

Confederate Gazette

Camp Marches in July 4th Parade

The Major Robert M. White Camp #1250 participated in the Belton 4th of July Parade for the fourteenth straight year. Twelve Camp members and/or family members were on a float that traversed through Belton on July 4th.

The Camp received lots of applause and salutes as the float went through the city. One lady was heard to ex-

claim, "God bless you for what you all do!"

This year the Camp's float was manned by Dr. Chris Ellis, Joyce Jones, John Larson and daughters, Mr. and Mrs. Gordon Mobley, Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Synder, Rocky Sprott, and Mr. and Mrs. Steve Wooley.



Four different Confederate flags fly proudly on the Camp's float just prior to the start of the annual 4th of July Parade in Belton.

(Photo by Rocky Sprott)

The Camp's float was decked out with four large flags, the Battleflag, 1st National, 3rd National, and the flag of the Army of the Trans-Mississippi.

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White Camp #1250

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Camp Wins at Texas Division Reunion

At the Texas Division Reunion held in Waco in June the Major Robert M. White Camp #1250 won two awards, as did several Camp members.

The Camp, for the eleventh straight year, won the Four-Star Camp Award. The award is given to Camps who conduct twelve meetings per year, publishes a camp newsletter, has attendance at State and National conventions by at least one member, and has their dues substantially paid to Division

and IHQ in time.

The Camp also tied for first place for the Best Website



Texas Division Logo

Award. The award is given for web site excellence. The Camp's website was reded-

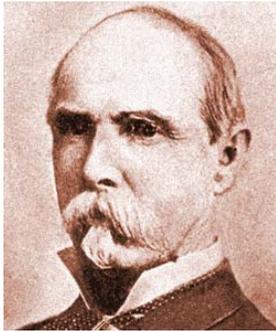
igned in 2008.

Several members from the Camp received individual Division awards. They included Greg Manning, from Salado, who won the Deo Vindice award, the highest award given by the Texas Division.

Also, Herb Cowan, from Temple, was presented with the Bronze Star award for meritorious service and John C. Perry, of Salado, received the SCV Commendation Medal.

CONFEDERATE PROFILE

He Won The Last Fight



James E. Slaughter

**Slaughter
Commanded the
Western
Sub-District of
Texas**

He ended the war in Texas at the very last battle of the War Between the States.

James Edwin Slaughter was born on June 1, 1827, at Culpeper Co., Virginia. He was the son of Daniel French Slaughter and Letitia Madison and was related to President James Madison. He entered the Virginia Military Institute in 1845, but left to accept a commission as a 2nd lieutenant in the U.S. Army to serve in the Mexican War.

He served with distinction during the Mexican War and in 1848 became a part of the U.S. 1st Artillery. He was promoted to 1st Lieutenant in 1852 and remained in the U.S. Army until he resigned in 1861 after hostilities broke out between the North and the South.

He offered his services to the Confederate Army where he was mustered in as a first lieutenant of artillery. He later became an Inspector-General on the staff of Confederate

General P.G.T. Beauregard in the Department of Alabama and West Florida. In 1861 he was involved in the fight at Pensacola, Florida, where he served with distinction.

He was promoted to major in November 1861 and later was advanced to brigadier general on March 8, 1862. Slaughter served as an assistant inspector general on the staff of Gen. Albert Sidney Johnston and served with Johnston at Shiloh where Johnston was killed. He remained on the staff for Johnston's successor, Braxton Bragg through the Kentucky Campaign. In April of 1863 he was transferred to Galveston, Texas, as chief of artillery. He joined the staff of Gen. John B. Magruder and later became his chief of staff.

In September of 1864 he was made the commander of the Western Sub-District of Texas which was basically everything in Texas south of San Antonio. At his peak he had command of about 2,600 men, mostly cav-

alry. He made his headquarters at Brownsville and John "RIP" Ford was in direct command of the men in the Brownsville area at Fort Brown.

His most famous Civil War engagement actually occurred about a month after Robert E. Lee surrendered back in Virginia. Union troops from Brazos Island were ordered to take Fort Brown. About 300 Federals skirmished with Confederates on the way to Fort Brown on May 12, 1865.

The next day in the area around Palminto Ranch, about equal distance between Fort Brown and Brazos Island, a real fight ensued. Less than 200 Confederates, tangled with Union troops who had been reinforced and now numbered about 500 men. The outnumbered Confederates initially pulled back and the Union troops stopped to camp and prepare for dinner.

