

Confederate Gazette

Camp Mourns Two Members

The Major Robert M. White Camp #1250 lost two members with the passing of Mike Kelsey and George Johnson.

Mike, who lived in Belton, passed away on March 27th. He was born on August 16, 1950 in Temple to Leo and Virginia Dorene Cunningham Kelsey. He married Nancy Graff on May 23, 1997, in Temple.



Mike Kelsey on the left and George Johnson on the right

He was a member of the Presbyterian Church of Salado. He also was a member of the Sons of the Confederate Veterans, the Bell County Historical Commission, the Salado Histori-

cal Society and the Historic Temple Landmark Committee.

Survivors include his wife of Belton; two stepdaughters,

Ginny Parsons of Virginia and Tina Schreiber of Idaho; his mother of Temple; a sister, Donna Gott of Belton; and a brother, Terry Kelsey of Temple.

George, who lived in Little River-Academy, passed away on March 20th. He was born August 1, 1933, in Alice, Texas, to George Hambrick

Johnson and Mary Catherine Patterson Johnson.

George is survived by his wife of 64 years, Mary Frances Burell Johnson. He is survived by a daughter, Mary Kathleen Johnson Gray and spouse

Paul Gray, by two sons, George Allen Johnson, Jr. and Archie Wayne Johnson and spouse Carol Lee Johnson, and 10 grandchildren and 6 great-grandchildren.

Confederate History Month

By Michael E. Belcher

April is traditionally celebrated as Confederate History Month in the South, and the Major Robert M. White Camp #1250's annual Confederate Memorial Ceremony will begin on Saturday, April 8th at 10:00 AM at the South Belton Cemetery, with the placing of Confederate Battle Flags on the graves of the Confeder-

ate soldiers buried in in the Cemetery.

Confederate History Month activities will continue later that same day at the South Belton Cemetery at 4:00 PM, with a flag and wreath ceremony and brief program, followed immediately by a flag and wreath ceremony at the Bell County Courthouse Confederate soldier's monument. If possible, Confederate color guards and ladies

in period costume will be present.

The Camp's Quarterly Dinner Meeting will follow that evening at the Cotton Patch Cafe at the Temple Mall. The dinner will be at 6:00 PM, and the meeting at 7:00 PM. The guest speaker will be Camp Adjutant Mike Belcher, who will talk about his ancestor, "Andrew Jackson Goodson, a Galvanized Yankee."



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CONFEDERATE PROFILE

The "Old Rock"



Henry Lewis Benning

Benning graduated first in class from what is now known as the Univ. of Georgia

North of the Orange Plank Road, in what would later be described as the Battle of the Wilderness, the Confederates advanced. Outnumbered, it was first the Texans that hit the entrenched Federals, then it was the Georgians' turn. Led by a man known as the "Rock," they charged. The "Rock" was on horseback rallying his men from his "iron-gray" steed, with "spurs rattling like as many trace irons." But "The Rock" fell, as a bullet tore into his left shoulder. Remembering their fallen leader, the Confederates would later drive the Federals from the field.

Henry Lewis Benning was born on a plantation in Columbia County, Georgia on April 2, 1814. He was the son of Pleasant Moon and Malinda Meriwether White Benning, the third of eleven children. He attended Franklin College, now known as the University of Georgia, graduating in 1834 at the top of his

class.

Post college he studied law in Talbot County under noted lawyer George W. Towns. He was admitted to the Georgia Bar in 1835. From 1837 to 1839 he served as solicitor-general in Columbus, Georgia.

At the age of 25, Benning married Mary Jones, the daughter of a prominent Columbus attorney. Together they would have 10 children. He then went into law practice with his wife's father. The law practice flourished, and Benning developed a stellar legal reputation. In 1840 Benning unsuccessfully ran for a seat in the Georgia General Assembly. Benning was described as being six feet tall and with a "noble presence and bearing." He was also well known for his oratorical skills.

While still not 40 years old, in 1853, Benning was elected as one of the justices on the Georgia Supreme Court. One contemporary account described Benning as, "a man of absolute

crystal truth. He had a candor and directness proverbial. He was able to take unpopular positions without the loss of respect, so strong was the confidence of his sincerity."

Benning was an outspoken supporter of states' rights and the right of the states to secede from the Union. He was the chairman of the Georgia delegation to the Democratic Party Convention in 1860 and led their walk out, along with almost all the other Southern delegates, when the party refused to include a pro-slavery plank in the Party's platform.

After Abraham Lincoln's election as president in 1860, Benning was a delegate to the Georgia Secession Convention and he helped draft the state's Ordinance of Secession. When war erupted, Benning volunteered, help raise, and was elected colonel of the 17th Georgia Infantry, part of Robert Toomb's brigade. They arrived

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Fort Benning, Georgia

A School of Musketry was located at Fort Sill, Oklahoma in 1913, but due to size limitations the U.S. Army established a new camp near Columbus, Georgia to house a new Infantry School of Arms.

The new post was established in 1918 originally on 115,000 acres at the site of a former

plantation. The Rotary Club of Columbus suggested that the new camp be named in honor of Confederate General Henry L. Benning, thus Camp Benning was born. In 1922 the location was made permanent and renamed to Fort Benning.

Today known as the "Home of Infantry," Fort Benning is now

located on 182,000 acres and supports more than 120,000 active-duty military, family members, reserve component soldiers, retirees, and civilian employees on a daily basis.

