

Confederate Gazette

California Bans Battleflags

As the *Confederate Gazette* goes to press all that is lacking to the banning of the Confederate Battleflag in California is the signature of a bill, passed by both houses of the California legislature, by Governor Jerry Brown. The bill, AB #2444, was passed by the California Assembly (their equivalent to the Texas House) 71-1 back in May of this year. The bill then went to California's state Senate and was passed 33-2 in August. The approved bill is awaiting Governor Brown's signature.



It is expected, due to the wide margin of victory of the bill, to be signed into law by

Governor Brown. The bill outlaws the state of California from the selling or displaying of the Battleflag of the Confederacy, or a similar image, or tangible per-

sonal property inscribed with those images, unless the image appears in a book, digital medium, or state museum that serves an educational or historical purpose.

The bill was introduced by Isadore Hall III, a Democrat from Compton, California. He introduced the bill earlier this year after his mother complained to him that she saw replica Confederate money on sale at the California capitol gift shop.

(Continued on page 3)

Lee's Arlington House to be Restored

The *Civil War News*, in their August edition, reports that the Robert E. Lee home in Arlington, Virginia will be restored. Funds for the restoration, which is called Arlington House by the National Park Service (NPS), is due in part to a \$12.35 million gift by philanthropist David M. Rubenstein from Maryland. Rubenstein's donation covers the \$12.35 million budget for the completion of the house, grounds and museum

restoration. When the work is completed, visitors will see Arlington House as it was in 1860, with every room restored to its historical appearance.

Arlington House, which used to be known by its now politically incorrect name, the Custis-Lee Mansion, is the most visited historic house museum in the national park system with 650,000 visitors a year.

In the NPS's announcement the NPS' Director, Jonathan

B. Jarvis, said Arlington House, "originally constructed to memorialize George Washington, tells America's story from its founding, to the shame of slavery and a nation divided, to a nation again made whole."

Built by George Washington Parke Custis, Washington's stepson, Arlington was owned by his daughter, Mary Anna Custis Lee, wife of Robert E. Lee. It was their family home until May 1861. By the

(Continued on page 4)



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

www.scvtemple.com

Jimmy D. Dossey
Camp Commander
115 Lakewood Dr.
Gatesville, TX 76528

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

© 2014 Major Robert M.
White Camp #1250

Inside this issue:

Profile: George Blake Cosby	2
Cosby & U.S. Grant	2
August Camp Meeting	3
Camp #1250's Calendar	3
Lee's Gettysburg Headquarters	4

CONFEDERATE PROFILE

Cavalry Commander



**George Blake
Cosby**

**Cosby graduated
from West Point in
1852**

No Confederate officer wanted to ask Union General Ulysses S. Grant for surrender terms at Fort Donelson in 1862. As each Confederate officer passed the buck, the buck finally ended with this lowly major. It was this man that received the "Unconditional Surrender" terms from Grant.

George Blake Cosby was born in Louisville, Kentucky on January 19, 1830 to well to do parents, Fortunatus Cosby and Ellen Mary Jane Blake Cosby. He was educated in private schools until he received an appointment to the United States Military Academy at West Point, graduating in 1852, ranked 17th in his class. Cosby then became an adopted Texan. Except for a very brief stint in St. Louis teaching cavalry tactics, he spent about nine years in the Lone Star state. Most of his Texas time was spent on the Indian frontier leading cavalry attacks on the Coman-

che Indian tribe.

As North and South war clouds loomed, Cosby resigned from the U.S. Army in May of 1861, one day after being promoted to the rank of Captain. He joined the staff of General Simon Bolivar Buckner and Cosby was taken prisoner when Ft. Donelson surrendered on February 16, 1862. He was exchanged in August of 1862 and upon his return to active duty was promoted to colonel. In October Cosby was made Chief of Staff of the Army of Mississippi.

In January of 1863, upon the recommendation of General Joseph E. Johnston, Cosby was promoted to the rank of Brigadier General and was given command of a cavalry brigade. Cosby saw action in the Confederate victory at Thompson's Station, Tennessee in March of 1863. In August of 1863 Cosby's brigade was assigned to Major General Earl Van Dorn. It was a reunion for Cosby and Van

Dorn as Van Dorn had been Cosby's major at one time in the U.S. Army.

Cosby's last assignment was in West Virginia and eastern Tennessee where he commanded Confederate cavalry. His force numbered between 2,000 and 4,000 men and he harassed his old West Point classmate, Union Brigadier General George Cook.

Cosby was still in command of his cavalry unit in the field when the news of General Robert E. Lee's surrender at Appomattox in 1865 was received. Cosby's superior, Brigadier General John Echols, wanted them to try to join with Johnston's army in North Carolina, but Cosby believed continued fighting was useless. Cosby ordered his men, mainly fellow Kentucky horsemen, to disband.

After the war Cosby decided to begin life anew in California. He farmed in Butte County, California and also served in a

(Continued on page 3)

Cosby and U.S. Grant

He was there when Union General Ulysses S. Grant won his nickname. As the then Major George B. Cosby he was the one who asked for terms for the surrender of Fort Donelson, Tennessee on February 16, 1862. It was Cosby who would learn that Grant's terms were

unconditional.

