

Confederate Gazette

Reenactment Fought

The sixth annual Battle of Temple Junction was held on May 17th and 18th along with an Education Day on May 16th. The reenactment, like last years, was co sponsored by Camp #1250 and the City of Temple.

For the first time this year's event was held at the 48 acres Texas Early Day Tractor and Engine Association Show Grounds which are located on Eberhardt Road just off I-35

About 400 school kids attended on education day. Kids from Temple ISD, Rog-

even from Williamson County attended. The City of Temple estimates that about 756



Saber battle at the reenactment (Photo by John C. Perry)

people attended as spectators on Saturday and Sunday.

John Larson, Jr. headed up and coordinated all the reenactors, Tom Hughes headed up education day and narrated the battles for the audiences. Jimmy Dossey and his wife along with Michael E.

ers ISD, St. Mary's, Central Texas Christian Academy, home schoolers and some

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May Camp Meeting: Camels in Texas

By Michael E. Belcher

Doug Baum, owner of the Texas Camel Corps farm in Valley Mills spoke about "the U.S. Army Camel Corps and its connection to the Confederacy". The old west was large, open and very arid, and Jefferson Davis had the vision to see that camels would be the perfect animal to use. He was laughed at, at first; however, when he became Secretary of War, he

finally got his way, and in 1855 the U.S. Government paid \$30,000 for about 70 camels.

They saw use in several expeditions through the American Southwest, and even more extensive use in west Texas. These camels also were used by the Confederate Army in Texas, during the War. After the war, the experiment failed due to

Jefferson Davis' unpopularity. Mr. Baum's presentation was excellent, quite informative, and unique, in that he also showed a brief historical camel documentary film that he had made.

Holly Leiferman from the Temple Parks and Leisure Services Department gave a last minute update on the "Battle of Temple Junction."

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CONFEDERATE PROFILE

Smartest Confederate



**James Johnston
Pettigrew**

**Pettigrew was
recognized as having
a gifted intellect**

He was likely the smartest man in the American Civil War, North or South. He spoke five languages fluently and could also read Hebrew, Greek and Arabic. He entered the University of North Carolina at age 14 and graduated top of his class. Unfortunately his intellect was lost to mankind by the deadly aim of a Yankee solidier.

James Johnston Pettigrew was born at the prosperous plantation known as Bonarva in Tyrrell County, North Carolina on July 4, 1828. He was the eighth of the nine children of Ebenezer and Ann Blount Shepard Pettigrew. Contemporary accounts called him "a gift from God," due to his intellectual abilities, far surpassing other children of his age. He was first educated locally, but at age 14 entered the University of North Carolina. He received a grade of "excellent" in every subject he took and in 1847 he graduated as valedictorian. Since he

was a talented mathematician he was asked to become a professor at the National Observatory. He later studied law and in 1850 to 1852 he travelled extensively in Western Europe, partly subsidized by his wealthy parents and a \$50,000 gift from his namesake, James C. Johnston, a friend of his father's.

When he returned from Europe Pettigrew became a partner in what was likely the most important law firm in South Carolina. He began to study military tactics as a member of the local militia in the 1850. Although not originally a supporter of secession, he did feel that war was inevitable and that it would be a long and most deadly war. He wanted to be ready for what he thought was sure to come.

In 1856 he was elected to the South Carolina House of Representatives. He argued against reopening slave trade in the legislature which insured his

defeat when he ran for reelection, but it garnered him national attention. He made a second trip to Europe and wrote a book on Spain which was well received just on the heels of the Civil War.

When South Carolina left the Union Pettigrew became an aid to the governor and was involved in the state's firing on Fort Sumter. Pettigrew declined several commission offers opting to enlist as a private in Virginia. He later did accept one of the commissions, becoming a colonel in the 22nd North Carolina regiment. At the Battle of Seven Pines on May 31, 1862, Pettigrew was wounded after being hit in the shoulder and neck. He refused to be carried from the field as he thought the wound was fatal and so no point in wasting his men's effort to remove him. He was later shot again and then bayoneted as he lay on the ground. Although he was re-

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The Death of Pettigrew

James Johnston Pettigrew survived Pickett's Charge at Gettysburg on July 3, 1863. He was wounded in the assault and was one of the few to make it all the way to the Union lines and then return alive.

