

# Confederate Gazette

## Texas Division Reunion Set

The Texas Division of the Sons of Confederate Veterans will hold its 2016 Division Reunion at the YO Ranch and Resort in Kerrville, Texas from June 3<sup>rd</sup> to June 5<sup>th</sup>.

Registration will begin at Noon on Friday June 3<sup>rd</sup> and continue through Noon on June 4<sup>th</sup>. On the 3<sup>rd</sup> a number of activities will take place including a camel exhibit which will be held from 1:00 PM to 3:30 PM, a Memorial Service will be held at Center Point Cemetery about a mile outside of Kerrville from 4:00 PM to 5:00 PM, and an Adjutant Training Workshop from 4:00 PM to

5:30 PM at the hotel. All these activities are free.

On June 3<sup>rd</sup> the Reunion will hold its Friday Evening Social from 6:00 PM to 9:00 PM at the hotel. The cost for this event is \$35 per person.

Opening ceremonies for the Reunion will begin at 8:30 AM on Saturday, June 4<sup>th</sup> at the hotel. The first business session will begin at 9:30AM, lasting until Noon.

The Awards Luncheon will begin June 4<sup>th</sup> at Noon and will run until 1:30 PM at the hotel. Cost for the luncheon is \$35 per person. The second business session will follow the luncheon.

An optional Kerrville Hills Winery Tour will take place at 2:30 PM on the 4<sup>th</sup>. The Kerrville Hills Winery will offer four wines for tasting, along with light appetizers (cheese and crackers, fruit, and a chocolate treat). Cost for the tour is \$28 per person. Also an optional James Avery Jewelry factory tour will take place at the same time. This tour is free.

The Southern Ball will be held at the hotel on June 4<sup>th</sup> from 6:00 PM to 11:00 PM. The cost for the Ball is \$75 per person. Visit: [hillcountrycamp.org/2016-texas-reunion](http://hillcountrycamp.org/2016-texas-reunion), for more details.

## History Month Celebrated in Belton

Confederate History Month is celebrated each April and the Major Robert M. White Camp #1250 observed the month with ceremonies at the South Belton Cemetery and at the Bell County Courthouse on April 9<sup>th</sup>.

of Confederate soldiers

buried in the South Belton Cemetery, a flag raising ceremony at the Bell County Courthouse, and the placement of a wreath at the Confederate soldiers monument at the courthouse. Texas is one of seven states which provides for Confederate History Month.



Joe Walker and Steve Wooley at the South Belton Cemetery. (Photo by Judy Tyler)

The annual event includes marking the graves



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White Camp #1250

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# CONFEDERATE PROFILE

## *The Gray Ghost*



**John S.  
Mosby**

**College Dispute Lands  
Mosby in Jail**

He and his men were so feared that Union Major General Phil H. Sheridan authorized the formation of a troop of 100 men armed with the latest weapons to track him and his men down. The Federal unit was commanded by Captain Richard Blazer and they represented the cream of the crop of Federal soldiers, each armed with the Spencer repeating rifles. Their object was to seek and destroy "The Gray Ghost," John S. Mosby and his men. When all the smoke was cleared Mosby and his men had either killed or wounded all but two of the "elite" Federals and captured their Spencer carbines.

John Singleton Mosby was born in Powhatan County, Virginia, about 40 miles west of Richmond on December 6, 1833. Little is known of Mosby's early years, other than he was noted as an outdoor type, despite a less than stout physique.

In October of 1850 Mosby enrolled in the University of Virginia. In his second year Mosby shot in the neck and nearly killed a fellow student during an argument. Mosby was charged with "Malicious Shooting." Mosby claimed it was self-defense, as his victim was much larger than the slim Mosby. A nearly hung jury finally convicted Mosby on the charge of "Unlawful Shooting." Mosby was fined and sentenced to one year in prison, which he only served part of the sentence as he was pardoned by the Virginia governor.

After the trial Mosby became very good friends with the prosecuting attorney. Under his tutorage Mosby studied law and was admitted to the bar in 1858. Mosby set up a law practice in Howardsville, Virginia. It was in nearby Bristol, Virginia that Mosby met Pauline Clarke, daughter of a wealthy Kentucky lawyer and politician. They were married on December 30,

1857 in Nashville, Tennessee. Little is known about the apparently extravagant wedding except that a Tennessee senator and future president, Andrew Johnson, attended.

The new family settled in Bristol, Virginia where Mosby practiced law and raised a family. The peace and serenity of life in Bristol was disturbed in 1861 when the sectional differences between North and South began. At age 27 Mosby enlisted in a local cavalry company. Mosby, at 125 pounds, was the smallest and frailest of all the new recruits. He and his compatriots were however quickly whipped in to proper shape under the stern military guidance of future Confederate general, Grumble Jones.

Mosby and his company fought in the First Battle of Manassas (Bull Run) and then Mosby was assigned to Brigadier General J.E.B. Stuart's cavalry as a scout. During the Seven Days

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## Mosby and Grant

In 1872, Mosby visited then President Ulysses S. Grant at the White House.

Mosby told Grant, "If I had captured you things might have changed, I might have been in the White House and you might be calling on me." Grant agreed, replying, "Yes." After the visit Mosby announced his

support for Grant's Republican Party, feeling that Grant did have the best interest of the South in mind. This caused Mosby to lose much of his popularity with his fellow Southerners.

There were threats and even shots taken at Mosby due to his politics.

Mosby was a frequent guest at the Grant White House and received political spoils with Grant's successor, Rutherford Hayes appointed Mosby as the U.S. consul to Hong Kong. Although Mosby claimed he never liked China, he served in the post for seven years, until 1885.

