

Confederate Gazette

Awards Given at Last Meeting

By Michael E. Belcher

Camp 1st Lieutenant Commander James Bozeman, was the guest speaker for our Camp meeting in February, and gave us a wonderful presentation on the "History of Valentine's Day".

He began with the earliest historical references dating back to Valentinus and the Roman Empire,

following with St. Valentine and the Catholic Church. He included many historical

lutionary and Civil War references, discussing the development of such things as

written love letters, paper valentines, heart shaped chocolates, and hard candy conversation hearts. It was a very informative presentation, and well received and

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SCV 25 Year Service Medal Recipients, from left to right are: Compatriots Herbert L. Cowan, Weldon G. Cannon, Ralph Wayne Matthews, and Michael E. Miller

anecdotes from American history including both Revo-

Former Camp Adjutant Passes

Former Camp #1250 Adjutant, Richard "Dick" Epperson, passed away at age 95 on January 26th in Dallas.

Dick grew up on a farm outside Temple. He graduated from Belton High School and attended Temple Junior College. During World War II, he served the U.S. Army in the Pacific Theater and was honorably discharged in December 1945 after 3 1/2 years of service. As a Mas-



Richard Epperson

ter Sergeant in the 99th Signal Battalion of the 6th Army, he served in the Philippines, New Guinea, Australia and Japan.

Dick married Helen Dorothy (Dot) Jacobsen on August 16, 1952. Dick and Dot lived in Temple and were married for over 64 years.

Dick served as Administrator and CEO at King's Daughters Hospital for over 33 years

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White Camp #1250

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CONFEDERATE PROFILE

Execution Victim



**William Francis
Corbin**

**Corbin was
commissioned as a
Captain in the 4th
Kentucky Cavalry**

Unfairly sentenced to die this Confederate was brave and true to the bitter end.

William Francis Corbin was born on a farm in Campbell County, Kentucky, near the small town of Carthage, in 1834. He was the son of John Corbin and Lucinda Nelson Corbin. Although not much is known of Corbin's youth, his family was described as "influential in the community." Young Corbin was an elder in his church and described as "an active worker" in his church's congregation.

In the summer of 1860 Corbin joined a local independent militia, with the rank of lieutenant. The unit later became a part of the Kentucky state militia. The unit saw no action but trained in military drills and maneuvers.

By the summer of 1862 Corbin answered the call for Confederate volunteers, when he crossed Union lines, and was

enlisted into the Confederate Army on September 25, 1862 in Paris, Kentucky. He was commissioned as a captain, apparently due to his state militia experience, in the 4th Kentucky Cavalry. Although he was a captain Corbin had no men to command. Corbin and the 4th Kentucky Cavalry spent the winter of 1862-1863 in Virginia. In March of 1863, still without a command, Corbin along with another Kentucky Confederate, Jefferson McGraw, were sent west to their native state to help recruit additional Confederate soldiers. The two men returned to their native Campbell County and headed to a "safe" house as Campbell County was under Union control.

A Union patrol got wind of their recruitment activities and they started following McGraw who was headed to the safe house, owned by a mutual friend. On April 8, 1863 Corbin was waiting at the safe house for

McGraw with several men whom he had recruited. When McGraw was late in arriving, Corbin felt something was wrong and released his recruits for them to return to their homes. When McGraw arrived both men realized that the Union patrol was following McGraw and the two men fled into the dense woods and hid. The Union patrol threatened to burn down the safe house if they didn't reveal themselves. Rather than see a friend's house burned, both men came out of the woods and surrendered.

Although the men should have simply become prisoners of war they instead were tried in a military tribunal and found guilty of recruiting behind enemy lines. Their sentence, be transferred to Johnson Island prison where each would be executed. Specifically, they were found guilty of violating General Order 38 which had been issued on April 13, 1863 by
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General Order #38

In March of 1863 Union General Ambrose Burnside, following him being soundly defeated at the Battle of Fredericksburg, was given command of the U.S. Army's Department of the Ohio, a very large area which encompassed Ohio, Indiana, Michigan, Illinois and most of Kentucky.

The southern region of Burnside's command was anything but stable. Democrats, in opposition to Lincoln, were lambasting administration policies and partisan Rangers were roaming in Kentucky and even in Ohio. Some areas were in open revolt. In response Burnside took a bold step.

He issued General Order #38 on April 13, 1863 to force Union loyalty. The order, in effect suspended civil liberties. The order applied military authority to the regulation of all speech and publication in the department and included the shut down of the *Chicago Times* newspaper.

February Meeting

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enjoyed by the members in attendance.

In the Camp's business session, Past Commander John L. Larson, Jr. discussed the possible use of the Old Settlers and Veterans Reunion Grounds in Falls County for the Battle of Temple Junction event on the third weekend in May. We would have to tailor the event to between 6-10 acres of the 18-acre site for the battlefield.

