

Confederate Gazette

Gazette Begins 20th Year

Welcome to Volume 20, Number 1! It is hard to believe but with this issue the *Confederate Gazette* begins the countdown to twenty years of publishing. The first issue of the *Gazette* was published in June of 1988. John Perry is the *Gazette's* founder and has been the editor since its inception.

According to Perry the first issue of the *Gazette* was a two page newsletter that was sent to prospective Sons of Confederate Veterans members. "I was trying to start a SCV Camp in Temple, and the first issue was not much more than a two-page flyer, inviting people to attend an organizational

meeting at my house," Perry said.

Since that first issue the *Gazette* has produced 211 issues, including this one. For the first nine years the *Gazette* was produced eleven months of the year, not printing an issue each August to allow the editor time to attend the SCV's national reunion. Since 1999 the *Gazette* has been published twelve times per year.

The *Gazette* has been published continuously except for an eight-month period. "For a time I was serving as both the Texas Division's Commander and the SCV's Chief of Heritage

Defense," Perry explained, "and something had to give." Perry discontinued the publication of the *Gazette* from January of 1998 through August of 1998. The *Gazette* resumed publication in September of 1998.

One hallmark of the *Gazette* has been its Confederate Profile, traditionally found on page two. The first profile appeared in 1988 in the *Gazette's* ninth issue, it was on James Longstreet. Since then there have been 157 more profiles. All but a handful have been written by Perry. "I try to find interesting Confederate per-

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Camp Says Goodbye To George

A large crowd of friends and family members attended a memorial service in honor of George Ballentine on Saturday May 26th at the Texas State Veterans Cemetery in Killeen.

The service was a Confederate memorial service with a uniformed honor guard and a cannon salute. A eulogy was delivered by Texas Division 1st Commander Greg Manning.

Deborah Ballentine was presented with the Camp flag that George served under by Camp Commander James Kinnear.



Texas Division 1st Commander Greg Manning delivers eulogy.

Steve and Linda Wooley presented her with a Camp scrapbook.

A portion of the service was conducted by the DCR's Black Rose.

Following the graveside services a reception was held in Copperas Cove at the Grace United Methodist Church. Also participating were members of the Five Hills Genealogy Society.

The event was ably organized by Jerry and Betty Nelson.



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*Best
Newsletter
- 2006 -
Texas Division*

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CONFEDERATE PROFILE



Prince John



John Pegram

**The
Confederacy's
Most Eligible
Bachelor Married
the "Most
Beautiful
Woman"**

It was the event of the social season in war torn Richmond. The handsome young Confederate General, called the "most eligible bachelor in the Confederacy," and one of Richmond's social elite, called by Major Henry Kyd Douglas, "the most beautiful woman I ever saw in any land," were being married. As Federal forces closed in on Richmond in early 1865, it was a wonderful diversion from the ragging war. The splendid St. Paul's Episcopal Church was filled to the brim with the Confederacy's social elite, including President Jefferson Davis and his wife. Sadly, only three weeks later to the day, the star crossed lovers were no more. The same church was filled with mourners, the gallant Confederate warrior had been struck down. The joy of the wedding was replaced with the grief of a church.

John Pegram was born in Petersburg, Virginia on January

24, 1832. He was born into a well to do and distinguished Virginia family. In 1850, he entered the Military Academy at West Point. Robert E. Lee was superintendent of West Point while Pegram was there. He became friendly with the Lee family, and was a groomsman in one of Lee's son's wedding. Pegram graduated in 1854, tenth in his class.

He was immediately assigned to frontier service, as 2nd lieutenant of dragoons. He served on the frontier until 1858, when he secured a two year leave of absence. During his period away from the army, he toured Europe. He returned to active duty in 1860, but it was short lived. He resigned from the U.S. Army on May 10, 1861, siding with his native Virginia, with a desire to serve the Confederacy.

