

CONFEDERATE GAZETTE



Confederate Gazette

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of the*

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Camp #1250
Sons of Confederate
Veterans
Temple, Texas

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Camp #1250
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Temple, Texas

Dinner Set For January 18, 2003

ANNUAL LEE-JACKSON DINNER TO BE HELD

The Major Robert M. White Camp #1250 will hold its 15th annual Lee-Jackson Dinner on Saturday, January 18, 2003 at the Inn at Scott & White in Temple.

Camp member and Army of the Trans-Mississippi Commander, John C. Perry of Salado will be the featured speaker. Perry will be making his eighth appearance as the speaker for the Lee-

Jackson dinner. Perry will speak on "Slavery: The



Robert E. Lee and Thomas J. "Stonewall" Jackson

Truth." His talk will review some of the material pre-

sented in his new book, *Myths & Realities of American Slavery*.

Officers for year 2003 will be installed at the dinner meeting. Steve Wooley will be installed as the Camp Commander, George Ballentine as 1st Lieutenant Commander, David Weber, 2nd Lieutenant Commander, Wayne Wilson, Adjutant, James Kinnear, Quartermaster and John

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December Meeting Held on the 10th

2003 Officers Elected

At the December meeting of the Major Robert M. White Camp #1250 officers for 2003 were elected. Following the recommendation of the Camp's Nominating Committee, camp members unanimously re-elected the 2002 officers to serve for another year.

Steve Wooley was re-elected as the Camp's Commander. Commander Wooley has been a long-time member of the SCV and served as the Camp's

adjutant for four years, prior to becoming the Camp's commander in 2002.

George Ballentine was re-elected as the Camp's 1st Lieutenant Commander. David Weber was re-elected as the 2nd Lieutenant Commander and Wayne Wilson will serve for another year as the Camp's Adjutant.

Left: Camp Commander Steve Wooley. (Photo by G. Ballentine)



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CONFEDERATE PROFILE

YOUNGEST TEXAS GENERAL

Former
Commander of
Walker's Texas
Division

He was a private twice, first in the Missouri State Guard and then with the 18th Texas Infantry. He would rise in rank to become the youngest Texan to become a brigadier general at age 24.

Wilburn Hill King was born in Cullondenville, Georgia on June 10, 1839. He was educated in Americus, Georgia where he studied both law and medicine. As a teenager he visited Texas in 1856, moving to the state at age 21, settling in Cass County.

In 1861 he was in Missouri on business when war broke out. King immediately joined Sterling Price's 3rd Missouri State Guard. He became captain of his company and led his company in the fight at Wilson's Creek on August 10, 1861. During the battle King was wounded.

King resigned his position in the State Guard when the Guard was not immediately accepted into Confederate service. He returned home to Texas where he enlisted in the 18th Texas as a private. By the time his regiment was mustered into the Confederate Army, King was elected a major.

Initially the 18th Texas was stationed in Arkansas, but later was ordered to become a part of Richard Taylor's Army in April of

1863. By the time the 18th Texas reported to Taylor, King had been promoted to lieutenant colonel of the regiment.

King and his men saw action at the Battle of Richmond, Louisiana and at Bayou Bourdeau in 1863. At Bayou Bourdeau King was cited for leading

nor the Confederate Senate ever formally confirmed King's promotion to brigadier general.

After returning to active duty King was assigned the command of Walker's Texas Division. In spite of being on active duty, King had not fully recovered from his wounds and was reassigned to the less demanding position as the brigade commander of General Camille Polignac's brigade, after General Polignac returned to France.

In early 1865, King was given command of a new brigade of infantry after a number of cavalry units were dismantled due to a shortage of forage. In March of 1865 the division that included King's brigade was ordered to return to Texas. Before the war ended King was again made a division commander, but by May of 1865 King ordered his division to disband and for the men to return to their homes.

After the war King first fled to Mexico and for a while operated a sugar plantation in Central America. He married Lucy Furman in New Orleans in 1867, but returned to his sugar plantation with his bride. After both she and their infant child died on the sugar plantation, King returned to the United States. He lived briefly in

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Wilburn Hill King

his regiment, "with undaunted firmness," in a successful attack against Union positions.

