

Confederate Gazette

National Reunion in Texas

By Terry Tyler

The SCV's 121st National Reunion was held in Richardson, Texas on July 13th to July 17th which was attended by four Camp #1250 members.

National officers were elected to serve two year terms. Commander-In-Chief: Thomas V. Strain Jr., Lt. Commander-In-Chief: Paul Grambling Jr., Commander Army of Trans Mississippi: Johnnie L. Holley Jr., Councilman Army of Trans Mississippi: Darrell L. Maples.

Future national reunions will be held in 2017 in Memphis,

Tennessee, 2018 in Franklin, Tennessee, and 2019 in Mobile, Alabama. The vote on the Constitutional amendments



Camp members attending the Reunion were Terry Tyler, Michael E. Belcher, and James Bozeman (pictured) and Ricky Capp (not pictured)

was as follows: 9.1.2. The Commander-in-Chief and the Lt. Commander-in-Chief shall serve a term of two years, or until their succes-

sors are elected, and they may not succeed themselves consecutively in the same office. PASSED. 9.1.3. The Department Commanders and Councilmen shall serve a term for two years, or until their successors are elected. They may succeed themselves in the same office to which they were elected once. PASSED. The month of April each year shall be designated and recognized as National Confederate History and Heritage Month. The Confederate Memorial Tartan shall be designated and recognized as the Official Tartan of the SCV.

Camp Marches in Belton Parade

The Major Robert M. White Camp #1250 marched in the 4th of July Parade in Belton for the twenty-first straight year. The 16 Camp members and friends who were either on the float or marching were



The Camp's float in the Belton 4th of July Parade. (Photo by John C. Perry)

greeted with applause from the estimated 30,000 people who gathered to view the annual parade. Even the weather cooperated, as the sun didn't break through until after the parade began.



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CONFEDERATE PROFILE

Tejano Captain



José de la Garza

“Don’t worry about me. If you hear that they killed or wounded (me), tell them that it’s okay, he died well.”

José Rafael de la Garza, October 27, 1863

All races and ethnic groups fought for the Confederacy, this man was one of the bravest of the brave leading his men into battle when he was killed. He was one of many Hispanics who fought for the South.

Although his exact birthday is unknown, José Rafael de la Garza was born in San Antonio, likely around 1838. He was the son of wealthy landowner Antonio de la Garza and his wife María Josefa Menchaca. His father is noted for being the first person to coin money in Texas. With permission of the Spanish governor Garza in 1818 had a coin minted with one side having his initials and the other side a single star. Some have speculated that the star coin may have inspired the "lone star," which later became a Texas symbol.

José was educated initially in San Antonio and helped on his family’s farm and ranch land. The family had a home in San

Antonio, at what today is Main and Houston. In 1912 a cannonball was found in the walls of the de la Garza house, an apparent relic from the siege of the Alamo. He left Texas in the early 1850s to attend college in Kentucky at St. Joseph’s College in Bardstown, a Jesuit school. His studies included ancient Greek, Latin, and theology. One of his professors described him as a young man of “fine disposition.”

When war broke out between the North and the South, it split the Hispanic community in San Antonio with some supporting the Union while others supported the South. Although his family owned no slaves de la Garza enthusiastically supported the Confederacy and de la Garza was mustered into the Alamo Rifles for a three-year term on March 31, 1862, although he was listed as Joseph R. Garza. He entered Confederate service as a second lieutenant and received a

\$50.00 bounty for joining.

The Alamo Rifles became Company K of the 6th Texas Infantry. Company K was made of men mainly from Bexar County, while Company F was made up of men mainly from Bell County. In September the 6th Texas was at Camp McCullough north of Victoria. Throughout the war de la Garza wrote letters home, describing Confederate Army life. About a third of his letters were written in English and the rest in Spanish. In 2011 his letters were published in a book, *Tejanos in Gray: Civil War Letters of Captains Joseph Rafael de la Garza and Manuel Yturri*, by Jerry Thompson.

The 6th Texas was ordered to Arkansas to help supplement Confederate forces protecting Little Rock. De la Garza, near Rockport, Arkansas, wrote his mother, "I'm already desirous to see all of you," he wrote. "I hope this war ends quickly and God grant me life to see you

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Tejanos Serving the South

There are no exact numbers for how many Hispanics served in the Confederate Army. More than likely at least 2,500 joined the army to fight for the Confederacy.

One notable was Santos Benavides, who rose to command the 33rd Texas Cavalry as a colonel. He was the highest

ranking Tejano to serve the Confederacy.

Others joined Hood’s Texas Brigade and would end up travelling thousands of miles away from home to fight in the army of Robert E. Lee.

Many Tejanos from San Antonio served in the 6th Texas Infantry and fought in the battles of

Chattanooga, Chickamauga, Atlanta, and at Franklin and Nashville.

More than 300 Texas Mexicans from Refugio and Bexar counties joined the 8th Texas Infantry. Two companies commanded by Joseph M. Peñaloza and José Ángel were almost entirely made up of Tejanos.