He entered the Confederate Army as a captain in the cavalry. He served under Robert

S. Garnett, in July of 1861, in the Confederacy's effort to try to hold on to the western part of Virginia. Eleven counties in western Virginia seceded from Virginia in June of 1861, and Garnett was attempting to secure control of the territory for the South. Unfortunately for the Confederacy, Garnett underestimated the Federal's willingness to attack Confederate positions on Rich Mountain. He left Pegram, now a lieutenant colonel, and only 1,300 men on Rich Mountain. Garnett felt the Federals would not attack up the mountain, but, attack they did. Grossly outnumbered, when the attack came, Pegram and his command were forced to fall back. They were then over run by the Federals in Beverly, Va., where Pegram surrendered with about half of his command. The defeat helped secured West Virginia for the Union.

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Hetty Cary Pegram

She was considered by many as one of the most beautiful women in the Confederacy.

Hetty Cary was born in Baltimore in 1836. She was related to two of Virginia's "first families," the Randolphs and the Jeffersons.

Hetty was staunchly pro-South



and although living in Union occupied Baltimore it didn't stop her from waving a Confederate flag. An officer of a Union regiment allegedly pointed Hetty out to his Colonel, asking, "Shall I have her arrested?" The Colonel looked at her and

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Gazette Starts 20th Year

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sonalities and write about them. Several people have encouraged me to put them all in a book, but I just haven't found the time to do so," Perry said. Perry admits that over the years he has repeated a few profiles, "Not many of our members were around ten or twelve years ago, so I have repeated some of the better ones," Perry indicated.

columns, frequently covering more than one book. "We tried to pick up the slack when Buzzy quit writing for us, Jerry Nelson, Larry Maxey, Steve Woolley, myself and others have written reviews, but they are



Above: The first issue of the Confederate Gazette; Right: the second format of the Gazette

One feature that Perry laments, that is no longer a part of the *Gazette*, is "Buzzy's Books." According to Perry, "Buzzy Gover was one of our charter members and he was a ravenous War Between the States reader. We started a book review column in the last issue of Volume 1 and it ran for almost nine years." Gover wrote 87 book review

rather infrequent," said Perry. The *Gazette* has always been composed on a personal computer. The *Gazette* was first published on an Apple Macintosh. According to Perry, the Macintosh was, "a relatively new computer back then." "It had a whopping 512K RAM and didn't even have a hard drive." I

had to switch back and forth with various floppy disks," Perry explained.

A program that came with the Macintosh, McDraw, was used to layout the publication and to draw the graphics. Perry used the Macintosh computer from June of 1988 until April of 1990. There were 20 issues of the *Gazette* published on the Macintosh, the

issues started out with just two pages but soon grew to four.

The *Gazette* moved to an IBM compatible personal computer in 1990. With a near doubling of

memory to one megabyte, a "huge" 40 megabyte hard disk drive, and a 286 twenty-five megahertz processor, it was, "a technological leap," according to Perry. The layout was done on software, now long gone, called Finesse. "Finesse was a software package de-

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Gazette has had 158 Confederate Profiles



Camp Schedule

June 8-10 2007
Texas Division Reunion, Omni Corpus Christi Hotel Marina Tower, Corpus Christi, Texas. Contact Mac Morris at tbmorris@grandecom.net for additional 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



September 14, 2007
Camp meeting at Cotton Patch Café, Temple Mall at 7:00 PM. Speaker: TBA

**Next Camp Meeting:
June 12th
7:00 PM
Cotton Patch Café
Temple Mall**



JOHN PEGRAM

las described Miss Carey as, "one of the handsomest women in the Southland, with her classic face, her pure complexion, her auburn hair, her perfect figure and her carriage, altogether the most beautiful woman I ever saw in any land."

ginia, where his younger and lower ranked, but better known brother, Willie Pegram, was serving. The elder Pegram was given command of an infantry brigade, made up of Virginia regiments, in Early's Division. He performed well as a brigade com-

mander, serving through the Wilderness Campaign.

Pegram did have one vain weakness. Like his younger brother, Willie, Pegram was very nearsighted, but unlike his brother he refused to wear thick glasses. One brigade surgeon proclaimed Pegram unfit for command without the benefit of spectacles.