He also fought at the Battle of Mansfield in April of 1864 where King and his men thrashed three Federal divisions. At Mansfield, he was severely wounded in the fight. While recovering from his wounds in the hospital King was promoted to brigadier general. Neither President Jefferson Davis

15th Annual Lee-Jackson Dinner

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Paul Carter, Chaplain.

This year's dinner meeting will be the fifteenth celebration of Robert E. Lee's birthday. The first observance was in 1989 in Hillsboro. For the first several years the camp held its Lee dinner in conjunc-

tion with the SCV camp in Hillsboro.

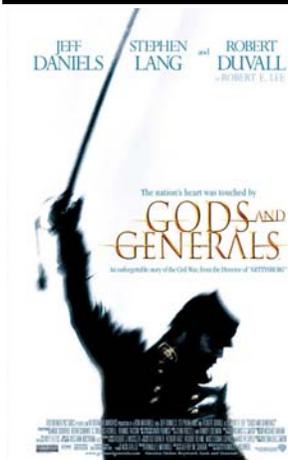
Since 1992 the annual event has been held in Temple. In 1998, the event was renamed the "Lee-Jackson" Dinner to not only honor Robert E. Lee, but also to honor Thomas J. "Stonewall" Jack-

son.

Many SCV Camps have Lee or Lee-Jackson Dinners in the month of January. Robert E. Lee was born on January 19, 1807 and Thomas J. "Stonewall" Jackson was born on January 21, 1824.

Year	Location	Speaker	Topic
2003	Temple	John C. Perry	"American Slavery: The Truth"
2002	Temple	John C. Perry	"The Wisdom of Lee"
2001	Temple	John C. & Sandra Perry	"John and Fanny Gordon" (First Person Presentation)
2000	Temple	Denne Sweeney	"Jefferson Davis, From West Point to the Presidency"
1999	Temple	Dr. Gary G. De-	"Spiritual Life of Lee &
1998	Temple	Dan M. Laney	"Bobby Lee & Stonewall"
1997	Temple	John C. Perry	"Lee Revisited"
1996	Temple	John C. Perry	"Lee & Jackson"
1995	Temple	Dr. David Yeilding	"Lee After Gettysburg"
1994	Temple	John C. Perry	"Lee: The Texas Connection"
1993	Temple	John C. Perry	"Lessons Learned From Lee"
1992	Temple	John C. Perry	"Robert E. Lee: The Man"
1991	Hillsboro	Arch McNamara	"The Lee Family"
1990	Belton	Dr. David Yeilding	"Post-war Years of Robert E.
1989	Hillsboro	Steve Brown	"Life of Lee"

Next Camp Meeting:
 January 18th
 7:00 P.M. at
 The Inn at
 Scott & White
 Temple, Texas



Gods and Generals To Open In February

The new Warner Brothers movie, *Gods and Generals* will open to a nationwide release on February 23, 2003. The movie is an adaptation of Jeff Shaara's novel, which is a prequel to his father's novel, *The Killer Angels*.

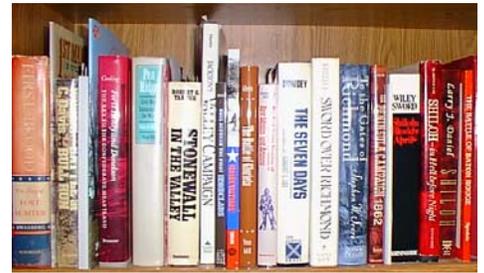
The movie is also a prequel to the epic movie *Gettysburg* and stars Robert Duvall as Robert E.

Lee, and Stephen Lang as Stonewall Jackson. Jeff Daniels also stars as Joshua Chamberlain.

The Gazette has learned that as it stands now the movie will be shown in the Cinema Five theatre in Temple rather than the newer Premier 12 complex at Colonial Temple Mall.

“THE BOOK BIN”

MYTHS & REALITIES OF AMERICAN SLAVERY



Editor's Note: Guest book review by Chris McGregor a writer with the "Salado Village Voice." Mr. McGregor reviews the new book, "Myths & Realities of American Slavery" by John C. Perry.

