

Confederate Gazette

Reenactment on May 15-17th

The Major Robert M. White Camp #1250 and the City of Temple will jointly sponsor the 7th annual Battle of Temple Junction which will be held on May 15th through May 17th at the Texas Early Day Tractor and Engine show grounds.



Confederate cannon fire from the 2014 Battle of Temple Junction.

The reenactment will begin on Friday May 15th with an Education Day. Again this year, area schools will be invited to attend the reenactment. Last year approximately 520

school aged children saw soldier's camps and a mini reenactment fight.

The reenactment will open to the public on Saturday May 16th and Sunday May 17th. There will be full scale battles along with cavalry com-

petitions and a military surgeon display. Last year the City of Temple estimated that about 1,000 people attended the reenactment.

Again this year John Larson, Jr. will be coordinating the reenactors and Holly Lieferman will coordinate for the City of Temple. The Texas Early Day Tractor and Engine show grounds are located at 1717 Eberhardt Road in Temple.

Ceremonies Held in Belton

The Major Robert M. White Camp #1250 held ceremonies in Belton in honor of Confederate Memorial Day on April 11th. Ceremonies were held at both the south Belton Cemetery and at the Bell County Courthouse.

Flags were placed on Confederate soldier's graves at South Belton. Steve Wooley



gave a talk to those in attendance at the cemetery.

At the courthouse a Confederate flag was raised and a talk was given by Judy Tyler. A wreath was placed at the Confederate Soldier's Monument and a color guard was present.

(Left: a First National flag is raised at the Courthouse. (Photo by Linda Wooley)



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CONFEDERATE PROFILE

Confederate Sailor



John Taylor Wood

Wood was born in Minnesota

He served the Confederate cause on both land and sea, but post war he wouldn't return to the United States.

John Taylor Wood was born on August 13, 1830 at Fort Snelling, Minnesota, now the present day Saint Paul. He was the son of Major Robert Crooke Wood, an American army surgeon, and Anne Mackall (Taylor) Wood, who was the daughter of Zachary Taylor, who would become president of the United States in 1849.

Wood grew up at various army posts where his father was assigned. He was accepted into the U.S. Naval Academy at Annapolis beginning classes in 1847. He graduated in 1853 and was quickly assigned to sea duty. By 1860 he returned to the Naval Academy to serve as an assistant instructor in naval tactics and gunnery.

In 1861 after the war began Wood split with his father and

father-in-law by accepting a commission in the Confederate Navy. He gained early recognition as a gunnery officer in the famous duel between the *CSS Virginia* and the *USS Monitor* at the Battle of Hampton Roads in March of 1862. Wood then assisted Confederate efforts against the U.S. naval blockade in the Chesapeake Bay area. He was a nephew to Confederate President Jefferson Davis by marriage and became an aide-de-camp to Davis advising him on naval matters.

In February of 1864 Wood saw action again, but this time on both land and sea. He led a detachment of Confederate Marines along with 12 boats and two launches against Federal forces at New Bern, North Carolina. The object of their attack was the *USS Underwriter*. In a spectacular fight Wood and his men captured the *USS Underwriter*, but were forced to scuttle the ship when they came under Federal artillery

fire. Overall the New Bern attack failed, but Wood received praise for his action and what his men accomplished.

In August of 1864 Wood became the commander of the *CSS Tallahassee*, a London built steamship. Under Wood's command the *CSS Tallahassee* terrorized Union shipping on the Atlantic coast. Loaded with cannon the extremely fast *CSS Tallahassee*, in a nineteen day run, destroyed 26 vessels and captured 7 others that were bonded or released.

Running low on coal and water the *CSS Tallahassee* put in to the harbor at Halifax Nova Scotia pursued by Union warships. Due to neutrality regulations the *CSS Tallahassee* could only remain in port for 24 hours. Wood was able to get the port time increased by 12 hours, but he knew the Union warship were laying in wait for him. He hired a local pilot to help him take a shallow pas-

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Battle of New Bern

In February of 1864 the Confederates launched an assault on New Bern, North Carolina with the goal of trying to capture the town and port they had lost in 1862.

The Confederates were led by George E. Pickett and were opposed by Union General Innis

Parker. Pickett launched three different attacks and each failed.

The only success that the Confederates had was through Naval Commander John Taylor Wood. They were able to capture the *USS Underwriter* which was anchored in the

Neuse River.

They were attempting to take the captured vessel and attack the Union Naval Yards in New Bern. However, Union artillery from Fort Stevenson opened fire on the *Underwriter* setting it on fire and forcing Wood and his men to flee.

March Camp Meeting

By Michael E. Belcher

Our guest speaker was Com-patriot and Camp 1st Lt. Com-mander James "Al" Harris. He told us a story about his grandmother Dessie Harris, and a letter she had possessed that was written by her grand-father Private Julian A. Gil-more. He had enlisted, when the 2nd Mississippi State Caval-ry was organized in early April 1863, at the age of 37. He had a wife and six children at home. His brother, Wesley Gilmore, enlisted at the same time.