# April Meeting

By Michael E. Belcher

Our April meeting was held at the Ratibor Grill, east of Temple and our guest speaker was Jerry Nelson, a former Past Commander of our camp, and the current Commander of the General Jerome B. Robertson Camp #992 of Brenham, Texas. Jerry gave us a wonderful presentation on "The Battle of Palmetto Ranch."

Commander Nelson told the story of the last "battle" of the war. He was joined by his wife, Betty. The presentation was very informative, and well received and enjoyed by the members in attendance.

Business conducted at the meeting included the following: Camp Second Lieutenant Commander James Bozeman reported that he has "Battle of Temple Junction" posters available, as well as signup sheets for working volunteers for the event.

The wording for the Jacob Hemphill monument was voted on and approved. The monument will be made and a date for a ceremony will be established.

Past Commander Jimmy Dossey reported that the Camp made \$94 in Camp Store sales at his barbershop in March.

Camp Commander Tyler reported that we will be signing up to participate in the Belton 4<sup>th</sup> of July Parade. The Adjutant will provide non-profit organization status and pay the entry fee to the Belton Chamber of Commerce, and Camp Color Sergeant Mason DuBose agreed to take charge of Camp participation for the event.

Compatriot Milton Lentz agreed to head a committee for the work to be done at Hillcrest Cemetery in Temple. They will decide exactly what needs to be done, as well as equipment needs, and then establish workdays for Camp member participation.

Commander Tyler reported that at the Texas Division Reunion on Saturday, June 4<sup>th</sup>, that we will have 7 delegate votes available to the camp, if we have that number in attendance. He also reminded us that the SCV National Reunion is in Dallas this year in July.

## Gray Ghost

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Campaign near Richmond in 1862 it was Mosby that originated the idea of Stuart's famous ride around Union General George B. McClellan. Stuart's dashing three-day ride located McClellan's exact position as well as destroying Federal supplies and taking prisoners.

In 1862 Mosby petitioned Stuart to allow him to form an independent command under the new Partisan Ranger Law. The law passed by the Confederate Congress in April of 1862 allowed for the formation of partisan bands to attack the enemy behind their lines and in general cause havoc. Recruits were to wear uniforms similar to the regular army, but were to be paid for arms and munitions captured and turned over to the Confederate government. Stuart approved the request in late 1862.

In one of his first major accomplishments as a partisan leader was in March of 1863 in Fairfax Court House, Virginia. Mosby and his men slipped into a Federal headquarters

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**Mosby Leads  
Confederate Partisan  
Ranger Unit**

## Camp Schedule

### May 10, 2016

Camp's Regular Meeting, 6:00 PM Social and Meeting at 7:00 PM, Cotton Patch Café, Temple Mall. Speaker: James Bozeman

### June 3-4, 2016

Texas Division Reunion, YO Ranch, Kerrville, TX

### June 14, 2016

Camp's Regular Meeting, 6:00 PM Social and Meeting at 7:00 PM, Cotton Patch Café, Temple Mall. Speaker: Dr. Buddy Wheat

### July 9, 2016

Camp's Quarterly Dinner Meeting, 6:00 PM Social and Meet-



ing at 7:00 PM, TBD

### July 13-17, 2016

SCV National Reunion, Richardson, TX

**Next Camp Meeting:  
May 10<sup>th</sup>  
Cotton Patch Cafe  
Temple, TX  
6:00 PM Social  
7:00 PM Meeting**

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Next Meeting:  
Cotton Patch Cafe  
Temple Mall  
Temple, Texas  
6:00 PM

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## Camp Member Passes Away

Camp member Stephen David Forman passed away on April 13, 2016. Steve lived in Troy and had been a member of Camp #1250 for many years.

He was born July 20, 1948 in Houston. He graduated from Belton High School and in 1970 graduated from Texas A&M University. In 1973, joined the Temple Police Department. He then went to work for the Austin Police Department in 1975, where he served for 12 years before transferring to the Hewitt Police Department. He retired as a detective in 1991.

Survivors include two sons, a daughter, 19 grandchildren; and 5 great-grandchildren.



## The Gray Ghost



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camp and captured Union Brigadier General Edwin H. Stoughton.

By 1864 many Confederate commanders were critical of the various partisan troops. J.E.B. Stuart wrote that Mosby's partisans were, "the only efficient band of rangers I know of." Mosby's command never was larger than 800 men. Typically, it would operate behind Union lines in small bands of 20 to 80 partisans. In contrast to the general image of partisan troops, Mosby was noted as a strict disciplinarian and in firm control of his men.

Mosby and his partisans were so successful behind Union lines that Ulysses S. Grant ordered a number of different measures to try

to stop Mosby including the unsuccessful operation of Captain Blazer and his "elite" Federals. It was later estimated that because of Mosby and his men over 30,000 Federal troops were held away from the front to protect Federal supplies.

Mosby was wounded seven times during the war, but was able to recover from each wound. Grant, who after the war became a friend of Mosby's said, "there were probably but few men in the South who could have commanded successfully a separate detachment in the rear of an opposing army and so near the border of hostilities as long as he did without his entire command."

Mosby disbanded his unit as op-

posed to surrendering to Federal troops on April 21, 1865. In his return to civilian life Mosby returned to his pre-war occupation of practicing law. He opened a law practice in Warrenton, Virginia and also bought and sold land.

In 1872, Mosby visited then President Grant at the White House. Mosby told Grant, "If I had captured you things might have changed, I might have been in the White House and you might be calling on me." Grant agreed, replying, "Yes."

Grant's successor, Rutherford Hayes appointed Mosby as the U.S. consul to Hong Kong. He died in 1915 at the age of 82 and was buried in Warrenton.