

Confederate Gazette

Lee-Jackson Held

By Michael E. Belcher

About 60 people attended the 26th annual Lee-Jackson Dinner in Temple on January 18, 2014. Those in attendance heard a talk by author Dr. Charles David Grear, Ph.D. His topic was "Why Texans fought in the War Between the States." He discussed the reasons of many noted men



Camp Officers sworn in from left Jimmy Dossey, James "Al" Harris, Terry Michael Tyler, and Michael E. Belcher. (Photo by Linda Wooley)

of the time as well as the reasons of the population in general. Dr. Grear noted that, in the decade prior to

the Civil War the population of Texas had tripled. The state was increasingly populated by immigrants from all parts of the South and foreign countries. When the war began, it was not just Texas that many of these soldiers enlisted to protect, but also their native states, where they had family ties. Dr. (Continued on page 3)

Confederate Penny Sells For \$211,500

An extremely rare Confederate penny was sold at a Florida auction in January for \$211,500.00.

The penny was one of about 16 originally cast in Philadelphia after the Confederate government contracted with Bailey & Co. of Philadelphia to design a one cent coin. Baily & Co. then contracted with Robert Lovett, a well known metal designer, to complete the coin's design. Lovett creat-

ed the penny design and then struck about 16 original coins. By then fighting had broken out between the



1861 Minted Confederate Penny

North and the South and Lovett developed a case of cold feet, worrying that his actions might be deemed treasonous to the United

States. None of the coins or the die were ever received by the Confederate government.

Lovett hid all the coins except for one which he kept in his pocket. Well after the war in 1873 one story has it that Lovett fell on hard times and accidently spent the Confederate penny at a bar in Philadelphia. The bartender noticed the unusual coin and contacted a friend. That

(Continued on page 4)



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Inside this issue:

Profile on: James D. Deshler 2

Surrender at Arkansas Post 2

Camp Award Winners 3

Camp Calendar 3

CONFEDERATE PROFILE

Texas Commander



James Deshler

Deshler was captured at Arkansas Post

He was from Alabama, but he was proud to command Texas troops. He felt nothing could stop his Texas boys, but a piece of Yankee shrapnel did stop him, ending his life all too soon.

James Deshler was born February 18, 1833, in Tuscomb, Alabama, the middle child of David Deshler and Eleanor Taylor Deshler. His father was from Pennsylvania and his mother was English. His father had travelled south to help build Alabama's first railroad. His father became a very successful merchant in Tuscomb, which is located in northwest Alabama. Both of James Deshler's siblings died young, his younger sister at age 13 and his older brother died in 1845, after receiving an appointment to West Point, in a swimming accident in the Hudson River.

Left as an only child he was pushed by his father to follow in his brother's footsteps and

in 1850 Deshler also received an appointment to the Military Academy at West Point. Deshler did well at the Point and in 1854 he graduated seventh in his class of 46 graduates, a class that also included, JEB Stuart, John Pegram, Archibald Gracie, Stephen Dill Lee, and W. Dorsey Pender.

Deshler entered the U.S. Army as a 2nd Lieutenant serving in the 3rd U.S. Artillery. The next year he was transferred to the 10th U.S. Infantry and saw his first action against the Lakota Sioux in the Nebraska Territory. He saw more action in 1858 in the Mormon War in Utah and was promoted to 1st Lieutenant.

As sectional hostilities flamed Deshler was stationed in Colorado, but resigned his commission in May of 1861 and returned home to Alabama. He was soon commissioned a captain in the Confederate artillery and ordered to report to Henry R. Jackson in what is now West Virginia serving as

brigade adjutant during the Cheat Mountain campaign. He suffered a severe wound, shot through both thighs, during the battle of Allegheny Summit on December 13, 1861.

After he recovered he was ordered to serve on the staff of Theophilus H. Holmes in Virginia, serving as Holmes' chief of artillery during the Seven Days fight in 1862. Deshler followed Holmes to the Trans Mississippi Department and by October 1862 he was given command of a brigade of Texas infantry. His regiments included Allison Nelson's 10th Texas Infantry and George H. Sweet's 15th Texas, George Fleming Moore's 17th Texas, and Nicholas H. Darnell's 18th Texas Cavalry regiments, all dismantled.

Deshler and his men were captured at the debacle of Arkansas Post when the Confederate Army surrendered to Federal forces on January 11, 1863. After the battle, Union

(Continued on page 3)

Surrender at Arkansas Post

James Deshler was in command of the Confederacy's forward lines at Arkansas Post on January 11, 1863. The heavily outnumbered Confederates, facing Federal troops and gunboats, began to surrender on the 3rd day of the fight.

Union general Frederick Steele approached Deshler under a

flag of truce. As they were discussing terms, Deshler noticed Union troops continuing to advance under the flag of truce. He threatened to fire on the Federals, but before the order could be given he realized it was too late as other Confederate units were surrendering up and down the line.