By Chris McGregor

Myths & Realities of American Slavery, by John C. Perry, Burd Street Press, Shippensburg, PA, 2002, 304 pages, \$39.95.

John C. Perry, of Salado alludes in the prologue to his new book, "Myths and Realities of American Slavery", that tackling a subject as heated as slavery, even 147 years after its abolition, is an invitation to criticism.

Perry, is a middle-aged southern white man, so he's probably right.

Though it is true that few things stir the American blood and divide the nation along geographical, historical and racial lines like the dismal legacy of our once treating our fellow man as property, and also how we are to handle that legacy.

Never mind the fact that the practice of slave holding has developed on the same course as that of civilization, as far back as our history books go, and that the two are problematically but factually intertwined.

America was different than other slaveholding countries. We claimed to be the refuge of liberty, the measure of nations, yet our forefathers said things like "all men are created equal" and "black slaves have no rights" in the same breath. This contradiction has been a difficult

one to come to terms with, as it is still being debated in the form of government reparations owed to slave descendants.

Consider then, says Perry, the real facts, the meat-and-bones of the matter. Stripped of political correctness and exhaustively researched, Perry has attempted to dis-

War and the years leading up to it. Perry's book is the end result of over three years of topical research.

He wrote the book, he says, for "self-fulfillment," A lifelong history buff, Perry edits two newsletters and has authored numerous other articles on the subject, but says he was "woefully ignorant" in regards to slavery.

"I figured if I was interested, then others might be interested as well," Perry explained, "so I decided to take a stab at it."

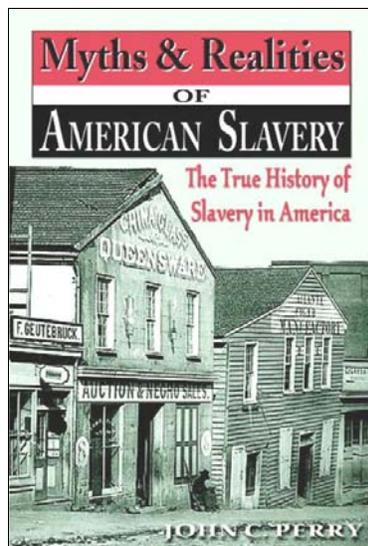
"Myths and Realities" is a work heavily laden with statistical references, particularly that of the 1860 census and interviews conducted by the Federal Writers Program (FWP) in the 1930's, which recorded remembrances of former slaves. Being fact-driven, the impression that the book can also be used as reference material is immediate. Perry' sources are well-documented, as the book includes fifteen pages of footnotes and a ten page bibliography, yet the entire work is about 300 pages in length.

Armed with the 1860 census, Perry is able to debunk the "Gone With The Wind" mythos that shrouds our conceptions of slavery with surprising facts.

Gone With the Wind the South was not. For example, according to the census only one-fourth of

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New Book:
Published in
November by
Burd Street Press



till a subject mired in the tar of fiction. What was slave life really like? What percentage of Southerners actually owed slaves? Did free blacks ever own slaves?

These questions, and others, are ones that Perry seeks to illuminate in the light of fact, not myth.

"I wanted the book to be based on fact, completely on facts," said Perry, whose personal library includes over 1,000 works relating to the Civil

Lincoln statue to be placed in Richmond

Some are saying that surely "hell has frozen over," as the United States Historical Society, plans to place a statue of Abraham Lincoln and his son Tad in Richmond, Virginia, former capital of the Confederacy.

The United States Historical Society is a private, nonprofit, organization whose stated goal is to "undertake projects to foster awareness of American history." They plan a life-size bronze

statue of Lincoln sitting on a bench beside his young son, Tad.



Proposed Richmond, Va. statue of Abraham Lincoln and his son.

The statue commemorates Lincoln's visit to Richmond on April 5, 1865, which was two days after Union troops captured the city. The President was accompanied on that visit by Tad, who was celebrating his 12th birthday.

The statue will be unveiled on April 5, 2003, the 138th anniversary of the day Lincoln arrived in Richmond.

