

Confederate Gazette

27th Lee-Jackson Dinner

The Major Robert M. White Camp #1250 will hold its 27th annual Lee-Jackson Dinner on Saturday night, January 17, 2015.

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 and a sixth-generation Texan, Jeffrey D. Murrah. Murrah graduated from both Sam

Rayburn High School in Pasadena, Texas and the University of Houston at Clear Lake (B.S. and M.A.).



Jefferson D. Murrah

Murrah is a SCV member and he writes regularly for his local camp newsletter *The Johnston Journal*. Through

study, he discovered a relative in Terry's Texas Rangers. After reading everything available about the regiment, he still wanted to know more. His book, *None But Texans, A History of Terry's Texas Rangers* is the fruit of his research in uncovering the story of this legendary Texas cavalry regiment. Murrah will have his book available for sale at the dinner.

New officers will be installed at the meeting and the winner of the George Ballentine award will be announced.

The dress for the Lee-Jackson dinner is period.

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U.S. Supreme Court to Hear Case

The United States Supreme Court has agreed to hear the State of Texas' appeal to disallow the Texas Division Sons of Confederate Veterans to have an organizational license plate.

The Supreme Court will review a ruling that Texas violated the Constitution when state officials rejected an application by the Texas

division while issuing more than 350 other specialty plates.

That ruling will have "untenable consequences," Texas officials led by Attorney General and Governor-elect Greg Abbott argued in their appeal. "After this ruling, it is not apparent how the state could exclude profanity, sacrilege or overt racism from its specialty

license plates."

The New Orleans based 5th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals ruled for the SCV in a 2-1 decision, saying, "By rejecting the plate because it was offensive, the board discriminated against Texas SCV's view that the Confederate flag is a symbol of sacrifice, independence and Southern heritage."

CONFEDERATE PROFILE

Black Confederate



Holt Collier

Collier served in the 9th Texas Cavalry

Although a slave this man wanted to fight for the South and did so with a remarkable stint as a Confederate cavalry soldier and sharpshooter.

Holt Collier was born a slave in Jefferson County, Mississippi in 1848. He was purchased at a very young age by Howell Hinds and moved to Hind's plantation "Plum Ridge," near Greenville in Washington County, Mississippi.

When Hinds male children were sent to Kentucky for formal schooling Collier was sent too, not just as a servant but as a fellow student. Collier however seemed more interested in hunting the rich Kentucky woodlands rather than attending school.

When war broke out Hinds and his oldest son made plans to join the Confederate Army. Collier also asked if he could join, but the Hinds told him at age 14 he was too young. Collier said, "I begged like a dog,

but they stuck to it."

In both Kentucky and Mississippi Collier became known as a very skilled marksman. He killed his first black bear at age 10. By the outbreak of the war he was considered the best bear hunter in the Mississippi delta.

The Hinds boarded a steamboat to head to Memphis to enlist. Young Collier snuck on board and was befriended by a crewman who hid him and let him stay on board. Collier left the steamship in Memphis and found his master. No more was said of his youth and he was allowed to enlist in the Confederate Army with his master, not as a servant, but as a soldier.

He eventually became a member of Company I of the 9th Texas Cavalry. According to published reports Collier served as scout, sniper and a spy. Collier would see fighting in Mississippi, Alabama and Tennessee.

Post war found Collier back at Hind's plantation. He got into trouble over the death of a Union officer who had been involved in an earlier altercation with Collier's former master. Suspension fell on Collier as the one who had committed the murder, but Collier denied it. He was eventually acquitted by a military tribunal. Post-trial Collier left Mississippi for Texas. In Texas he worked for Lawrence "Sul" Ross, who Collier had served under during the war, on Ross' ranch.

He eventually returned to Mississippi where he was a professional hunter. Some claim that Collier killed over 3,000 bears during his life. In 1902 and again in 1907 he was hired to take President Theodore Roosevelt on a bear hunt.

Collier died in 1936 and is buried in Greenville at Live Oak Cemetery located on the old "Plum Ridge" plantation grounds. A Confederate headstone was placed on his grave.

Teddy Bears

Holt Collier was at least partially responsible for today's toy Teddy bear.

In 1902 Holt was asked to be a tracker for President Theodore Roosevelt's bear hunt in Mississippi. Collier was out ahead when one of his dogs cornered a big black bear. The bear

killed the dog and Collier was afraid it might get away so he banged the bear in the head knocking it unconscious.

Collier then tied the bear to a tree and waited for the president to arrive. When Roosevelt arrived he refused to shoot the tied up bear.

As the story spread a political cartoon was drawn showing the tied up bear and Roosevelt unwilling to shoot it. A New York toy maker quickly came out with a stuffed bear and called them Teddy Bears. The new toy line was very popular then and even today.