Compatriot James Bozeman made a motion to pursue this course of action and look into this further. Compatriot Milton Lentz seconded this, and the motion passed by a unanimous vote. Compatriot Larson will report back to the March camp meeting.

Camp Commander Terry M. Tyler is looking into the Belton 4th of July Parade. It will be on a Tuesday this year.

Mrs. Gail Palmore, representing the Falls County Old Settlers and Veterans Association, addressed the membership about allowing the camp to use their grounds for our reenactment event. Her discussion

included a property description of the facilities available to us.

We discussed the idea of submitting a proposal to the Texas Division Executive Committee for our camp to host the 2019 Texas Division SCV Reunion in Temple, Texas. A motion to do this was made by Compatriot Jonathan Bozeman, was seconded by Compatriot Rick Copp, and passed by a unanimous vote.

An SCV War Service Medal was presented to 1st Lieutenant Commander James E. Bozeman for his service to this country in the U.S. Army in Iraq.

Also, SCV twenty-five year service medals were presented to Compatriots Weldon G. Cannon, Herbert L. Cowan, Ralph Wayne Matthews, and Michael E. Miller for exceptional longtime service to our camp and the Sons of Confederate Veterans organization.

Forrest Quotes

"Never stand and take a charge... charge them too."
"Get there first with the most"

Nathan Bedford Forrest

Victim

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Union General Ambrose Burnside. The order in part stated, "hereafter all persons found within our lines who commit acts for the benefit of the enemies of our country, will be tried as spies or traitors, and, if convicted, will suffer death." The only problem was that General Order 38 was issued five days after Corbin and McGraw had been detained.

Corbin's sister, Melissa, immediately began an effort to save her brother. She garnered support from the community including many pro-Union families and gained a direct audience with General Burnside. Burnside's reply to Melissa was that he was determined to make an example of Corbin and McGraw, that the matter was out of his hands, and that only the President of the United States had the power to give the reprieve being requested.

Melissa then journeyed to Washington, DC to attempt to see President Lincoln. When Lincoln refused to see her,

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**Corbin's Sister
Appealed to
President
Lincoln**

Camp Schedule

March 14, 2017

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

April 8, 2017

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

ing at 7:00 PM, Cotton Patch Café, Temple Mall. Speaker: TBD

May 9, 2017

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



June 13, 2017

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

**Next Camp Meeting:
March 14th
Cotton Patch Café
Temple Mall
6:00 PM Social
7:00 PM Meeting**

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**Next Meeting:
March 14th
Cotton Patch Cafe
Temple, Texas
7:00 PM**

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Flag Vote

The Mississippi House has rejected an effort to punish universities for not flying the State Flag.

All eight of the State's public universities have furled the flag in recent years amid criticism that it's racially insensitive in a state with a 38 percent black population. Republican Rep. William Shirley of Quitman offered an amendment in February saying any university that refuses to fly the Mississippi flag could not receive bond money. It would have cost each campus about \$1 million for repair and renovation projects.

The House rejected the amendment with no debate; 52 members voted for it and 65 voted against it.

Dick Epperson

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from 1953 to 1987, and stayed on as Special Consultant until January, 1990. He led the effort to replace the old hospital on South 22nd Street with the new 150-bed King's Daughters Hospital and Clinic on H.K. Dodgen Loop, that opened in January, 1975.

Dick served as Camp #1250's adjutant from 1994 through 1997. He was also instrumental in arranging for the Camp to meet in the King's Daughters Board Room. The Camp met at King's Daughters from November 1990 through March 2003. Dick was an active Camp member until his health began to fail him.

Dick is survived by his wife, Dot of Temple, daughter, Debbie Douglas of Dallas and son, Don Epperson, of Dallas.

Victim

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she left a letter with Lincoln's personal secretary. Lincoln's response to receiving the letter was, "(I) must decline to read the letter; that these men were bridge burners and bad men and should be punished, and I will not interfere with General Burnside's order." Lincoln was mistaken the men weren't involved in any bridge burning, only recruiting.

On the day before his execution Corbin was allowed to write to his family. He wrote, "This is the last writing I ever expect to do in this world, therefore, I address it to you all. I know you are praying for me, but when you receive this I

will be no more. I hope to be with the blessed, with my dear brother, and all who have gone before me. Do not weep for me. Oh, Ma, we will meet in heaven, where we will sorrow no more. God will in

no way cast off those who put their trust in Him. I have thrown myself upon His mercy. Give my dying love to all, and tell them to meet me in my Father's house."

On May 15, 1863 Corbin and McGraw were blindfolded with their hands

bound behind them, seated on their coffins and faced 12 Union soldiers 12 paces away and were shot. Both men died instantly. Corbin's body was retrieved and brought home to be buried in the family cemetery.



Grave marker of William F. Corbin