Fort Benning is one of ten US military bases named after Confederate generals, with Fort Hood being the largest.

March Meeting

By Michael E. Belcher

Camp Chaplin Rev. Dr. Buddy Wheat, was the guest speaker for our Camp meeting in March, and gave us a wonderful presentation excerpted from his lecture "Lee & Jackson: Duty and Faith."

In his talk, Rev. Wheat compared and contrasted Robert E. Lee and Stonewall Jackson, discussing the childhoods and careers of both men. Both men had a tremendous sense of duty, and he gave several examples from their careers demonstrating this. He discussed the faith of both men, showing events in their lives that exemplified this as well. Both men were praised by many famous leaders, both military and civilian, as well as

Christian leaders.

Jackson believed that "God's Will Be Done." Lord, what will thou have me to do? With God's help nothing is impossible. Lee thought that our only hope was in God, and he trembled when he heard people talk about putting their faith in Lee himself. He tried to be a humble, earnest Christian. Duty and Faith is at the top of the list when discussing

these two men. They should be the roll models for our young people today.

In business conducted at the meeting, Past Commander John L. Larson, Jr. and 1st Lt. Commander James Bozeman gave us an update on the Bat-

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The Rock

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in Virginia in time to see action during the 1862 Peninsula Campaign.

At the Battle of Second Manassas, Benning earned the nickname "Old Rock" for his steadfastness in battle. At the Battle of Sharpsburg, (Antietam), Benning and his Georgians were involved in the heroic holding action at Burnside's Bridge. Toombs was wounded and Benning, with no formal military training lead the brigade during much of the Sharpsburg fight.

Benning continued to lead the brigade during the fight at Fredericksburg, and was appointed brigade commander in 1863, when Toombs resigned. By January 1863 Benning had risen to the rank of brigadier general. On July 2, 1863, he led his men on an unsuccessful assault of Little Round Top at Gettysburg, Pennsylvania. Post Gettysburg, he and his men were sent south, serving at the Battles of Chickamauga, and Knoxville. At Chickamauga, Benning lead the charge that

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Benning earned the nickname of "Old Rock" at Sharpsburg



Camp Commander Terry Tyler presents awards to Ralph Snyder (above) and John C. Perry (below). Photos by James Bozeman



Camp Schedule

April 8, 2017

Camp's Quarterly Dinner Meeting, 6:00 PM Social and Meeting at 7:00 PM, Cotton Patch Café, Temple Mall. Speaker: Mike Belcher

May 9, 2017

Camp's Regular Meeting, 6:00

PM Social and Meeting at 7:00 PM, Cotton Patch Café, Temple Mall.

June 2-4 2017

Texas Division Reunion, Radisson Hotel, Fort Worth, Texas.

Visit web site:
txdivreunion.com



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:
April 8th
Cotton Patch Café
Temple Mall
6:00 PM Social
7:00 PM Meeting

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Next Meeting:
April 8th
Cotton Patch Cafe
Temple, Texas
7:00 PM

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HB 1359

A pending bill in the Texas House, known as The Texas Heroes Protection Act - HB 1359, relates to monuments and memorials for Texas heroes, which includes the Confederate monuments, with penalties for unauthorized removal, relocation or alteration of a monument. It will create a criminal offense when the law is violated.

The bill, introduced by James White of Woodville and co-sponsored by five other Republican House members, is currently before the House's Culture, Recreation and Tourism Committee.

Please support this important piece of legislation which will protect our Confederate graves and monuments.

March Camp Meeting

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tle of Temple Junction event. The dates of this event have been set for May 19-20 at the Old Settlers and Veterans Reunion Grounds in Falls County.

Camp Commander Terry M. Tyler will take over the Hillcrest Cemetery gravel project and will contact the gravel company. Also, Commander Tyler reported that the Belton Chamber of Commerce will have an organizational meeting for the Belton 4th of July Parade soon. Applications will be online on April 1st, and participant meetings will be in June.

Commander Tyler discussed the Sam Davis Youth Camp. The sign-up deadline is June 30th, and the camp dates are: July 9-16, 2017. Participants must be 12-20 years

old, and the cost is \$490 per participant. Compatriot Buddy Wheat made a motion to sponsor participants this year. Compatriot John L. Larson, Jr. seconded the motion, and it passed by a unanimous vote.

Compatriot Ralph Snyder was presented with the "Advance the Colors" certificate from the Sons of Confederate Veterans organization for his support of the Cause for our Southern Heritage by flying the Confederate Battle Flag at his business address south of Holland, Texas on Highway 95. Also, a SCV Twenty-five-year service medal was presented to Compatriot John C. Perry for exceptional longtime service to our camp and the Sons of Confederate Veterans organization.

Old Rock

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broke the Union lines and he had two horses shot out from under him.

In the spring of 1864 Benning was transferred back to Virginia. He was wounded at the Wilderness and was not able to return to active duty until the Petersburg siege. He was with his old brigade when it surrendered at Appomattox Court House, in April of 1865. After the war, Benning returned to Columbus and resumed his law career. His wife died in 1867.

On July 10, 1875 on the way to the courthouse Benning suffered a major stroke and died. He was buried in Linwood Cemetery in Columbus. In 1918 when the US Army established an infantry school near Columbus it was named in honor of Benning.