

Confederate Gazette

Statue in Georgetown Challenged

The San Gabriel Unitarian Universalist Fellowship in Georgetown has started a petition calling for the removal of the 21 foot tall Confederate Soldier's monument located on the southern side of the Williamson Courthouse. A counter petition has also been launched that calls on the county to keep the statue, started by Krista and Allen Gick.

Both petitions are listed online at change.org. The petition to remove the statue had 252 people sign it as of September 28th and the petition to retain the statue had 1,569 people sign it as of the same date.

Mark Skrabacz the "pastor"

of the fellowship told the *Austin American-Statesman*, "The thing that got me the



Confederate Soldier's Monument in Georgetown (Photo by John C. Perry)

most is that this monument that honors the Confederacy is on the lawn in the courthouse square of the symbol of justice in our county."

The Williamson Museum's Executive Director Mickey Ross told the *Statesman* that money was collected from county residents in the early 1900s to erect the monument. The monument is dated 1916. She said the monument was only to honor Confederate veterans who played such a major role in the development of the county.

According to the San Gabriel Unitarian Universalist Fellowship's September 2015 newsletter they also plan to have people sign petitions at their worship services and also to distribute petitions to area churches. The newsletter also states, "It is clear

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States Vary on License Plates

Following the U.S. Supreme Court ruling against the Texas Division of the SCV over the right of the state to bar the SCV's license application request, some states are moving to ban any plate with the Confederate Battle Flag on it. Others are allowing modifications.

In Virginia the governor, Terry McAuliffe, instructed

the Virginia Attorney General to take action to re-



verse the 2001 ruling that required the SCV logo and for the Secretary of Transportation to develop a plan

for replacing the license plates as quickly as possible.

In Georgia the state's governor, Nathan Deal, ordered a redesign. In an apparent agreement with the Georgia Division of the SCV, a large Battle Flag in the background will go but the Battle Flag in the SCV logo will stay. The new design has not yet been finalized.



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CONFEDERATE PROFILE

Texas Indian Fighter



**John Robert
Baylor**

**Confederate gained
control of New
Mexico after Battle of
Mesilla**

He was a harsh Indian fighter in Texas before the war and during the war his anti-Indian policy got him fired by Confederate President Jefferson Davis.

John Robert Baylor was born in Kentucky on July 20, 1822, the son of Dr. John Walker Baylor (1779-1852) and Sophie Marie Weidner (1787-1862). He came from a prominent family, his grandfather commanded George Washington's cavalry, his grand-uncle founded Baylor University, and he was the grandnephew of a U.S. Senator.

Baylor's father was a surgeon in the U.S. Army, so young Baylor lived in one duty station after another. From 1835 to 1839 he attended college in Ohio before immigrating to the Republic of Texas in 1839.

After a stint as a school teacher in the Indian Territory Baylor lived for a while in Marshall, Texas where he met Emily Hanna. They married on March 27,

1845 and had as many as ten children of which five survived to adulthood. He and his bride later took up farming and ranching in Fayette County, near LaGrange. He was elected to the Texas House in 1853, representing Fayette County, serving one term. While in the legislature he studied law and he was admitted to the bar in 1854.

In 1855 he became an Indian agent to the Comanche Indians, but was dismissed in 1857. He relocated to Parker County near Weatherford and continued to evolve his anti-Indian stand and produced an anti-Indian newspaper in Jacksboro and Weatherford. In June 1860 he was the leader of a militia group which defeated the Comanches at the Battle of Paint Creek. The fight was instituted to avenge the murder and scalping of a young white boy.

Baylor was pro-secession and was part of the Texas Secession Convention. When Texas

left the Union, Baylor offered his services to Texas. He became Lieutenant Colonel of the 2nd Texas Mounted Rifles, a state unit which he helped form. He was later promoted to a full colonel.

His unit was mustered into the Confederate Army on May 23, 1861. The next day, Baylor and his men were ordered to move into the New Mexico Territory and secure it for the Confederacy. Baylor successfully took control of most of the territory with a victory at the Battle of Mesilla, after which Baylor proclaimed himself the Territorial Governor for the Confederacy. In due time, the Confederate government would later recognize Baylor as such.

Baylor's initial focus in New Mexico was to protect the residents not from Union soldiers, but from Apache Indians. Baylor felt that negotiating with Indians would not produce results so he issued orders to

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Battle of Mesilla

The Battle of Mesilla was fought on July 25, 1861 in the New Mexico Territory, in present day Doña Ana County, New Mexico.

After Texas left the Union John R. Baylor was sent with the 2nd Texas Mounted Rifles to occupy abandoned US forts on the

western frontier. Baylor moved into New Mexico and on July 24, 1861 captured Mesilla. Baylor began to prepare an attack on the nearby Union garrison at Fort Fillmore.

The Federals however attacked first. Baylor and his men pushed them back to the fort

where the Federals attempted to flee during the night. They were overtaken the next day and surrendered.

The effect of this small battle secured the Arizona Territory for the Confederacy and Baylor proclaimed himself as governor.