December Camp Meeting

By Michael E. Belcher

The Camp had a wonderful turnout, with over 60 people in attendance at our December Christmas Party and meeting at Oscar Store restaurant. Our guest speaker was Virginia Flaggers founder, Susan Hathaway. She gave an enthusiastic talk on the history of the Virginia Flaggers organization, and spoke of the projects they have completed and those that are being planned. The presentation was very exciting and well received by the camp members and guests in attendance.

Commander Dossey and Adjutant Belcher presented a check for \$500.00 from the camp to Susan Hathaway for use by the Virginia Flaggers in their fight for the cause of our Southern Heritage.

Adjutant Belcher presented a 5' x 8' Gonzales Flag, the "Come and Take It Flag" from the camp to Susan Hathaway as a gift. The flag was embroidered in the upper outer corner with a presentation citation from the Camp to her.

Sandra and John Perry presented Susan Hathaway with a



Above: Susan Hathaway speaks at December meeting. Below: Come & Take It flag presented to Susan. (Photos by John C. Perry)



gift basket of Texas articles, as a personal gift from the camp to her as well.

We had a wonderful response by our camp members to our call for donations of toys for

Christmas for children, to the First Baptist Church in Troy. We thank Compatriot Tammy Bozeman for taking the lead on this action. Lots of toys were collected at the dinner for this cause.

Commander Dossey called for any additional nominations from the floor for the camp officers for the coming year. There were none, so he called for a vote of acclamation on the existing previously announced slate of officers that were presented by the Camp Officer Selection Committee at last month's meeting. They are Michael E. Belcher for

Camp Commander; James "Al" Harris for 1st Lieutenant Commander; Terry M. Tyler for 2nd Lieutenant Commander; and Mason W. DuBose for Color Sergeant. Michael Belcher will also continue to

handle the duties of Camp Adjutant. The vote passed by a unanimous vote with no opposition, and the new officers will be sworn in at the Lee-Jackson Dinner in January.

Camp Schedule

January 17, 2015

27th Annual Lee-Jackson Dinner, Gober Party House 6:30 PM Social with Dinner at 7:00 PM. Speaker: Jeff Murrah, Topic: Secession

February 10 2015

Regular Camp meeting at Cot-

ton Patch Café, Temple Mall, 6:00 PM Social and 7:00 PM. Camp meeting. Speaker to be determined

March 10 2015

Regular Camp meeting at Cotton Patch Café, Temple Mall, 6:00 PM Social and 7:00 PM.



Camp meeting. Speaker to be determined

April 11 2015

Quarterly Dinner meeting

Over 60 people attend December meeting in Oscar

Next Camp Meeting: January 17th Gober Party House 6:30 PM Social 7:00 PM Meeting

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January 17th
Gober Party House
6:30 PM-Social
7:00 PM-Meeting

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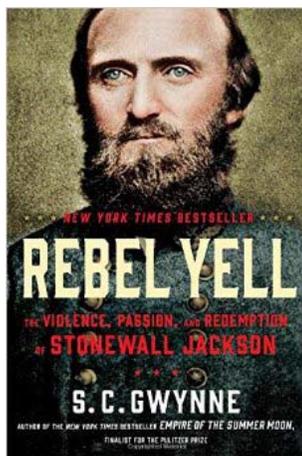
Book Review: "Rebel Yell"

By John C. Perry

I don't normally do book reviews, but I recently finished a book that I consider one of the finest books written on a Confederate personality. The book is *Rebel Yell: The Violence, Passion, and Redemption of Stonewall Jackson* by S.C. Gwynne, a Pulitzer Prize finalist.

"Stonewall" Jackson is one of my heroes since I was a child, so I felt going into the book there just wasn't much I didn't already know. Was I ever wrong. The author has weaved together a wonderful account of Jackson's life and in the process an excellent account of the military campaigns in which Jackson was involved.

The book is lengthy, 672 pages, but it is so well written that it reads like a novel. I sailed right



through it, often not wanting to put it down.

One thing that struck me about Jackson was that he truly was a

warrior. That term seems to be easily used today, but Jackson really came to be the person he really was meant to be in battle. Right after the battle of Fredericksburg, Jackson told an aide how horrible war was, the aide responded saying we were invaded, "What can we do." Jackson's response was "Kill them sir. Kill every man."

In spite of the warrior mentality Jackson was very religious. The author describes the deeply religious convictions held by Jackson and how he help facilitate a Christian revival in the Army of Northern Virginia

Gwynne is a Texas based author, he lives in Austin, and has written

Empire of the Moon about Quanah Parker as well as several other books.

This is a must read for any serious student of the Army of Northern Virginia. It is simply very well done.

Lee-Jackson

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formal wear, cocktail, or "Sunday best" attire.

This annual event honors Robert E. Lee and Thomas J. "Stonewall" Jackson who both have January birthdays. The Camp has held a Robert E. Lee dinner since the camp was founded in 1988. Beginning in 1999 the dinner was renamed the Lee-Jackson dinner.