

# Confederate Gazette

## Franklin Flag Flap

It all started when the Mayor of Franklin, Tennessee, Tom Miller announced that during the city's planned November 30<sup>th</sup> ceremony to commemorate the 143<sup>rd</sup> anniversary of the Battle of Franklin it would be held without any Confederate Battle Flags. Further the city's Chief of Police, Jackie Moore, stated he didn't want any re-enactors to carry guns in the event.

"In the strongest terms possible, let me suggest that flag (the Confederate Battle Flag) not appear," Mayor Miller stated on October 3<sup>rd</sup>. The mayor said that he preferred re-enactors fly the Second National flag of the Confederacy, which is also known as "The Stainless Banner," rather than the Confederate Battle Flag. He said after the meeting,

"I don't want anything that could be a rallying point for or against it. And by its (the Confederate Battle Flag) presence in downtown, it could very well become that rallying point."

Miller stressed that the flag doesn't carry any baggage with him personally, but that others might feel differently. "It doesn't mean anything to me," said Miller about the Confederate Battle Flag. "I accept it for what it is. It's a historic emblem. But to a lot of people, it is an anathema. And we don't need anything that could potentially polarize our community like that could."

The Mayor said he wanted to avoid controversy that might come from flying the flag, however as one would imagine his

position caused a furious and intense response from across the country. Following an article in *The Tennessean*, a Nashville newspaper, about the prohibition, the city's phones lines and e-mail boxes were jammed with protests about the Mayor's remarks. Area media public opinion polls overwhelmingly condemned the ban on the Battle Flag.

The SCV quickly responded to the flag ban. Commander-in-Chief Chris Sullivan issued a statement on October 3<sup>rd</sup> that called the ban, "offensive to all of us who love and respect our Southern heritage," and stated, "Mr. Miller nor any other governmental official may use the power of his political position

*(Continued on page 4)*

## Dr. John Montgomery To Speak

Camp #1250 will have a special speaker at its November Camp meeting, set for Tuesday, November 14<sup>th</sup> at the Cotton Patch Café in Temple. Dr. Montgomery will speak on "Civil War Medicine."

Dr. Montgomery is currently serving as Chief, Section of Pediatric Radiology at Scott & White Clinic and is the immediate past president of the Scott & White Clinic.



*Dr. John Montgomery, from Salado, will be the November Camp speaker*

He is a 1955 graduate of Baylor University and a 1958 graduate of University of Texas Medical Branch at Galveston. He has been at Scott & White since 1972 and is a Fellow of the American College of Radiology.

The Camp meeting will begin at 7:00 PM, but camp members and friends are invited to come early for dinner. The Cotton Patch Café is located in the Temple Mall.



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

Web Site:  
[www.rootsweb.com/  
~tx1250](http://www.rootsweb.com/~tx1250)

James Kinnear  
Camp Commander  
P.O. Box 341  
Little River, TX 76554

John C. Perry  
Newsletter Editor  
P.O. Box 794  
Salado, TX 76571

© 2006, Major Robert M.  
White Camp #1250

*Best  
Newsletter  
- 2006 -  
Texas Division*

### Inside this issue:

Confederate Profile	2
Real Son: Oliver Hardy	3
Calendar	3
SCV Grant Given	4
Award Nominations	4
New Camp Member	5

# CONFEDERATE PROFILE

## *Texan Who Lead From The Front*



**William Peleg  
Rogers**

**Rogers was  
a hero in  
both the  
Mexican War  
and during  
the War  
Between the  
States**

**O**n a near suicide mission, he lead his men from the saddle as he carried his 2<sup>nd</sup> Texas' regimental flag towards a well entrenched enemy. He yelled, "Forward Texans!" as artillery and musket shot fell upon him and his men like rain. He gave his all in a most courageous assault that even his enemies marveled about.

William Peleg Rogers was born in Georgia on December 27, 1817 while his parents were visiting from Alabama. At an early age he moved with his parents to Mississippi, growing up on a plantation in Monroe County, near Aberdeen. He graduated from medical school in Kentucky and practiced medicine in Pontotoc County, Mississippi.

Apparently the practice of medicine didn't much appeal to young Rogers and he began studying law in Aberdeen while also editing a pro-Whig Party newspaper. He married Martha Halbert from Tuscaloosa, Alabama on January 15, 1840. He was admitted to the Mississippi bar in 1842.