July Meeting Review

By Michael E. Belcher

Our program was presented by guest speaker Joseph L. Owen, author of the book, "Texans at Gettysburg. Blood and Glory with Hood's Texas Brigade," who spoke on the topic of his book. His discussion largely concentrated on the attack on the Union Army's left flank on the second day of the battle, July 2, 1863. He focused mainly on the two assaults by the 4th and 5th Regiments of Texas Infantry; their brave performance, the fierce fighting and heavy losses and casualties. He told some wonderful stories as related by participants of the battle; some funny and some horrendous. He briefly discussed the aftermath of the battle in the overall War effort.

Business conducted at the meeting included the following: (1) Commander Tyler reported that the curbstone at the Hillcrest Cemetery Confederate monument in Temple was poured last week and Compatriots Milton Lentz and Tommy Dean put cleaner on the gravestones. We will follow with the gravel work next. (2) Com-

mander Tyler reported that on the 4th of July Parade event, we had about 15 camp and family members participate. He thanked Compatriot DuBose for attending the organization meeting. (3) Commander Tyler reported that Terry Smith will repair one damaged gravestone from the South Belton Cemetery for \$350. He should have photos of the work for the next meeting. (4) Commander Tyler reported that with the increased amount of text on the Jacob Hemphill monument, that it will cost \$1,525 for a larger monument. It will take about 6 weeks to complete the monument. A motion was made by Compatriot John L. Larson, Jr. to pay \$1,525 for the larger monument; which was seconded by Compatriot Mason DuBose, and passed by a unanimous vote of the members present. (5) Discussion was raised on the Jacob Hemphill monument graveside dedication ceremony at the North Belton Cemetery. We are looking at either Veteran's Day Friday, November 11th or Saturday, November 12th.

Tejano Captain

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again. ... Up to now I don't think I would like a military career, but we'll see later" He also noted with despair the amount of sickness that plagued his unit, writing, "[I]t's very sad to see them lying on the ground exposed to the sun and the air with measles." De la Garza noted that he was in good health and getting along with the other men in his unit. He was concerned over the lack of winter clothing, but wrote home, "We'll see if we can take enough [clothes] from the Yankees to dress ourselves."

De la Garza was on "detached service" in Austin and missed the Battle of Arkansas Post in January of 1863, which saw the Confederate forces, including the 6th Texas surrender. When de la Garza reported back for active duty in July of 1863 he was assigned to the 17th Texas regiment. From Louisiana de la Garza wrote his mother, "I saw some thirteen federal flags captured by General Taylor, very beautiful flags." He observed what Union invaders

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De la Garza wrote many letters home from the battlefield.

Camp Schedule

August 9, 2016

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

September 13, 2016

Camp's Regular Meeting, 6:00 PM Social and Meeting at 7:00 PM, Cotton Patch Café, Temple

Mall. Speaker: Speaker to be determined.

October 8, 2016

Camp's Quarterly Dinner Meeting, 6:00 PM Social and Meeting at 7:00 PM, Location to be determined. Speaker to be determined.



November 8, 2016

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

Next Camp Meeting:
August 9th
Cotton Patch Cafe
Temple, TX
6:00 PM Social
7:00 PM Meeting

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P.O. Box 794 Salado, Texas 76571

Next Meeting:
August 9th
Cotton Patch Cafe
Temple, Texas
7:00 PM

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Camp Member Passes

Camp #1250 member Thomas Nolen Young passed away on July 7, 2016 in Temple. His funeral was on July 15 at the Central Texas State Veterans Cemetery where he was buried with full military honors. Survivors include his wife Karen Young.

He was born the only son to Wilfred and Alma Bonner Young in Hempstead, Texas on July 13, 1947, a sixth generation Texan. He proudly served in the United States Coast Guard on active duty from 1966 to 1970 where he then served for two years in the reserves.

In 1973 he joined the Harris County Sheriff's Department and rose through the ranks from jailer to Detective Sergeant in 1978. In

1980 he moved to Belton to be closer to his wife's parents and joined the Temple Police Department in 1982.

He served in many capacities from patrol to training. He formed the first Official Honor Guard and his last 5 years before retirement, in 2000 he was one of the first two motorcycle officers for Temple Police Department. He served honorably in the US Navy Reserves from 1984 to 1991.

He was a member of Masonic Lodge, Knob Creek Lodge 401, He was recommended and appointed District Deputy Grand Master in 2001. He received the Golden Trowel Award in 2006. He was also a long time member of the Camp #1250 of the SCV.

Tejano Captain

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had done to Louisiana, "All the plantations are destroyed," he wrote. "It is sad to see everything ruined. Now that the Yankees are coming they'll finish desolating everything."

At the Battle of Mansfield on April 8, 1864, de la Garza led his company in a frontal assault against those Yankee troops. He was hit just above the knee by an artillery shell and bled to death on the battlefield.

In a letter to his brother-in-law in April, de la Garza's death was described, "I have some painful news to communicate to you. It is

that Joe Garza fell while gallantly fighting at the head of his company at the battle of Mansfield on the evening of the 8th inst. He was shot above the knee with a shell and died soon after. This I was



de la Garza's grave

told by a number of his company who had assisted at his burial. Joe spent the greater part of the day with me the day

before the fight and was in fine health and spirits."

He was initially buried on the battlefield, but his brother-in-law, recovered his remains several months later and de la Garza was re-buried in San Fernando Cemetery #1 in San Antonio.