William T. Sherman, recalled of Deshler at the surrender, "Wishing to soften the blow of defeat, I spoke to him kindly, saying that I knew a family of Deshlers in Columbus, Ohio, and inquired if they were relations of his. He disclaimed any relation with people living north of the Ohio, in an offensive tone."

Lee-Jackson Dinner

(Continued from page 1)
Gear has authored and co-authored a number of books on the War Between the States. His presentation was informative and well received by the membership in attendance.



Dr. Charles David Gear speaks at the Lee-Jackson Dinner. (Photo by Judy Tyler)

Past Texas Division, 7th Brigade Commander Steve Wooley swore in the Camp Officers for 2014. They are

Jimmy Dan Dossey as Camp Commander; James "Al" Harris as 1st Lieutenant Commander; Terry Michael Tyler as 2nd Lieutenant Commander; and Michael E. Belcher as Camp Adjutant.

Camp awards for 2013 were also presented; please see the list

on this page. A silent auction, that raised about \$325.00,

was held at the event. Funds will be used for Camp projects.

Camp Award Winners:

Lawrence "Sul" Ross Award

*Michael E. Belcher
Kelton Haney
James "Al" Harris
John Larson, Jr.
John Larson III
Milton Lintz
Nick Teague
Steve Wooley
Dewey D. "Buddy" Wheat*

John Bell Hood Award

*Tom Hughes
John C. Perry*

Albert Sidney Johnston

Award
Jimmy Dassey

George H. Ballentine Service

Award
Dewey D. "Buddy" Wheat

Three new Cadet members were sworn into the Sons of Confederate Veterans, Major Robert M. White, Camp No. 1250.

The first is David Earl Patterson, age 8 of Kempner, Texas, who joined on his 2nd cousin, six times removed ancestor; Edmond

(Continued on page 4)

Texas Commander

(Continued from page 2)
general, William T. Sherman, recalled of Deshler at the time of the surrender, "Wishing to soften the blow of defeat, I spoke to him kindly, saying that I knew a family of Deshlers in Columbus, Ohio, and inquired if they were relations of his. He disclaimed any relation with people living north of the Ohio, in an offensive tone."

Deshler remained a prisoner of war until May when he was exchanged. He was promoted to brigadier general effective July 28, 1863 and was assigned a brigade composed of Texans. His command included his old 10th Texas Infantry regiment, but reformed with additional Texas units. They were part of Patrick R. Cleburne's division of the Army of Tennessee.

On the second day of the Battle of Chickamauga, September 23, 1863, Deshler was killed instantly when a Union artillery shell exploded in his chest literally blowing his heart out of his body. He was initially buried on the battlefield.

(Continued on page 4)

**Deshler
Commanded the
10th Texas
Infantry**

Camp Schedule

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 at Cotton Patch Café, Temple Mall, 7:00 PM. Speaker: Gary Bray, Topic: To Be Determined.



May 13, 2014

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

**Next Meeting:
February 11th
Cotton Patch Cafe
700 PM Meeting**

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February 11th
Cotton Patch Cafe
7:00 PM Meeting

▶ Page 4

Lee-Jackson Dinner

(Continued from page 3)

Dewitt Patterson, a 1st Lieutenant in Company D, 9th Regiment, Alabama Infantry. David is the son of our member Justin Jere Patterson also of Kemper.

The next two are Jackson Taylor Shivers, age 8 and Hudson Mathew Shivers, age 5, of Houston, both of who joined on their 3rd Great



Dewey D. "Buddy" Wheat accepts the George Ballentine Service Award, Linda Wooley is behind Buddy.
(Photo by Judy Tyler)

Grandfather ancestor; Thomas Franklin Dossey, a Private in Company C, 24th Regiment, Texas Cavalry.

Both boys are the grandsons of our Camp Commander Jimmy Dossey, who also conducted the ceremony.

A new member was approved for membership in a unanimous vote. He is Gary Brinegar of Belton, Texas.

>>> Confederate Penny <<<

(Continued from page 1)

friend had a friend, John Haseltine, a Philadelphia numismatic. Haseltine ended up buying all the coins and the die from Lovett.

Haseltine ended up using the original die and 73 restrikes. On the last strike the die broke with a crack.

The die was thought lost to history, but in 1961 it resurfaced in the hands of Robert Bashlow, a New York City coin dealer. In honor of the Civil War Centennial Bashlow had 30,156 copies struck in a variety of metals. Since the original dies were used each of these coins are flawed since the die had been damaged in 1873. After the Centennial castings Bashlow donated the die to the Smithsonian Institute where it currently re-

sides.

The coin that was sold last month was one of the 16 original 1861 castings. Today only 13 are known to still exist. The coin sold was originally purchased by the seller's family in 1974 for \$14,995. The coin sold at the auction for \$211,500.

In 2011 in honor of the 150th anniversary of the Confederacy the Smithsonian did another restrike in platinum, gold, silver, and copper.

Texas Commander

(Continued from page 3)

Later his father journeyed to the battlefield and with help was able to locate his son's body and return it home to Alabama.