

Confederate Gazette

Hemphill Ceremonies Held

The Major Robert M. White Camp #1250 held ceremonies on November 12th to celebrate the legacy and memory of Jacob Hemphill at Hemphill's burial site at the North Belton Cemetery.

A good crowd was on hand on the Saturday after Veterans Day for the event.

Jacob Hemphill was born February 5, 1844, in Se-



Hemphill Monument at North Belton Cemetery (Photo by James Bozeman)

vier County, Arkansas. Hemphill enlisted as a Private into Company H, 5th Texas Infantry Regiment, on August 20th, 1861. During the war he was wounded four times.

In 1865 Hemphill was presented with a gold star for his bravery and valor throughout the war. Jacob Hemphill died at his home in Florence, Texas, on February 14, 1935.



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Victory in Georgetown

Political correctness was again defeated down in Georgetown when a proposed plaque telling "the rest of the story" about the Confederate monument on the Williamson County Courthouse grounds was not approved.

In 2015, led by the San Gabriel Unitarian Universalist Fellowship in Georgetown, an unsuccessful effort was made to remove the 1916 statue of a Confederate soldier. This year the effort was to place an interpretative plaque at the Confederate monument to "counter the implied racism and

maintenance of white supremacy often associated with the Jim Crow era me-



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

morials."

A public hearing was held on

November 15th and the Williamson County Commissioners took no action effectively killing the plaque concept.

John McCammon, Commander of the Texas Division SCV's 6th Brigade helped coordinate the opposition to the plaque. Commander McCammon said, "It was a great day in Georgetown. The air was fresh, cool and Confederate! We ate lunch on the square and celebrated the victory!"

The opposition group said that they will make another effort to put up a plaque next year.

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CONFEDERATE PROFILE

Legion Commander



John W. Whitfield

After the Battle of Pea Ridge Whitfield was promoted to a colonel.

After the Battle of luka Sterling Price said of this man's leadership as being one of "dashing boldness and steady courage."

John Wilkins Whitfield was born in Williamson County, Tennessee on March 11, 1818. He was the son of Wilkins and Mary (Sturdivant) Whitfield. He served during the Mexican War as a lieutenant colonel in the 2nd Tennessee Infantry, and following some notoriety over his war record served for two terms in the Tennessee legislature in 1848-1851.

In 1853 he relocated to Independence, Missouri where he served as an Indian agent. He was a strong proponent of expanding slavery into the neighboring state of Kansas. He led a group of pro-slavery settlers into Kansas.

From 1854 to 1857 he served as a Kansas Territorial delegate to the U.S. Congress. From 1857

until he moved to Texas he served as registrar of the land office in Doniphan, Kansas.

When he saw that Kansas would not enter the Union as a slave state, Whitfield, following the lead of his brothers, moved to Texas. He purchased, in 1860, 1,500 acres of farm land in Lavaca County on the Navidad River.

In the summer of 1861, after war had broken out, Whitfield organized a cavalry company in Lavaca County known as the Whitfield Rifles. The unit was assigned to Ben McCulloch's Army of the West in Arkansas. There it combined with other companies to form the 4th Texas Cavalry.

After the Battle of Pea Ridge in March of 1862, Whitfield was promoted to colonel and given command of eight or so companies of Texas troops initially known as the First Texas Legion. Later, it was officially known as 27th Texas Cavalry,

but almost all simply called it, Whitfield's Legion. The next month his men were ordered to dismount and report to Sterling Price.

He and his men fought at the Battle of luka in September where they captured a Federal battery. According to Price, Whitfield's men, "won their gallant leader a reputation for dashing boldness and steady courage." Whitfield was wounded twice in the fight including a severe shoulder wound.

When he returned to active duty his Legion was remounted and combined with the 3rd, 6th, and 9th Texas Cavalries into a new brigade. Unfortunately for Whitfield, his continuing medical problems prevented him from always leading his men.

He was in command during the Battle of Thompson's Station, in March of 1863, when his brigade pushed the Federals back

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What is a Legion?

The term "Legion" originates from ancient Rome and our English word comes from the Latin word "legio" which means "to gather or to collect."

In the Roman army a legion was primarily made up of infantry plus "auxiliaries" troops and skirmishers, usually 3,000 to 6,000 infantry troops and

100 to 200 cavalry troops.

In the Confederate Army there was no absolute standard for a legion. Typically, in the Confederate Army a legion involved a mixed command consisting of infantry, artillery and cavalry.

In the case of the First Texas Legion, however, the regiment

was made up entirely of cavalry, though occasionally the regiment fought as infantry.

The distinguishing characteristic of the First Texas Legion was its 12 (and sometimes 13) troops or companies, as compared with the 10 companies in a typical Confederate cavalry regiment.