September Camp Meeting

By Michael E. Belcher

Compatriots Reuben and Caleb Brunk and Jessica Larson were the guest speakers at the September camp meeting. The boys are the sons of Stephen Brunk of Killeen, and Jessica is the daughter of our former Camp Commander John L. Larson, Jr. and his wife Barbara. They spoke about their participation and experiences at the Sons of Confederate Veteran's sponsored Sam Davis Youth Camp this year held at the Three Mountain Retreat in Clifton, Texas from Sunday, July 27th to Saturday, August 2nd.

They were well prepared with a power point presentation complete with photographs; and they talked with great enthusiasm about the guest speakers at the camp, and their classes on Confederate History and Southern Heritage, traditions, historical dress, manners, period songs and dance.

They also spoke about other fun activities like horseback riding, swimming, cannon and musket training, archery, fish-

ing, and field trips. They were highly complimentary of the camp, and had a great time there. These three young compatriots were sponsored by the camp this year, each receiving a full scholarship to attend. They were asked lots of questions and the presentation was well received by the Camp membership and guests in attendance.

Two new members were sworn into the Sons of Confederate Veterans, Major Robert M. White, Camp No. 1250. They are Matthew Allen Moore, of Moody, Texas, who joined on his 3rd Great Grandfather ancestor; Joseph Franklin Griffin, Sr., a Private in Company E, 28th Regiment, Texas Cavalry (Randals' Regiment, 1st Texas Lancers); and William Clifford Price of Harker Heights, Texas, who joined on his 2nd Great Grandfather ancestor; Andrew Joseph Price, a Private in Company G, 39th Regiment, North Carolina Infantry. Commander Michael E. Belcher conducted the ceremony.

A revised SCV Texas Heritage Resolution was presented by

Compatriot James Bozeman, which met with the camp's approval and was to be presented at the SCV Texas Division Executive Council (DEC) meeting in September.

Another SCV Heritage Resolution advocating the Texas Division to show support for the Virginia Flaggers organization was discussed by Compatriot Ralph Snyder, and will be presented at the SCV Texas Division Executive Council as well. This also met with camp approval.

Following a proposal made by Compatriot Milton Lentz, the camp membership decided to coordinate with the governing board of the Hillcrest Cemetery in Temple, with the prospect of doing some work on the Confederate graves that are located there.

It was decided to coordinate for the December / Christmas party meeting to be held at the Rancher's Steakhouse and Grill in December, which is located at 107 Hwy 36 Bypass N, at 4:00 PM in Gatesville, Texas.

Camp Hears Report on Davis Youth Camp

Camp Schedule

October 10, 2015

Camp's Quarterly Dinner Meeting, 6:00 PM Social and Meeting at 7:00 PM, Cotton Patch Café, Temple Mall. Speaker is Mason Dubose who will speak on General Dudley McIver Dubose.

November 10, 2015

Camp's Regular Meeting 6:00

PM Social and Meeting at 7:00 PM, Cotton Patch Café, Temple Mall. Speaker to be determined.

December 12, 2015

Tentative: Camp Christmas Party 7:00 PM, Location and speaker TBD.



January 9, 2016

Tentative: Lee-Jackson Dinner 7:00 PM, Location and speaker TBD.

Next Camp Meeting:
October 10th
Cotton Patch Café
Temple Mall
6:00 PM Social
7:00 PM Meeting

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October 10th
Cotton Patch Cafe
Temple Mall
7:00 PM

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Georgetown Memorial

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that this Confederate monument glorifies those who fought on behalf of the institution of slavery and white supremacy.

The wording on the south side of the marble statue reads, "In memory of the Confederate soldiers and sailors. Erected under the auspices of the U.D.C. of Williamson County. 1916." The wording on the north side of the statue reads, "No braver patriots ever fought, no braver deeds were ever wrought."

According to the UDC the statue cost \$2,000 to erect and was funded by benefit shows, donations from the City of Georgetown, Williamson County

and individual donations. When the statue was unveiled the UDC said a crowd of 5,000 people attended.

The order, Unitarian Universalism, which the San Gabriel Unitarian Universalist Fellowship is affiliated with, is a non-Christian religion. It has been called a liberal religion characterized by a "free and responsible search for truth and meaning." The theology of individual Unitarian Universalists apparently ranges widely, including atheism, agnosticism, pantheism, deism, Judaism, Islam, Christianity, neopaganism, Hinduism, Buddhism, Taoism, and other beliefs.

Texas Indian Fighter

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exterminate all Indians in a proclamation issued March 20, 1862.

He was authorized to form five additional battalions and Baylor returned to Texas to recruit men. While in Texas the Confederate government in Richmond learned of Baylor's extreme Indian policy. Horrified at his decree Baylor was not only fired as governor, but also was decommissioned as a Confederate officer.

Baylor publicly defended himself in newspaper articles, claiming that the leadership back east didn't understand how to deal with Indians. Regardless of what happened, Baylor still supported the Confederate efforts. As a volunteer he helped with the Confeder-

ate effort to recapture Galveston.

The month before the war ended in 1865 Baylor was re-commissioned as a colonel in the Confederate army. He was assigned the task of recruiting men for service on the Texas frontier.

After the war he settled in San Antonio and practiced law. Eventually he ended up as a rancher in Uvalde County.

Baylor was a large man with a large temper. He was involved in several postwar gunfights and one knifing. One said of Baylor, "Anyone he liked was the best fellow in the world, and anyone he disliked was the damnest rascal."

He died in Montell, in Uvalde County, on February 6, 1894.