

CONFEDERATE GAZETTE



Confederate Gazette

*Is a monthly publication
of the*

Major Robert M. White
Camp #1250
Sons of Confederate
Veterans
Temple, Texas

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Camp #1250
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Students Learn About the War

PRESENTATION AT MOODY I.S.D.

For the second straight year members of the Major Robert M. White Camp #1250 presented a program on the War Between the States for students in the Moody I.S.D.

On February 10th Camp Commander Steve Wooley, along with members George Ballentine, John Larson, James



Moody students listen during Q and A session (photo: G. Ballentine)

all in uniform, assembled

at the Moody Middle School. There were three stations that the students migrated to. Each station presented some aspect of the Confederacy.

Steve Wooley presented information about the life of a Confederate infantryman. John Larson, along with his horse "Buster" told the students

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Camp at Opening in Temple and Killeen

Gods and Generals Debuts

The long awaited premier of the epic movie, *Gods and Generals* occurred in both Temple and Killeen on February 21st. Members of the Major Robert M. White Camp #1250 were at each theatre over the weekend to promote the Sons of Confederate Veterans.

Attending the Temple opening were Steve Wooley, John Larson,



"Jake" Manning and George Ballentine in Killeen Theatre

Frances Kinnear, James Kinnear, Wayne Wilson, and David Weber

Attending the Killeen opening were Jerry Nelson, Betty Nelson, Greg and "Jake" Manning, George Ballentine, Brandon Gibson, Cristy Gibson, Rocky Sprott and John Easler.

At each showing movie goers were able to view Confederate flags, pick up brochures about the SCV, and ask questions of camp

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CONFEDERATE PROFILE

“RIP” FORD

A Remarkable
Man Who
Called Central
Texas
Home

By John C. Perry

Remarkable is a strong word often over used, but if there was ever one man that the word applied to it was John “RIP” Ford. He was a physician, surveyor, newspaper editor, military officer that fought in two wars, Indian fighter, member of the Republic of Texas legislator, two time member of the Texas State Senate from different districts, marshal, Texas Ranger, and mayor of two Texas cities, Austin and Brownsville. It was a Central Texan that lived life to the fullest.

John Salmon Ford was born in Greenville District, South Carolina, on May 26, 1815. At the age of about two, his family moved to southern Tennessee where he grew up on a plantation in Lincoln County. In Tennessee he became friends with Davy Crockett and his family.

Ford was an avid reader and a very good student. He was educated in a local one-room schoolhouse. Young Ford began to study medicine, with a local physician, at around the age of 16. He successfully assisted in a serious smallpox outbreak and locally became well know for his efforts. Ford married at age 19, but the marriage was short lived and ended in divorce.

By 1836 the cry of

events in Texas appealed to young Ford. He desired to join with his friend Davy Crockett, but events delayed him. Had he been able to join Crockett he most likely would have been killed at the Alamo.

He reached Texas in July of 1836, after Texas had won its independence



John S. “RIP” Ford

as a 21-year-old doctor. He first settled in San Augustine where he began a practice of medicine. Ford was very active in his community, teaching a Sunday school class, surveying, and organizing a local theatre group.

After several unsuccessful political runs he was elected to the Republic of Texas legislature in 1844. He was a strong advocate for Texas joining the United States. He purchased a Washington-on-the-Brazos newspaper in 1845 and moved it to Austin, where he became its

editor and publisher. Ford remarried, but his second wife became ill and passed away in 1845.

By 1846 Texas was a state and the United States was at war with Mexico. Ford volunteered his services in the fight. He joined, as a private, with a regiment of Rangers under

Colonel Jack Hays. He quickly advanced to lieutenant. Ford saw action in Mexico and performed well. It was during the war that Ford earned his infamous nickname of "Rip." He served for a while as an adjutant and one of his duties was to prepare reports on men killed in action. Beside the name of each deceased soldier he wrote the words "rest in peace" after his signature. Before long the written out "rest in peace" was abbreviated to "R.I.P."

Soon his men were calling Ford "Old Rip," and the nickname stuck.

Post war he returned to Austin and resumed his work on his newspaper. The lure of adventure beckoned and he was hired to survey a road between San Antonio and El Paso. Following that he raised a Texas Ranger Company to help fight against Indian raids. His unit was mustered into U.S. Army service for two years, 1849 to 1851. In one fight Ford

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Moody School Presentation

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what life was like for a Confederate cavalry soldiers.

John Perry and James Kinnear talked about the different Confederate flags. They also described the make-up of the Confederacy explaining how



there were many different people in the Confederacy, including Blacks, Hispanics, Native Americans, Anglos, Jews, and others.