The Society is donating the statue. *(Continued on page 6)*

Camp Officers

(Continued from page 1)

Other Camp officers include: James Kinnear, Quartermaster and John Paul Carter, Chaplain.

All Camp members will be installed at the 15th Annual Lee-Jackson Dinner in Temple on January 18th.

The speaker for the

December meeting was Stephanie Turnham who is the Director of the Bell County Museum in Belton. Ms. Turnham spoke on Bell County during the War Between the States.

Camp Commanders & Adjutants, 1988 to 2003

Year	Commander	Adjutant
2003	Steve Wooley	Wayne Wilson
2002	Steve Wooley	Wayne Wilson
2001	Greg Manning	Steve Wooley
2000	Greg Manning	Steve Wooley
1999	Jerry Nelson	Steve Wooley
1998	Jerry Nelson	Steve Wooley
1997	Jerry Nelson	Dick Epperson
1996	Ken Miller	Dick Epperson
1995	Ken Miller	Dick Epperson
1994	Will Port Hall	Dick Epperson
1993	W. Glenn Rucker	Will Port Hall
1992	Larry Jack Maxey	Will Port Hall
1991	Richard Kemp	Will Port Hall
1990	Jon Farrow	Will Port Hall
1989	John C. Perry	Buzzy Gover
1988	John C. Perry	Buzzy Gover

Wooley to begin
his second
term as
Camp
Commander

The Book Bin

(Continued from page 4)

white Southerners owned slaves, and of that one-fourth, a very small minority owned more than a handful of slaves. There were only in the neighborhood of a dozen or so sweeping plantations and the facts suggests most white Southerners lived at a poverty level not much exceeded by that of slaves. Simply put, the average Southerner was too poor to cover his dirt floor with wooden planks, much less own a slave.

Through the obscure FWP interviews, which exceed over 3.5 million words, Perry was able to gain a credible insight into how the former slaves regarding their masters, and the institution itself. Overwhelmingly, says Perry, the interviewees expressed their love of freedom, but, shockingly, over 80 percent remembered their slave days with some degree of fondness.

How can this be? It seems absurd that anyone would recall with affection a slave master, but Perry doesn't interject his own opinions here, he lets the facts speak for themselves.

Draw what conclusions you may,

and say what you will about the fallacies of statistics, Perry leaves the final diagnosis in the hands of the reader.

Overall, the book is through and succinct, well written and accessible to the layperson, considering Perry is not a professional historian, but makes his living in the business world. Especially compelling though, are the segments where Perry addresses the Civil War. He points out that he did not intend his book for academia.

Currently the book can be purchased on-line at amazon.com, barnesandnoble.com, Fletchers Books and Antiques in Salado, and in major bookstores.

Wilburn Hill King

(Continued from page 2)

Jefferson then relocated to Sulphur Springs where he practiced law. He was the mayor of Sulphur Springs and served Hopkins County for two terms in the Texas House of Representatives. He also served as the State of Texas' Adjutant General from 1881 to 1891.

He retired in 1891 and devoted himself to writing about Texas history. He wrote the definitive work on Texas Rangers, "History of The Texas Rang-

ers." He died in Sulphur Springs on October 12, 1910, at the age of 61. His body was taken by train to Corsicana and was met at the depot by a contingent of Confederate veterans. He was laid to rest in the Oakwood Cemetery in Corsicana.

Lincoln In Richmond

(Continued from page 5)

ing the statue to the Richmond National Battlefield Park's Civil War Visitor Center of the National Park Service, which is on the site of the former Tredegar Iron Works. Cynthia MacLeod, superintendent of Richmond National Battlefield Park, said the statue will be a welcome addition to the Civil War Visitor Center.

Brag Bolling, commander of the SCV's Virginia Division, expressed strong opposition to it. "I consider this to be a federal government-sponsored and -sanctioned act of insensitivity to place a statue of Lincoln in the former capital of the Confederacy, where literally thousands of Virginians died fighting the invasion of our state which was led by Abraham Lincoln," Bolling said. The SCV's Commander-in-Chief Ron Wilson said, the SCV will vigorously oppose the statue.



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**Next Meeting:
January 18th
Inn at S&W
Temple
7:00 PM**