As Robert E. Lee's army moved back south, Pettigrew was

ordered to help protect Lee as the army withdrew. Pettigrew was with his commander Henry Heath, who had just returned from a head wound. They were approached by cavalry which they first thought was Confederate. As they attacked they realized they were Federals.

One of the Yankee troopers was extremely accurate in his firing and Pettigrew ordered his men to take him out. As Pettigrew was getting a bead on him he looked directly at Pettigrew and fired hitting him in the abdomen. Although the Yankee was also killed Pettigrew died three days later.

Battle of Temple Junction

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Belcher ran the Camp's store during the three day

of life during the war. A special skirmish was also



event. Like last year Holly Leiferman, Temple Parks & Leisure Services'

Special Events Coordinator was the overall coordinator for the reenactment.

Similar to last year the school children were able to visit 14 different stations, each depicting some aspect



Photos: *Left above:* Camp Store on Friday; *Above:* Joyce Jones with a learning station about period education on Friday; *Left:* Confederate field piece fires at Union forces on Sunday; *Below:* Students observe field medical hospital on Friday. (Photos by John C. Perry)

put on by the reenactors for the kids.



Camp Schedule

June 6-8, 2014

Texas Division Reunion, Houston. Go to the web site for details: www.scvtexas.org/State_Convention_6YYS.html

June 10, 2014

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

Belcher, 7th Texas Division Brigade Commander

July 12, 2014

Quarterly Dinner Meeting at Cotton Patch Café, Temple Mall, 7:00 PM. Speaker: To Be Determined.



August 12, 2014

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

Good crowds,
good weather,
great
reenactment

Next Camp Meeting:
June 10th
Cotton Patch Café
Temple Mall
7:00 PM

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P.O. Box 794

Salado, Texas 76571

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Confederate Graves Found

Work at the Old City Cemetery in Lynchburg, Virginia has resulted in the discovery of 80 previously unknown Confederate graves. 40 of the unmarked graves were discovered over the last several months and about the same number were discovered last year.

Ted Delaney, the cemetery's assistant director said beginning in April, the team dug a 45-by-10-foot trench within "Yankee Square" at the cemetery where they found a mix of red and orange squares, which they determined were Confederate soldiers' graves.

Delaney said he is now tasked with identifying each soldier's grave and giving it the tribute it deserves. "Our goal is to put a marker at each grave space to

identify the soldier and note when he died and his military unit," said Delaney, who is optimistic about the project because, "the undertaker's notes are so detailed and complete."

May Meeting

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The Camp will have seven delegates to the 2014 Texas Division SCV Reunion in Houston on June 6th, 7th and 8th. The Camp Store will be participating this year as well. It was also decided to participate in the Belton 4th of July Parade.

A new member was approved for membership in a unanimous vote. He is Tommy Cockrill Dean of Belton, Texas.

>>> The Smartest Solider <<<

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ported to his family as dead, he was in fact captured and taken to a Union field hospital. He was exchanged the following August and he recovers from his wounds.

He was given command of a brigade made up of North Carolina regiments and saw action in his home state. In May of 1863 his brigade was assigned to the Army of Northern Virginia in time for their summer 1863 invasion of the north. When division commander Henry Heath was wounded, Pettigrew was given command of his brigade and three others during Pickett's Charge on the third day of the Battle of Gettysburg in July of 1863. During Pickett's Charge Pettigrew was on horseback, but his horse was hit and then Petti-

grew was hit in the hand, but according to some accounts in spite of being wounded he did reach the Union lines before being forced to withdraw.

As Robert E. Lee ordered his army to withdraw and head south Pettigrew, his arm now in a sling from his wound during the charge, was assigned rear guard action to protect Lee's army as it withdrew back below the Potomac River. In a firefight with Yankee cavalry, he was shot in the abdomen. He is carried back to Confederate lines where he lingers for three days before he passes away. His body was taken to the state capitol in Raleigh where it lay in state. He was buried in Raleigh, but post war he is reinterred on his family's plantation.