When war broke out with Mexico Rogers quickly volunteered for service. He was placed in command of Company K of the 1<sup>st</sup> Mississippi Volunteer Infantry Regiment, popularly known as the "Mississippi Rifles." His regiment was commanded by

Colonel Jefferson Davis. The regiment joined General Zachary Taylor's U.S. army in northern Mexico.

Rogers served with distinction during the war. He was the second man to scale the wall into the city of Monterrey. The event was observed by General Taylor and Rogers was cited for bravery. Rogers also performed well, serving as a captain, at the fight at Buena Vista in February of 1847. Rogers and Davis however did not get along. Rogers defied Davis over the manner in which Davis used his company in battle and he also felt personally slighted in Davis' official battle reports.

Immediately after the war, Rogers unsuccessfully dabbled in politics back in Mississippi. He lost an election for clerkship of the Mississippi Chancery Court and was not appointed to a marshal's job he expected to get. In 1849 he began a service as a U.S. counsel in Vera Cruz, appointed by then U.S. President Taylor, no doubt a reward for his military service in Mexico.

His wife, with their then six children, would go no further south than Texas, so Rogers went to Mexico alone. He resigned as counsel in 1851 over some apparently false allegation of improper use of funds by one of his subordinates.

He rejoined his wife in Texas,

settling in Washington-On-The-Brazos. He practiced law there and was quite a successful defense attorney. At nearby Independence, he became a part-time law professor, in the new law department of Baylor University. The Baptist upbringing apparently influenced all of Rogers's children as they all eventually became Baylor graduates.

In 1859 Rogers and his family moved to Houston. Sam Houston became a client of his and the two struck up a friendship. Rogers worked with Houston in the governor's race in 1859 and with Houston's presidential ambitions in 1860. However, with the election of Abraham Lincoln in 1860 everything changed. Rogers broke with Houston over the issue of secession. Rogers was elected a delegate from Harris County to the Texas secession convention, which began in January of 1861, and signed the ordinance of secession on February 1<sup>st</sup>. He also served on a committee that demanded compliance from Governor Houston. Houston, when he refused to take the oath of loyalty to the newly formed Confederate States of America, was removed him from office on March 16<sup>th</sup>.

Rogers quickly volunteered his services to the new Confederate army. He was offered a position as a colonel in com-

*(Continued on page 5)*



By: John C. Perry

**O**n Labor Day, while waiting for my better half to get ready, I flipped on the TV to the Turner Classic Movie channel. They were showing the famous 1932 Stan Laurel and Oliver Hardy short film, "The Music Box." If you have any gray hairs on your head I think you will remember this classic flick. It is where Laurel and Hardy have to deliver a crated player piano up a huge flight of outside concrete steps. Most of the action relates to their bumbling efforts to get the heavy crate up the long row of steps. It is now considered as a Laurel and Hardy classic and was good enough to win an Oscar in 1932.

## Real Son: Oliver Hardy

What caught my attention was what happened once they got the player piano delivered. After some antics by Laurel and Hardy they finally get the player piano working. The piano already has a roll of music loaded up called, "Patriotic Tunes." There were three patriotic songs that were played on the player piano during the movie, *Arkansas Traveler*, the *Star Spangled Banner*, and a surprise to us today, the song *Dixie*.

What a different country we live in today. In 1932 the song *Dixie* was considered patriotic music, on a national level. Today in many circles the exact same song is vilified and considered an inappropriate tune. Like other Confederate symbols, such as the Battle Flag, the song *Dixie* is now very politically incorrect. Growing up in the South, I am old enough to remember when radio stations played *Dixie* when they signed on and signed off. What a different culture we now live in.

In doing a little research, I was surprised to learn that Oliver

Hardy is one of us. Hardy, who was the larger man of the famous Laurel and Hardy team at over six feet tall and about 300 pounds, was a native Southerner. He was born in 1892 in Harlem, Georgia as Norvell Hardy, one of five children.

He was a Real Son, his father, Oliver Hardy, was a Confederate veteran who had been wounded at the Battle of Sharpsburg. His son changed his first name, from Norvell to Oliver, in honor of his Confederate father.

As a young boy, the future film star was a gifted singer, and by age eight was performing with minstrel shows. In 1910 he worked at the first movie theater in Milledgeville, Georgia. Hardy was the projectionist, ticket taker, janitor and eventually the manager. He fell in love with motion pictures, and he became convinced that he could do a better job than the actors that he saw on the screen. He learned of a movie studio located down in Jacksonville, Florida and quickly

(Continued on page 4)

**Oliver Hardy  
was named  
for his  
Confederate  
Veteran  
father**

## Camp Schedule

### November 14, 2006

Camp's Dinner Meeting, Cotton Patch Café, Temple Mall, Temple, TX, 7:00 PM. Speaker: Dr. John Montgomery, "Civil War Medicine."