Photos: Top— Camp Commander Steve Wooley talks about life as a Confederate infantryman; Top-Middle—John Larson and Buster entertain students; Above—John Perry talks about who lived in the Confederacy; Right—James Kinnear shows students the 2nd National Flag; (All photos by George Ballentine)

Camp Schedule

March 11th Regular Camp Meeting, 7:00 P.M., King's Daughters Hospital, Temple. Program: George H. Ballentine, " Civil War Medicine and Surgery"

April 5th Confederate History Symposium, Hill College, Hillsboro, Texas

April 12th: Quarterly Dinner Meeting. 7:00 P.M., Location and speaker to be announced.

May 13th: Regular Camp Meeting, 7:00 P.M., King's Daughters Hospital, Temple. Program: TBA

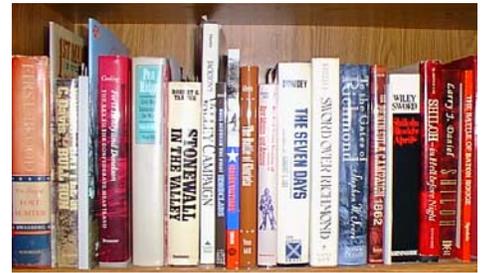
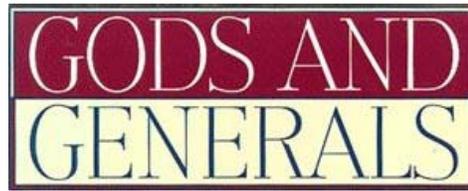
George Ballentine served as the official photographer for the event and helped coordinate all the activities.

The program was well received and following each student's visit to a station a Question and Answer session was held. The Question and Answer session lasted for about 45 minutes. Many questions were asked, some very thought provoking.

Students were also given replica Confederacy currency. On the back of the currency was information about the SCV.

Next Camp Meeting:
March 11th
7:00 P.M. at
King's Daughters Hospital
Temple, Texas

“THE BOOK BIN”



Editor's Note: We deviate from our book review format this month to review the movie, "Gods & Generals." This is a guest review by Ed Butler, Commander of the Dillard-Judd Camp #1828 in Cookeville, Tennessee.

By: Ed Butler

Film Tells the Story of Manassas, Fredericksburg, and Chancellorsville

Last night I went to see "Gods & Generals". In simple terms, it was awesome! The reviews printed in many of the nations liberal newspapers are intended to discourage people from attending this movie. It is my hope that I may encourage one more person to see this movie which is remarkably "Southern". I was amazed that it is so historically accurate. I am sending the following article to my entire address book. Please feel free to use the article in any way that will benefit the South.

"Gods & Generals" is historically accurate! Many of the reviews of "Gods & Generals" that have appeared in national newspapers have described this movie as moving slow with many disconnected scenes that leave one wondering what was actually going on. To a Southern oriented student of the War Between the States that evaluation could not be further from the truth.

I must admit the movie is very "un-Hollywood!" Missing are the graphic scenes of violence and gore that are a constant diet fed to the American public in most Hollywood productions.

The battle scenes depicted are accurate enough to convey the magnitude and horror of battle without leaving the viewer with the feeling they are a witness of a suicide bombing.

If you expect nudity

Southern women served as nurses, cooks, couriers, spies, and even as soldiers but few of them were willing to remove their clothing in public or participate in public displays of sexual activity.

There will never be any justification for the institution of slavery but it was an accepted practice in that era by many people the world over. Hollywood is controlled by the dollar, like rain controls dust. They have no other criterion! Bucolic scenes of racial harmony do not sell movie tickets. No student of "The South" will deny that slaves were sometimes mistreated but few movies dare show the bonds of loyalty, friendship and love that developed between slaves and their masters. It was most refreshing to witness scenes of racial harmony instead of hatred and fear.

The most "un-Hollywood" aspect of the movie is the portrayal of the intense relationship many Confederate soldiers had with God. To the writers of these "slow reviews" it is understandable that the movie was a little slow. Time spent in prayer must seem to be of interminable duration to the worshipers of socialism and self.

Most people who have

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Stephen Lange as Thomas Stonewall Jackson

and promiscuous sex to be portrayed in all movies you attend you will find this movie to be a little slow. The role women played during "The War" is well documented in history. In addition to the constant toil and hardships of operating their households, their farms and their factories without the assistance of their men folk, many women risked imprisonment or death in order to help in the war effort.

RIP Ford

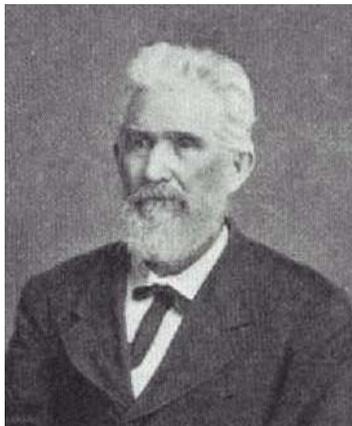
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was slightly wounded by an arrow in a fight against the Comanches. He lost partial use of his arm for nearly two years, as the arrow had apparently been dipped in rattlesnake venom.

