

Confederate Gazette

Memorial Service Set For George Ballentine

A memorial service for George Ballentine will be held on Saturday May 26th at the Texas Veterans Cemetery on Highway 195, approximately 4 miles south of Killeen. Past Camp Commander Ballentine died on March 20th at Baylor Medical Center in Dallas, from complications following surgery.

The Camp will provide George a full Confederate funeral, firing detail, prayers, and eulogy. The Camp has received permission from the Texas Veter-

ans Cemetery to fire an artillery piece in honor of George. South Texas Brigade (Sixth) Commander H.W. Irby has agreed to bring an artillery piece and cannon crew to the services.

After the memorial service there will be a social held at the Grace United Methodist Church in Copperas Cove.

In honor of George, the South Carolina flag was flown at half mask at the Bell County Courthouse in Belton. The flag, next

to the Confederate monument, flew for 24 hours until it was lowered on Sunday April 29th during the Confederate History Month ceremonies. The flag was presented to George's wife, Deborah.

George was a key member of Camp #1250 having served the Camp as a Camp Commander in 2004 and 2005. George also served as the Camp Webmaster, was the founder of the Camp store, and was a tireless worker for the Camp.

Division Reunion Set For Corpus

The Texas Division will hold its annual Division Reunion in Corpus Christi, Texas on Friday, June 8th through Sunday, June 10th. The headquarters hotel will be the Omni Corpus Christi Hotel Marina Tower.

Reunion registration, which is at no cost, will begin Friday at 1:00 PM and registration will continue until 8:00 PM. At 8:00 PM a Memorial Service will be held in honor of Division members who have passed away during the last year.

After the Memorial Service a free band concert will be held.

Registration will reopen Saturday morning at 7:00 AM and



Reunion Headquarters:
Omni Corpus Christi Marina Tower

run through 10:00 AM. Following opening ceremonies a busi-

ness session will be held. The Division Awards Luncheon will be held from 12:00 PM to 1:30 PM., with Dr. Norman Delaney as speaker. Following the luncheon the Business session will resume, then Brigade meetings.

The Division banquet will be held Saturday night at 7:30 PM followed by the Confederate Ball.

A block of rooms have been reserved at a nightly rate of \$122. For additional information contact Mac Morris at tbmorris@grandecom.net.



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*Best
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- 2006 -
Texas Division*

Inside this issue:

Confederate Profile:	2
Narcisoc López	2
Camp Calendar	3
Confederate History Month Celebrated	3
Slavery Apology?	4

CONFEDERATE PROFILE



A Life Lost Too Soon



Allison Nelson

He fought in a total of five wars or rebellions, was brave, daring, and was an excellent military leader, but his life was cut short not by a enemy fire, but by "camp fever."

Allison Nelson was born in Fulton County, Georgia on March 11, 1822. His father ran a ferry across the Chattahoochee River in DeKalb County, Georgia.

When young Nelson was only three years old his father was murdered. His mother took over the ferry boat business trying to keep the family together.

When he was only 24 years old he organized a company of men to serve in the Mexican War. They called themselves the "Kennesaw Rangers" and Nelson was elected the company's captain. Post war he lived, as a planter, in Cobb County Georgia and served in 1848-49 for one term in the Georgia legislature.

In the early 1850's Nelson served as a brigadier general in the army of Narciso López, who was attempting to free Cuba from Spanish rule. After the revolt failed, Nelson returned to Georgia and was elected the Mayor of Atlanta. Elected in January of 1855 he abruptly resigned in July when the city council reduced a fine he had levied against two men for destroying city property.

Nelson was a staunch believer in states rights and in the institution of slavery. In 1856 he left his native state and journeyed to Kansas where he supported the efforts of the slave holders in the border war occurring there.

He eventually journeyed to Texas where he started a new life, first settling in Meridian and later in Waco. While in Texas he became involved in defending the frontier from hostile Indians, earning a militia captain's commission from Texas Governor Hardin R. Run-

nels. Nelson later served as an Indian agent under Lawrence "Sul" Ross.

In 1859 Nelson was elected to the Texas Legislature as a representative from Bell and McLennan counties. He was also elected to the state's secession convention in 1861, where he strongly supported Texas leaving the Union.

When Texas joined the Confederacy, Nelson helped form the 10th Texas Infantry. Company K of the 10th Texas included a number of men from Bell and the surrounding counties. Nelson was elected colonel of the regiment. The 10th Texas was assigned to help defend the railroad between Galveston and Houston at Virginia Point. There they also learned how to become soldiers with constant drilling. One member of the 10th said, "We drill three or four hours every day... Yesterday and last night I was on guard.

(Continued on page 4)

He fought in five different wars unscathed until "camp fever" did him in

Narciso López

Although he was executed before the War Between the States began, Narciso López was an advocate of slavery and the idea that Cuba could some day become a part of the South.