Cosby won the dubious destination of asking Grant for terms after Brigadier General John Floyd turned to Major General Gideon Pillow who turned to Cosby's superior Brigadier General Simon Buckner in a

contest of I don't want to be the one to surrender.

Cosby was ordered by Buckner to take a note to Grant asking for the terms of surrender. The resulted surrender cost the Confederates over 12,000 men either as prisoners or missing.

August Camp Meeting

By Michael E. Belcher

Camp Compatriot 1st Lieutenant Commander James "Al" Harris, was the guest speaker, and his presentation topic was on "Honoring Our Confederate Ancestors." He spoke about a subject that is both near and dear to the hearts of southern compatriots.

He talked about memorial ceremonies at public Confederate monuments, and at the gravesides of long departed Confederate soldiers. The uses of color guards in historically accurate Confederate uniforms, firing muskets in salute.

Also taking care of the graves of these soldiers; identifying them and installing appropriate gravestones for them. He discussed such things as reenactments, grave registration, publically displaying the flags of the Confederacy, building new memorial monuments in memory of the Confederate Army, public speaking and history presentations, and recruiting new members into the Sons of Confederate Veterans. All are ways that we can be involved in honoring the

memory of our Confederate Ancestors. Compatriot Harris's presentation was quite informative, and well received by the membership and guests in attendance.

A motion was made by Compatriot Steve Wooley to send the VA Flaggers a \$100.00 contribution, which was passed by a unanimous vote of the membership that was present.

Linda Wooley raised a motion to contribute \$100.00 in the name and memory of Margaret Sprott, recently deceased, to the Sam Davis Youth Camp. She was a very active member of the UDC, and responsible for many projects over the years, and is the mother of former camp member Rocky Jim Sprott.

Compatriot Ralph Snyder raised the idea of getting Susan Hathaway from the Virginia Flaggers to speak at our December 2014 meeting. She is coming to Texas to speak in the Dallas area and might be able to address Camp #1250. This possibility is being investigated.

Cavalry Commander

(Continued from page 2)

number of governmental positions, both state and federal. He served for a while as the California Secretary of the State Board of Engineers. He was married to Antonia Johnson Cosby of Paducah, Kentucky and they had five children.

He committed suicide at the age of 79 on June 29 1909, while living at his son's home in Oakland, California. At his death he was an invalid and partially paralyzed. He apparently took his own life after bidding his family goodnight and then opening a gas jet in his room. His body was cremated and his ashes were buried at the City Cemetery in Sacramento, California.

Flag Ban

(Continued from page 1)

The ban originally prohibited all Confederate images in the state from being sold, but was later amended. Hall amended the bill to exclude nongovernment employees and businesses from the ban to avoid violating constitutional free speech protections.

Cosby apparently committed suicide in 1909

Camp Schedule

September 9, 2014

Regular Camp Meeting at Cotton Patch Café, Temple Mall, 7:00 PM. Speaker: Jessica Larson on her Sam Davis Camp Experiences.

October 11, 2014

Quarterly Camp Dinner Meeting

at Cotton Patch Café, Temple Mall, 7:00 PM. Speaker: Charles Oliver from Waco, subject to be determined.

November 11, 2014

Regular Camp Meeting at Cotton Patch Café, Temple Mall, 7:00 PM. Speaker: Steve Fore-



man, subject to be determined.

December 12, 2014

Tentative Camp Christmas Party

**Next Camp Meeting:
September 9th
Cotton Patch Café
Temple Mall
6:00 PM Social
7:00 PM Meeting**

Confederate Gazette

P.O. Box 794 Salado, Texas 76571

Next Meeting:
September 9th
Cotton Patch Cafe
7:00 PM

▶ Page 4

Lee HQ Fundraising

A fundraising effort by the Civil War Trust (CWT) is underway to attempt to acquire Robert E. Lee's Gettysburg Headquarters. It was from this location that Lee discussed Pickett's Charge with his subordinates.



Lee's Gettysburg headquarters as it appeared in 1863

The CWT is attempting to raise \$5.5 million to acquire the privately held building and four acres surrounding it. If the drive is successful the CWT will turn the property over to the National Park Service. Currently the property includes a museum, a Quality Inn lodge and a local pub.

The house was built in 1834 and at the time of the Civil War was owned by the staunch abolitionist

Pennsylvania Congressman Thaddeus Stevens.

It was on July 1, 1863 that General Robert E. Lee established his personal headquarters in this old stone house. An ideal location, it was at the center and rear of his battle lines and it was on the same road that many more of his troops were quickly approaching.

Lee's Arlington House to be Restored

(Continued from page 1)

terms of Custis' will the property was to go to Mary Anna's oldest son. The plantation estate overlooked Washington across the Potomac River. It was home to 63 slaves, became a military



Custis-Lee Mansion also known as Arlington House

headquarters for Union troops, a community for emancipated slaves and a national cemetery.

The NPS said that between 2007 and 2012, the NPS invested \$6 million in maintaining the mansion. This work included restoration of

the North Slave Quarters and the frescoes in the Hunting Hall painted by George Washington Parke

Custis, construction of a comfort station, removal of lead-based paint, installation of accessible walkways, and resto-

ration of some of the mansion's windows and doors. The remaining work to be done at the house includes stabilizing the foundation, repairing the portico and entrance, recoating the exterior decorative masonry faux-marble finish,