### November 17-19, 2006

Camp Store Event: Liendo Plantation Re-enactment, Hempstead, TX, 8:00 AM.

### December 1-3, 2006

Camp Store Event: Krist Kindle Market, Copperas Cove TX, 8:00 AM.

### December 9, 2006

Annual Camp Christmas Dinner and Party, Bliss Hall, Academy, TX, 7:00 PM



### January 13, 2007

Annual Robert E. Lee Dinner, TBA, 7:00 PM. Speaker: John Dwyer. Come celebrate the 200th birthday of one of American's greatest men.

**Next Meeting:  
November 14<sup>th</sup>  
Cotton Patch Café  
Speaker:  
Dr. John Montgomery**

# FRANKLIN FLAG FLAP

*(Continued from page 1)*  
to alienate American citizens from their fundamental right of free speech simply because he disagrees with them."

The Mayor quickly backed down claiming it was all a big misunderstanding.

In a statement he released a few days after the first reporting of the ban, Miller said "the headline and story printed in *The Tennessean* did not convey my exact words or thoughts. I did NOT ban the

confederate flag from the Battle of Franklin Anniversary event. It's a flag that was used in battle during the Civil War; it would be impossible to have an event commemorating the battle of Franklin without the confederate flag represented in some way. Not to mention, carrying any flag is the right of

all Americans given by the U.S. Constitution." *(Editors Note: The mayor's statement failed to capitalize the word "Confederate.")*

As it currently stands the event is still scheduled to occur and Confederate Battle Flags will be



*Confederate Monument erected in 1899 in downtown Franklin, TN*

allowed. The SCV has called for all SCV members who can come to attend the event and bring with them a Confederate Battle Flag. Members and friends will gather and march to the site of the

ceremonies from various locations.

And what about the no firearms issue? The city has also backed off on that edict. Civil War reenactors can bring their "historic guns" to the ceremony, but police officers must be allowed to check them.

# Real Son

*(Continued from page 3)*

moved there.

Hardy worked as a cabaret and vaudeville singer at night, and at the film studio during the day. Apparently he was right, he was better than most actors, doing over 50 films for the studios in Florida.

He later went to New York and then to Hollywood in 1917, where he found much success. He teamed with his famous side kick Stan Laurel in 1927. During his film career Hardy made a total of 411 short and feature movies.

Hardy had a massive heart attack and a stroke that left him paralyzed in 1957. He lingered on for some time, before succumbing to a series of strokes. This Real Son died on August 7, 1957.

# SCV Awards Medical Grant

The SCV recently announced that Laura Q. Rogers, MD MPH, Associate Professor of Internal Medicine Southern Illinois University School of Medicine, Springfield, Illinois has received a \$97,568 grant from the SCV's Brooks Medical Research Committee.

Dr. Rogers is the great-great granddaughter of Capt. Alva Thurman Bennett of Company E, 34<sup>th</sup> Infantry, Georgia Volunteers. The SCV wishes her great success in improving the

*(Continued on page 6)*

**SCV protests  
Mayor of  
Franklin's  
Actions**

# Awards Nominations

The attached insert is a nomination form taken from the Camp's Awards Manual. Please use this form to nominate someone for one of the Camp Awards.

The awards, which will be given at the Lee-Jackson Dinner in January, are the following:

♦ Albert Sidney Johnston Award for exemplary Camp service

♦ John Bell Hood Award for meritorious Camp service  
♦ Sul Ross Award for dedicated Camp service

There are two awards for ladies, a single Southern Belle Award for selfless service and Dixie Darling Awards.

Send nominations to Commander James Kinnear, P.O. Box 341, Little River, TX 76554.

## Texan Who Lead From the Front

*(Continued from page 2)*

mand of the 1<sup>st</sup> Texas Infantry. Since the unit was to head to Virginia, Rogers declined, apparently heeding to his wife's wishes. He did accept a commission as a lieutenant colonel of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Texas Infantry, commanded by Colonel John Creed Moore.

He and his new regiment joined General Albert Sidney Johnston's Army of the Mississippi.

They arrived just barely in time for the battle of Shiloh in Tennessee on April 6-7, 1862. During the fight, the 2<sup>nd</sup> Texas lost more than one third of its men in casualties. "The gallantry of our regiment is spoken of by all," Rogers wrote home to his wife. Rogers was cited for his gallantry during the fight.