The Venezuela born López found his way to Cuba and

eventually began to call for Cuban independence from Spain. He sought Southern support for a free Cuba that like Texas might join the U.S. as a slave state. In the late 1840s he sought help from both Jefferson Davis and Robert E. Lee to lead a rebel invasion of

Cuba. Both Davis and Lee turned López down.

López made several failed invasion attempts which included some Americans like future Confederate General Allison Nelson. López's last attempt in August of 1851 failed and López was executed by the Spanish.

Confederate Heritage Month Celebrated

Over fifty people gathered in Belton on April 29th to help the Camp celebrate Confederate History and Heritage Month in Bell County.

A South Carolina Flag which flew at half mast for 24 hours in honor of past Camp Commander George Ballentine was lowered and replaced by the Stars & Bars at the Bell County Courthouse. The South Carolina flag was presented to George's wife, Deborah.

Following the Courthouse ceremonies the ceremonies moved to the South Belton Cemetery. Following a gun salute Camp Member John Perry spoke.

The throng then reconvened at Confederate Park where barbeque was served and entertainment was provided by Joe Walker and David Waters.

Top row right: Mrs. Kinnear and Mrs. Wooley pose by wreath at the Confederate Monument, left: South Carolina flag flies at half mast; Middle row right: David Waters and Joe Walker perform, left: South Carolina flag is presented to Deborah Ballentine; Bottom row: Firing Squad fires salute at South Belton Cemetery.



**Heritage
Month
Celebrated in
Belton**

Camp Schedule

May 8, 2007

Camp meeting at Cotton Patch Café, Temple Mall at 7:00 PM. Speaker: TBA

June 8-10 2007

Texas Division Reunion, Omni Corpus Christi Hotel Marina Tower, Corpus Christi, Texas. Contact Mac Morris at tbmorris@grandecom.net for addi-

tional information.

June 12, 2007

Camp meeting at Cotton Patch Café, Temple Mall at 7:00 PM. Speaker: TBA

July 14, 2007

Quarterly Camp Dinner meeting 7:00 PM location TBA . Speaker: TBA



August 14, 2007

Camp meeting at Cotton Patch Café, Temple Mall at 7:00 PM. Speaker: TBA

**Next Camp Meeting:
May 8th
7:00 PM
Cotton Patch Café
Temple Mall**

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P.O. Box 794 Salado, Texas 76571

Next Meeting:
May 8th
Cotton Patch Cafe
Temple
7:00 PM

Page 4

A Life Lost Too Soon

(Continued from page 2)



Grave marker of Allison Nelson at Mount Holly Cemetery in Little Rock.

two hours and four hours off, during the twenty four. Eight altogether. If I live, I'll make a soldier yet. I

hope I'll not turn out to be a coward."

In the spring of 1862, the 10th Texas was ordered to report to General Thomas C. Hindman in Arkansas. All the drilling back in Texas must have paid off. General

Hindman remarked, that Nelson, "a most excellent officer, arrived at Little Rock from Texas with his well armed and finally disciplined regiment of infantry."

The regiment saw duty at Devall's Bluff where they bedeviled Union gunboats on the White River. Nelson was promoted to brigadier general on September 12, 1862. He was assigned sixteen days later to command the 2nd division of Lt. General Theophilus Holmes. The day after his duty assignment he fell ill with "camp fever," likely typhoid fever. He died on October 7, 1862 in camp near Austin, Arkansas. General Holmes called his death, "an irreparable loss."

Nelson was buried in Little Rock, then the headquarters of the Trans Mississippi Department. His grave is located with a simple marker at Mount Holly Cemetery in Little Rock.

Apologize For Slavery?

As in other Southern states, the Texas Legislature is being asked to apologize to Texas' African American population for the institution of slavery, which ended in 1865.

Texas has joined an every enlarging number of states to consider a formal apology for slavery. Both a joint House and Senate resolution and a formal bill have all been proposed.

So far this year three states have already issued formal apologies for their states part in slavery, Virginia, Maryland, and North Carolina. A number of other states are considering such apologies, including Georgia, Alabama, Missouri, and Florida.

In Texas, the *Dallas Morning News* has already come out in support of the apology. The *News* in an April 7th editorial stated, "The

apology is a symbol of reconciliation. It is restorative. In the matter of slavery, it is overdue."

A counter to the apology movement was stated in a letter to the editor, "I think that I understand sin, repentance, forgiveness, and along with it, the concept of acknowledging one's sins through apology. What I do not understand is how one person can validly apologize for another's sin, especially if that 'sinner' has not been consulted, and if he committed his 'sin' at a time when the act was not regarded as a sin. The offer of an apology by someone who is distant in time and space from the offender seems not only meaningless, for it does not involve contrition from the sinner, but also it can only prompt questions about the motives of the apologist."