Two weeks later Julian and Wesley were in combat as the 2nd Mississippi State Cavalry was involved in a skirmish with an Iowa cavalry regiment during Grierson's Raid across Mississippi April 18-22. A few weeks later on May 5th, they tangled with the 10th Missouri Cavalry and the 7th Kansas Cavalry of Union General Dodge's division in a battle near Tupelo, MS. Julian Gil-more was wounded in this battle and taken prisoner. He was shipped by way of Corinth, MS and Memphis, TN to a POW camp in Alton, IL. He was

treated in the hospital there prior to being exchanged at City Point, VA and admitted to a Confederate hospital in Pe-tersburg, VA. He wrote the letter home to his wife. Com-patriot Harris read the letter and this story was well re-ceived and enjoyed by the Camp members in attendance.

Business conducted at the meeting included the following: Discussion on new meeting location alternatives was ta-bled until after the Reunion.

The public hearing on Texas House Bill 1242 has been set for Tuesday, April 14th at 2 PM, at the Texas State Capitol in Austin, and Compatriots James "Al" Harris and Terry Tyler have agreed to attend, repre-senting Camp 1250.

The Confederate Memorial Ceremonies at the South Bel-ton Cemetery and the Bell County Courthouse were well attended and were a success, thanks to all who participated.

It was decided to reduce the cost of attending the Reunion events for the camp members to \$35.00 per person for the

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Confederate Sailor

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sage only used by smaller ships, and left in the dead of night and was able to escape from the Federal ships.

Wood earned fame in the South for his exploits and returned to work with Davis as a naval aide. At the wars end he fled first to Cuba then returned to Halifax Nova Scotia. Rather than return to the United States he made Halifax his home.

He became a merchant and had real estate holdings. In 1874 he was appointed to the Halifax Pilot Commission and became an agent for the Boston Marine Insurance Company. He was well known in Halifax society and was involved in area yacht races, where he was often the vic-tor.

Prior to the war he had mar-ried Lola Mackubin, and to-gether they had 11 children.

Wood died on July 19, 1904 in Halifax. His death made front page news in the Halifax pa-pers.

Post-war Wood made his home in Halifax, Nova Scotia

Camp Schedule

May 12, 2015

Camp's Regular Meeting, Cot-ton Patch Café, Temple Mall, Temple, TX, 7:00 PM. Speaker: TBD.

May 15-17, 2015

7th Annual Battle of Temple Junction at the Texas Early Day Tractor & Engine grounds.

June 5-7, 2015

Texas Division Reunion: May-born Center, Temple, Texas

June 9, 2015

Camp's Regular Meeting, Cot-ton Patch Café, Temple Mall, Temple, TX, 7:00 PM. Speaker: TBD.



July 4, 2015

Camp to participate in the annual Belton 4th of July Parade.

**Next Camp Meeting:
May 12th
Cotton Patch Café
6:00 PM Social
7:00 PM Meeting**

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May 12th

Cotton Patch Cafe

6:00 PM-Social

7:00 PM-Meeting

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Confederate Symposium

A Sesquicentennial Confederate Symposium will be held in Chatfield, Texas on May 8th–10th. The event will focus on Texas in 1865. Speakers include Ed Bearss, former National Park Service Chief Historian, Rick McCaslin, from the University of North Texas, Tom Cutrer, former editor of the Handbook of Texas and Jeff Hunt, Texas Military Forces Museum Director.

General Jo Shelby's flag, reputed to be "The Flag" carried at Chatfield and buried in the Rio Grande, and his uniform will be on display.

May 8th is reserved for school kids with the event opening to the general public on May 9th with a

check-in beginning at 8:00 AM. Cost for the event is \$65.00 and includes a breakfast with Bearss on May 10th at 9:00 AM and a 10:00 AM a tour of the original site of General Shelby's "Last Review of the Confederacy," with Bearss.

The site is where Shelby's soldiers stopped along the banks of Chambers Creek, south of Chatfield. There they made their last bivouac as a Confederate unit. The next morning, June 2, 1865, the troops lined up for assembly and held what has been called "the last review of the Confederacy."

Contact Rob Jones at (903) 654-2066 for additional information.

April Meeting Recap

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Ball; \$20.00 per person for the Awards Luncheon; and \$20.00 per person for the Friday evening social event at the Hilton Hotel.

We received planning updates on the Sterling Robertson Plantation Open House, the Ladies Tea event; and the Memorial Ceremony to be held at the South Belton Cemetery.

This years proposed amendments to the Texas Division Constitution, are added as a supplement to this newsletter.

The Camp flags have been repaired, cleaned or replaced, and are ready for the Reunion. (8) The Texas SCV Specialty License

Plate case was heard on March 23rd by the U.S. Supreme Court. No word is expected until June 2015, at the earliest.

We sent a \$100.00 contribution to the Major George W. Littlefield Camp #59 in Austin, Texas for their Oakwood Cemetery Confederate monument project.

(10) A new member was approved for membership in a unanimous vote. He is Matthew Moore of Temple, Texas.

Amendments

Included with this newsletter are a series of proposed Texas Division constitutional amendments which the Camp will review at our May meeting.