

One of the prized recoveries is a 9 inch Dahlgren cannon that could fire an artillery shell over a mile and a half. The prized cannon will in 2014 be sent to the Texas City Museum, where it will go on display along with other artifacts from the *Westfield*.



Nine inch Dahlgren cannon partially restored. (Photo by the Houston Chronicle)

## Camp Lays Christmas Wreaths

Steve and Linda Wooley laid Christmas wreaths at the Confederate Soldier statue at the Courthouse in Belton and at the South Belton Cemetery memorials on behalf of Camp #1250. At South Belton Cemetery each of the three memorial markers had a wreath placed by it.



*Above: Wreath next to the Confederate Soldiers Monument at the Bell County Courthouse in Belton. Left: Wreath laid next to the Confederate Memorial marker at South Belton Cemetery. (Photos by the Wooleys)*