The year 1852 found Ford back in Austin and for the next six years he was involved in both the newspaper business and politics. He served in the Texas Senate and he bought a new newspaper, serving as its editor and publisher. In 1853 he was elected mayor of Austin. He served as mayor for a year and when the marshal resigned he assumed the duties as Austin's marshal. His newspaper grew to become the second largest in

Texas, according to Ford.

He sold his newspaper in 1857 and once again headed to the frontier. By this time he was in his



John S. Ford in his later years

prime. He was a well-known marksman with a Colt revolver and it was said of him he could hit a man with his revolver at 125 yards. He was of me-

dium build, brown curly hair, and blue eyes. He did not drink or smoke and he read the Bible daily, fulfilling a promise he had made to his mother.

He once again became a Texas Ranger, serving as a major. He would lead a Ranger unit of about 250 men in an impressive victory over Comanche Chief Iron Jacket and his 350 warriors near the Canadian River in 1858. Between 1859 and 1860 he and his Rangers were involved in action against the Mexican Bandit Juan Cortina in the Rio Grande Valley. Ford and his Rangers, along with the U.S. Army were successful in driving Cortina and his men deep into Mexico. In April of 1860 Ford met then U.S. Army Colonel

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Camp Members
Were on Hand for
the Gods &
Generals
Debut in Temple
and Killeen

The Book Bin: Movie Review of Gods and Generals

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not studied the War Between the States, other than in high school history class, know very little about why the South was willing to fight the tremendous odds they faced. Without a thorough understanding of the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution they do not know why the South had the right to secede.

Without knowledge of the Federal budget in 1860 they do not know why the South decided to secede.

Without a personal relationship with God they can not understand the strength of the South. "Gods & Generals" does a marvelous job of explaining the causes of the War Between the States and the reasons the South fought with such determination.



Robert Duvall as Robert E. Lee

It is common in the "Bible Belt" for people to believe in an all-

powerful God. Most of us believe God could have built the ark for Noah but instead he gave Noah instructions and unfaltering faith. He could have struck Goliath with a lightning bolt but instead he went with David to face the giant. The Sons of Confederate Veterans is dedicated to the preservation of our Southern heritage and the Christian principles that are so much a part of our culture.

G&G in Central Texas

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members. Reports indicate that there was a lot of interest in both the movie and the SCV. A number of names were collected for possible recruitment.

RIP Ford

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Robert E. Lee. They had dinner together in Edinburg. Ford would write of Lee, he was "a man of superior intellect, possessing the capacity to accomplish great ends."

As war clouds were brewing over the North and the South, Ford returned to Austin where he became an ardent advocate of secession, attending the secession convention. After Texas left the Union he was appointed a colonel in the Texas state militia. When Texas joined the Confederacy his unit eventually became the 2nd Texas Cavalry assigned to the Rio Grande Valley. In June of 1862 he was appointed superintendent of conscripts. Camp Ford in Tyler, at first a Confederate training base was named in honor of Ford.

Ford went back to the field in 1863, when he was appointed in command of all state and Confederate troops south and west of San Antonio. He was able to push back Federal forces in the Rio Grande Valley, although he was knocked out of commission after a bout with malaria in the summer of 1864. Ford held the honor

of being in command during the "Last Battle" of the War Between the States. On May 13, 1865 Federal forces engaged Ford's Confederate force at



Grave of John Ford in San Antonio

Palmito Ranch. Ford was unaware that Lee had surrendered about six weeks

earlier. It was a lopsided easy victory for Ford's Confederates who sent the Federals reeling in retreat. Ford had only a dozen casualties; just the 34th Indiana Infantry lost 220 out of 300 men.

Post war Ford fled to Matamoros, Mexico, fearing Federal prosecution. After his formal parole he settled down in Brownsville. He worked as a newspaper editor and dabbled in politics. He served as Brownsville's mayor and as a state senator from the Valley. In 1879 he was appointed as the superintendent of the Texas Deaf and Dumb Institute in Austin. His deteriorating health forced him to leave that position in 1883.

He lived his remaining years in San Antonio. He began to write, producing his memoirs and other historical articles. He was a charter member of the Texas State Historical Association and contributed one of the first articles to the TSHA's *Quarterly*.

Ford first suffered a stroke in October of 1897. This remarkable man's life ended after being in a coma for two weeks, when he passed away on November 3, 1897 at the age of 82. He was buried in San Antonio in what is now known as the Confederate Cemetery.

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P.O. Box 794
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Next Meeting:

March 11th

King's Daughters Hospital

Temple

7:00 PM