After Moore was given brigade command, Rogers was pro-

moted to colonel and was given the command of the regiment. Rogers was nominated for a promotion to major general, but knowing that President

attempted to retake northern Mississippi. To accomplish this feat Van Dorn had to dislodge Union General William S. Rosecrans's force of 23,000 men at the key railroad hub of Corinth, Mississippi.

On the second day of the fight, October 4, 1862, a frustrated Van Dorn ordered the Confederate forces to launch a frontal assault on the firmly entrenched Federal lines. Rogers and his men were positioned near the center of the Confederate attack and their goal was a small fort

known as Battery Robinett. Two waves of attack failed. On the third assault Rogers led the attack on horseback carrying the 2<sup>nd</sup> Texas' regimental colors. With musket fire and cannon fire raining down upon him Rogers continued to move his men, at a quickstep pace, towards the Federals yelling, "Forward Texans!" One Union



*Photo of Confederate dead at Corinth awaiting burial. Colonel Rogers body is the one on the lower far left.*

Jefferson Davis would have to approve the appointment he did not expect to get the promotion. Officers from twenty regiments wrote to support Rogers, but Davis refused to act on the recommendation. Rogers was honored by the support, calling it, "a very high compliment."

During the fall of 1862, Confederate General Earl Van Dorn

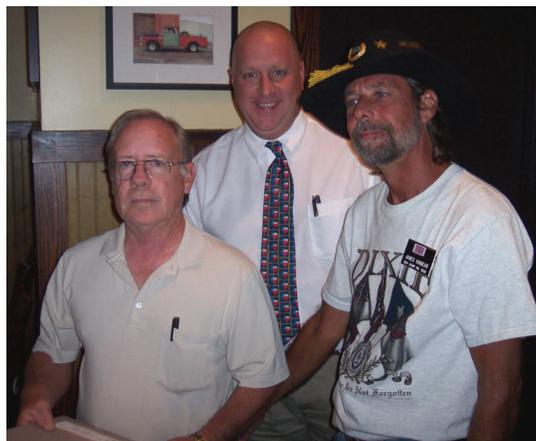
**Rogers was part of a Confederate assault on Corinth to retake Mississippi**

*(Continued on page 6)*

## New Member Joins

G. Dale Duke of Temple was sworn in as the Camp's newest member at the October Camp meeting. He was sworn in by the SCV's past Commander-in-Chief Denne Sweeney.

Compatriot Duke is shown in the photo on the right along with Lt. Commander Chris Ellis and Camp Commander James Kinneer.



# Confederate Gazette

P.O. Box 794

Salado, Texas 76571

Next Meeting:  
November 14th  
Cotton Patch Cafe  
Temple  
7:00 PM

Page 6

## William P. Rogers

*(Continued from page 5)*

captain recalled the charge, "the Texans began yelling like savages and rushed at us without firing."

As they reached a trench in front of Battery Robinett Rogers dismounted and led his men up the steep embankment towards the fort. As they moved up the approximately seven foot high embankment the Federal blazed away at them at near point blank range. As Rogers and his men scaled the walls the fighting became hand to hand. A Union officer described it as, "it was like a bloody contest and we could see men using their bayonets like pitch forks and thrusting each other through."

As Rogers and his men entered Battery Robinett the Federals

launched a furious counter-charge from both flanks. Rogers shouted, "Men, save yourselves or sell your lives as dearly as possible." Rogers was struck with at least seven gunshot wounds and died instantly. The Confederate assault soon turned into a slaughter, one Confederate survivor described it, "we were butchered like dogs . . . the men fell ten at a time." One Union observer wrote that they were, "cut to pieces in the most intense meaning of the term." The 2<sup>nd</sup> Texas lost more than half its numbers in casualties. With Rogers's attack failing the Union victory at Corinth was complete.

Most of the dead Confederates were buried in a mass grave near where they fell. General Rosecrans, who personally had observed Rogers and his men,

ordered that Rogers be buried with full military honors, a very rare tribute.

In 1912 the United Daughters of the Confederacy along with the Rogers family built a white marble obelisk to mark Roger's gravesite on a hill which overlooks the Corinth battlefield.

## Medical Grant

*(Continued from page 4)*

treatment results for breast cancer survivors. Her study will evaluate breast cancer survivors who follow a twelve-week program of regular exercise to determine whether program participants have improved health.

The SCV funds medical research performed in accredited U. S. medical schools and conducted by descendants of Confederate soldiers.

**Union General  
Rosecrans gave  
Rogers a burial  
with full military  
honors**