Once there, Miss Carey dropped her handkerchief and tore her veil. Never the less the bride did look beautiful. One guest described Miss Carey, "Her complexion of pearly white, the vivid roses on her cheeks and lips, the sheen of her radiant hair, and the happy gleam of her beautiful brown eyes seemed to defy all sorrow."

Douglas had been on duty and had missed the actual ceremonies. As Pegram's adjutant general, Douglas decided to honor Pegram and his new wife. Douglas arranged for a grand review of Pegram's division on February 2nd. He invited Generals Robert E. Lee, James Longstreet, A. P. Hill,

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Pegram had been injured on Rich Mountain, when he was thrown from his horse. He was able to continue on active duty, but by the time he reached Beverly, he was confined to bed.

Pegram was confined to a Federal prisoner of war camp until January of 1862. After being paroled, Pegram was promoted to colonel and assigned to General Braxton Bragg's staff, as chief of engineers, in Mississippi. He was transferred to Tennessee, where he served as chief of staff for General Kirby Smith. He participated in Smith's invasion of Tennessee. In November of 1862, he was promoted to brigadier general and given command of a cavalry brigade, serving under Nathan Bedford Forrest. He saw action at both the battles of Murfreesboro and Chickamauga.

Pegram was then transferred to the Army of Northern Vir-

The dashing Pegram, called, "the most eligible bachelor in the South," was never less engaged to be married. In 1862, he had proposed to a socialite, Hetty Carey, originally of Baltimore. Henry Kyd Doug-

Pegram was injured and captured at Rich Mountain

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John Pegram

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John Gordon, and other notables, and the new Mrs. Pegram, as a special guest. As Douglas described the review in I Rode With Stonewall, "As the division under General Pegram passed in review before her General Gordon abdicating in her favor - General Lee was on her right and the other



Marker at Hatcher's Run, Virginia battlefield site near where Pegram was killed.

generals with their glittering staff officers about her and in her train. Her rich color emblazoned her face, a rare light illumined her eyes and her soul was on fire with the triumph of the moment, horrors of war forgotten."

Four days later, Pegram sent a brigade to reconnoiter east of Dabney's Mill on Hatcher's Run. They stumbled upon a Union division and fighting erupted. The outnumbered Confederates slowly withdrew, fighting as they pulled back. Both sides called for reinforcements. Georgia units in Evan's Brigade were on their way back to camp when ordered to return to the front lines. They coun-

terattacked, but were outnumbered and forced to retire. Fresh Confederate troops arrived on the scene and another charge was made.

The second assault was successful, driving away the Federals, but it was during this attack that Pegram was hit. He was on horseback when a mus-

ket ball struck him slightly above the heart, just below a locket with Hetty Pegram's picture. He fell to the ground, but Douglas was at his side and caught him as he fell. According to Douglas, Pegram died in his arms.

Major General Gordon asked Douglas to notify Mrs. Pegram. Douglas begged off, telling Gordon to send another man, "He's married and knows women, I don't." Funeral services were held for Pegram, three weeks to the day he was wed at St. Paul's. The same minister that had married the young couple performed the funeral services. Pegram was buried at Hollywood Cemetery in Richmond.

Hetty Cary Pegram



Battleflag made by Hetty Cary Pegram

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replied: "No, she is beautiful enough to do as she pleases."

The *New Orleans Crescent* described Hetty as, (you) "will probably never see again, so beautiful a woman!" . . . It is worth a king's ransom, a lifetime of trouble, to look at one such woman."

She eventually found her way to Richmond and made history by helping to produce the first three Confederate battle flags, based on the Beauregard design.

She was courted by so many Confederate generals that it led her cousin to say, "Hetty likes them that way; gilt-edged with stars!" When John Pegram won her hand, rivals called him the "prize winner."

Hetty and John's wedding was the social event of the year, but their marriage was short lived when Pegram was killed at the Battle of Hatcher's Run on February 6, 1865. Three weeks to the day Hetty was attending her husband's funeral.

Post war Hetty returned to Baltimore. In 1879 she married a Johns Hopkins University physiology professor. She passed away in 1892.