November Meeting Review

By Michael E. Belcher

Compatriot Allen Newman was our guest speaker, who gave us a wonderful presentation on his Newman ancestors and their contribution to the Southern Cause.

He discussed the War Between the States involvements of his great grandfather Robert Franklin Newman and his brothers: William, George Washington, Richard Lafayette "Fate", and Andrew Jackson Newman. Robert was involved the entire duration of the war, beginning with his enlistment in the 1st Tennessee Volunteer Infantry Regiment on May 1, 1862, and ending with the 21 months he spent as a POW in Fort Delaware, where he returned home from, at wars end, following his release. In between, he fought at the Battle of Manassas, the Battle of Seven Pines, and then the Battle of Gaines Mill, where his brother William was killed. He was promoted to Sergeant, and fought at the 2nd Battle of Manassas, the Battle of Sharpsburg, the Battle of Fredericksburg, and then he was captured at Gettysburg,

and moved from there to Fort Delaware, MD. While in prison, he made a pact with Tom Parks, a friend from home, that whichever one survived, would return home and tell the folks what had happened to the other. Robert survived and returned home and married Tom Parks' sister. It was a long and very informative presentation, and well received and enjoyed by the members in attendance.

Business conducted at the meeting included the following: 2nd Lt. Commander James Bozeman gave an update on the Jacob Hemphill monument graveside dedication ceremony at the North Belton Cemetery. The event will be held on Saturday, November 12th about 2-3:00 PM.

Compatriot John L. Larson, Jr. discussed some options for the Battle of Temple Junction event, which were discussed at an Executive Committee meeting on September 22nd. Compatriot Ralph Snyder made a motion to commit \$400 to the event, which was seconded by 1st Lt.

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Legion Commander

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after a bold frontal charge.

The next month, while again on sick leave, Whitfield traveled to Richmond, Va. where he apparently argued for an



Grave marker for Whitfield

appointment as a brigadier general. It paid off, the next month he was promoted.

After he returned to his men,

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In 1863 Whitfield was promoted to Brigadier General.

Camp Schedule

December 3, 2016

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

January 14, 2017

29th annual Lee-Jackson Dinner, Gober Party House, Ave H

and South 31st St, Temple. Social at 6:00 PM and Dinner at 7:00. Speaker: Henry Kidd of Colonial Heights, Virginia

February 14, 2017

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



March 14, 2017

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

**Next Camp Meeting:
December 3rd
Cotton Patch Cafe
Temple, TX
6:00 PM Social
7:00 PM Meeting**

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P.O. Box 794 Salado, Texas 76571

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December 3rd
Cotton Patch Cafe
Temple, Texas
7:00 PM**

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November Camp Meeting

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Commander Buddy Wheat. The motion passed by a unanimous vote.

Adjutant Belcher gave an updated membership report, and discussed the program requirements for the Camp's George W. Ballantine Memorial Service award, and opened the floor for the second evening of member voting for the award.

Camp Commander Tyler presented a proposed slate of camp officers for the coming year of 2017. They are Terry M. Tyler for Camp Commander; James Edwin Bozeman for 1st Lieutenant Commander; Mason W. DuBose for 2nd Lieutenant Commander; Michael

E. Belcher for Camp Adjutant; and Jonathan Bozeman for Color Sergeant. There were no other nominations made from the floor. Pending additional nominations, these will be voted on at the Camp meeting on December 3rd.

Jackson on California

In 1857 Stonewall Jackson wrote the following: "In regard to Wirt I am unwilling to do anything which will favor his going to California. It does appear to me that if he goes to California that the gospel may but seldom if ever reach him and that the influences thrown around him there will be worse than where he is." Seems little has changed in California since Jackson wrote his letter.

Legion Commander

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Whitfield's ability to command, due to health reasons, came under attack. Finally, in October of 1863, Stephen Dill Lee, in command of all Confederate cavalry in Mississippi ordered him to be replaced. He was placed on medical leave and returned to Texas. He never saw any further action and he was paroled by the Federal government at Columbus, Texas in June of 1865.

Whitfield continued to be plagued by medical problems post-war, apparently as a result of the wounds he received. He was able to serve in the Texas Constitutional Conventions in 1866 and

again in 1875, as a delegate from Lavaca County. He also served in 1868 as a member of the state executive committee of the Democratic party

At the 1875 convention, he chaired the committee on education, which advocated direct taxes for school purposes and the establishment of a state university, with a branch specifically for black students.

He earned a living as a farmer and the 1870 U.S. Census lists him as having property worth \$18,000. He died on October 27, 1879 and was buried in the Memorial Park Cemetery in Hallettsville.