In the meantime the Confederates had been reinforced with

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Fort Brown, Texas

Located in present day Brownsville, Fort Brown was originally called Fort Texas when it was constructed on the Rio Grande River in 1846. Fort Brown was initially a US Army fort in support of the US forces during the Mexican War.

The US Army abandoned the fort in March of 1861. It was occupied by a very small number of Confederate troops until November of 1863 when Federal troops captured it without a fight.

The Confederates retook the fort in July of 1864 under the

command of James E. Slaughter and John "RIP" Ford. The fort remained in the hands of the CSA until well after the end of the war.

The fort was decommissioned by the US Army in 1948 and today is on the campus of the Univ. of Texas-Brownsville.

South Belton Cemetery Update

Work continues on the renovation of the South Belton Cemetery. The Camp adopted the South Belton Cemetery as a major project of the Camp last year.

Thus far there has been lots of activity at the cemetery. The City of Belton has curbed and resurfaced the road at the entrance to the cemetery. They have also constructed a new cemetery gate at the entrance.

New posts and rails have been installed. New wire has been

purchased by the Camp under a grant from Bell County Historical Commission.

A work day to install the new wire has been set for September 19th. Installation of the wire should take one or two workdays.

A fund raiser for the cemetery restoration project, "History on the Hill" has been set for Saturday October 17th. Current plans are to have morning dedications by the War of 1812 Association, Citizens of the



Republic of Texas, and Ex-Texas Rangers Association. There will also be a living history exhibition, with first person accounts for several notables who are buried in the cemetery. That afternoon will feature a historic Belton homes tour.

Cost for the "History on the Hill" event will be \$10 for adults and \$5 for students.

Workday at South Belton Cemetery Set For September 19th

Camp at Belton Parade

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The Camp first participated in the annual Belton July 4th parade in 1996 and has not missed a parade since that date.



Left: Gordon Mobley, John Larson, Joyce Jones, and Ralph Snyder march ahead of float in downtown Belton (photo by Tom Hughes); Above: Camp members and friends pose in front of the float just prior to the start of the parade (photo by Rocky Spratt).

Camp Schedule

August 11, 2009

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

September 8, 2009

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

September 19, 2009

Work day at South Belton Cemetery.

October 17, 2009

"History On The Hill," Fund raiser for the South Belton Cemetery. Includes ceremonies, living history, and historic home tour.



October 10, 2009

Quarterly Camp Dinner meeting TBD, Social at 6:00 PM with the Dinner at 7:00 PM. Speaker: TBD.

**Next Camp Meeting:
August 11th
Cotton Patch Café
at the Temple Mall
7:00 PM**

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August 11th
Cotton Patch Cafe
Temple Mall
7:00 PM Meeting**

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Temple Reenactment in 2010?

The 2009 Battle of Temple Junction is now history. At a post reenactment meeting, the City of Temple reported that in spite of the heavy rains on the Saturday of the event, financially it lost only \$412.

The City wants to continue to have a Battle of Temple Junction Reenactment, but is asking that Camp #1250 assume total financial responsibility for the event.

The City will donate \$3,000 in cash, plus provide the land for the reenactment, fencing, signage, trash cans, tents and they will prep the land for the event. It



would be up to the Camp to be on the risk financially. In 2009 the City spent \$8,006 in direct expenses and had income of \$7,594.

There were approximately 220 total reenactors in attendance and on the educational day 584 kids attended. Gate receipts, mainly from Sunday, were \$1,853.

The Camp, at the July meeting, decided to support the event in 2010, provided we are able to raise several thousand dollars in sponsorships from area businesses and organizations within the next six months. Last year the City raised \$1,600 in sponsorships.

James E. Slaughter

(Continued from page 2)

about another 100 men under the field command of Ford and by 4:00 PM they were attacking the Federals. The Confederate attack was supported by artillery and caused the Federals to withdraw. The last battle of the war was now over.

After word finally reached Texas that the war was over, Slaughter decided not to remain in Texas. He fled to Mexico and for a while

ran a steam sawmill with the son of Sterling Price. After several



Slaughter in Confederate uniform

years he returned to the states, first to Mobile, Alabama where he was a civil engineer and as a postmaster. He later moved to New Orleans, but passed away in Mexico City while on a trip on January 1, 1901.

He was buried in the American National Cemetery in

Mexico City with about 750 other Americans who were killed during the Mexican War.