Pegram was killed instantly at Hatcher's Run

Hetty Cary produced one of the first Confederate battle flags

Confederate Gazette

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Next Meeting: June 12th Cotton Patch Cafe Temple 7:00 PM

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Confederate Gazette

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signed for putting together publications, and it was quite good, and I think way ahead of its time," Perry said. "For the first time we had spell check and that was a great relief," according to Perry. In the second issue using the new software the first scanned graphics appeared. Perry said, "I borrowed a scanner at work and was able to scan graphics, photographs, etc. into the *Gazette*." The typical issue had 4 to 8 pages. Finesse was used to produce 37 issues of the newsletter.

The *Gazette's* format changed again in October of 1993. Perry switched to a Windows based software, Microsoft Publisher. Publisher is still the software being used to produce the *Gazette*. "I have experimented with



Observe the 150th Anniversary of SCV

Division Convention in Austin

The 1996 Texas Division Convention will be held in Austin, beginning Friday June 14th at the Red Lion Hotel in Austin. Convention registration begins at the Red Lion Hotel at 1:15 and US 290 at 1:00 PM on June 14th.

The Friday evening at which there will be a barbecue dinner at Camp Mabey. There will be registration to and from Camp Mabey from the convention hotel. Music will be provided by The Rebels.

The opening ceremonies, including the color guard and a parade of flags will be held at the State Capitol building at 8:15. Saturday morning, June 15th, a meeting will be held beginning at 6:00 at the Red Lion Hotel Saturday night. The Awards Banquet will be held beginning at 6:45 PM at the Red Lion. The Reception will also perform at the Awards Dinner.

Texas Division On The Internet

The Texas Division is now online with a "home page" on the Internet. The page went on line May 20th. The Texas Division Internet address is: <http://www.scvtx.com>

The Texas Division also has SCV Divisions in Louisiana, Missouri, and Arizona with Internet home pages. The SCV national HQ also has a home page. The site was created by Jack Dale of Arlington, who is also donating his time in designing and formatting the site as well as providing the computer web-site service at no charge. "Click" Dank is

Above left: The third format of the *Gazette*; Right: The fourth format of the *Gazette*

other software packages like Adobe PageMaker, but Publisher is just so easy to use and since I have been using it since 1993 there is not much I don't know about it," Perry said.

Currently, the *Gazette* is being produced on Perry's fifth desk top personal computer, a three-year-old Sony Vaio, with a Pentium IV 3 gigahertz processor, 1 gigabyte of

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CONFEDERATE GAZETTE

Single Page People Asked, Annual Dinner

ANNUAL LEE-JACKSON DINNER HELD IN TEMPLE



The Lee-Jackson Dinner was held in Temple, Texas on February 12, 2004. The dinner was held at the Cotton Patch Cafe and was attended by many members of the Texas Division. The dinner was a great success and was a wonderful evening for all in attendance.

Confederate Heroes Day in Bell Co.



Confederate Heroes Day was held in Bell County, Texas on February 12, 2004. The day was dedicated to the memory of the Confederate soldiers who fought for the South during the Civil War. The day was a great success and was a wonderful day for all in attendance.

RAM, and a 160 gigabyte hard disk drive. "My PC is not even state of

the art now, but it is a light years ahead of the little 512k RAM Mac with no hard drive," according to Perry.

The *Gazette* is now on its fifth different format. "I try to change the look of the *Gazette* ever so often to try to keep it fresh," Perry explained. "Every time I change it, I usually get a complaint or two, people seem not to like change. The last change was done to add more color to the publication," Perry said.

In 1997 in the *Gazette's* issue celebrating ten years of publishing Perry was quoted as saying that he wasn't sure if he could go another ten years. "I guess I surprised myself," he said. "It takes a lot of work to produce a *Gazette*, I estimate 10 to 12 hours an issue, but I do have my wife Sandra who helps proof read, and with the mailing process. I couldn't do it without her help," Perry said. What about another ten years? "Simply not in the cards," according to Perry.

Gazette Wins Awards

The *Confederate Gazette* has won the Texas Division's best newsletter award five times, in 1991, 1992, 1993, 2003, and 2006. The *Gazette* also won the Dr. Paul Jon Miller Award in 1991 as the Best Newsletter in the SCV.