

# Confederate Gazette

## Bill Introduced to End Heroes Day

January 19, 2015 may have been the last official Confederate Heroes Day to be celebrated in Texas.

Representative Donna Howard, a Democrat from Austin, has filed a bill to eliminate the 42 year old holiday which honors Jefferson Davis, Robert E. Lee and other Confederate figures.

The newly introduced bill would establish a new holiday to be celebrated in May. The new state holiday would be called, "Civil War Remembrance Day." According to the new bill this would be a day which would honor all men and women who fought during the Civil War, north

or South.

Confederate Heroes Day was born in 1973, after the Texas Legislature opted to combine



*State Rep. Donna Howard* the celebrations of Lee and Davis' birthdays, both of which previously were official state holidays. It was decided that the day would

honor all soldiers who had served in the South during the Civil War.

The new bill, HB-1242, was introduced on February 9<sup>th</sup> by Representative Howard and as of press date there had been no further action on it other than it being filed.

All Texas Division SCV members are strongly encouraged to contact their state representatives. In Temple and Belton the state representative is Molly White, for Killeen and Salado it is Jimmy Don Aycock and for Gatesville it is J.D. Sheffield. All House members can be reached at PO Box 2910,

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## Supreme Court to Hear Case This Month

The court case which involves the Texas Division's SCV License Plate is to be argued before the Supreme Court of the United States on Monday, March 23, 2015.

The State of Texas, under then Attorney General now Governor Greg Abbott, appealed to the Supreme Court after the New Orleans based 5<sup>th</sup> U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals

ruled for the SCV in a 2-1 decision, saying, "By reject-



*Proposed Texas SCV License Plate*

ing the plate because it was offensive, the board discriminated."

The Supreme Court will review a ruling that Texas violated the Constitution when state officials rejected an application by the Texas division while issuing more than 350 other specialty plates.

The Texas Division SCV's view is that the Confederate flag is a symbol of sacrifice, independence and Southern heritage."



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# CONFEDERATE PROFILE

## *Tennessee Fighter*



**George  
Washington  
Gordon**

**Gordon Commanded  
the 11<sup>th</sup> Tennessee**

On November 30, 1864 Brigadier General George W. Gordon ordered his brigade forward towards the well-entrenched Federal lines at Franklin, Tennessee. Gordon's brigade advanced further than any other Confederate unit that very fateful day, storming the Federal lines around the Carter House. It would be a costly day for the Confederates, and for Gordon it would end his service to the Confederate cause.

George Washington Gordon was born in Giles County, Tennessee near Pulaski on October 5, 1836. He was the son of Andrew Gordon, a native of Tennessee, and Eliza K. Gordon, who was originally born in Virginia. His early youth was spent in rural Mississippi and later he moved with his parents to Texas. It was, however, his native Tennessee that beckoned young Gordon, and he returned in the mid 1850's to study at the Western Military Institute in Nashville. There he studied engineering under future

Confederate General, Bushrod R. Johnson. Gordon graduated from Western Military in 1859. Utilizing his engineering degree he became a surveyor prior to the outbreak of hostilities.

Gordon entered Confederate service with the 11<sup>th</sup> Tennessee in 1861. He initially served as the drillmaster of the regiment and then rapidly rose through the ranks of the Army of Tennessee. By the Battle of Murfreesboro (Stones River), at the end of 1862, Gordon was a colonel and regimental commander of the 11<sup>th</sup> Tennessee.

Gordon performed well in the Army of Tennessee fighting from Chickamauga through the Atlanta Campaign. Gordon was promoted to brigadier general as of August 15, 1864, in time for the Nashville and Franklin campaigns.

At Franklin, Tennessee, Gordon was in command of Vaughan's Brigade, which included his 11<sup>th</sup> Tennessee. The brigade was

part of Major General John C. Brown's Division in Major General Benjamin F. Cheatham's Corp. The Confederates, under the overall command of General John Bell Hood, attacked from the south the very well-entrenched Federals holding the town of Franklin. Gordon's brigade was at the very center of the Confederate attack.

Brown's entire division in concert with Major General Patrick Cleburne's division attacked the very heart of the Federal lines just below the Carter House on the edge of town. In some of the fiercest fighting of the war the Confederates advanced and broke the Union lines around the Carter House. With Gordon at the lead, his brigade swept so far forward that he and some of his men were captured when they ran into Federal reserves. The Federals counter charged and pushed the remainder of the Confederates back to the original Union trenches.

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## Gordon's Hair Length

Confederate General George Washington Gordon served under General Benjamin Franklin Cheatham during the war.. Gordon had permitted his hair to grow longer than military rules sanctioned, and Cheatham sent orders to Gordon's adjutant,, "Ingram, tell Gordon

to cut off that hair." Gordon replied: "Tell General Cheatham I will carry out his military order, but tell him it is none of his business how I wear my hair."

When Cheatham ordered the charge at Franklin, he sent word to Gordon to go over the

works, "if he had to be pulled over by his hair."

After his capture, when leaving with his Yankee captors, Gordon left word with a citizen to tell General Cheatham, "Gordon had gone over the works and was not pulled over by his hair, either."

# February Camp Meeting

By Michael E. Belcher

Our guest speaker was Former Trans Mississippi Army Commander, former Texas Division Commander and Camp member Mr. John C. Perry. Compatriot Perry spoke on the "Myths and Realities of American Slavery: The True History of Slavery in America," with information from his book of the same title.

John based his research, in part upon, "The Slave Narratives", which was from the Federal Writers Project, part of the Works Project Association's programs. To produce this work, writers interviewed about 2,200 former slaves, capturing about 3.5 million words. During his research John read about a third of the narratives, of which about 80% of it was positive about their life experiences as slaves.

In his talk John noted that it is sad that most misconceptions about the treatment of the slaves is a result of previous "cherry picking", by others, of the Slave Narratives. He was asked lots of questions and the

presentation was warmly received by the Camp Members, and we were left with a truly enlightening experience.

Business conducted at the meeting included the following: (1) It was announced that we paid a State Sales Tax this year of \$371.26 for taxable sales made by our Camp Store last year totaling \$4,578.00.

(2) The recent release of Texas House Bill 1242 by Representative Donna Howard of Travis County was discussed. The camp is strongly in opposition to the bill, and individuals will write letters and or participate in organized rallies at the state capitol.

(3) The membership voted to reserve the Gober Party House in Temple again for next year's annual Lee/Jackson Dinner.

(4) It was reported by our Sergeant at Arms, Compatriot Mason Dubose that our Camp flags all need some maintenance, prior to their public display at the Texas Division Reunion in June. It was decided to spend the appropriate monies as needed to replace and or repair the flags.

(5) Both the Confederate Memorial Day Ceremony and Belton 4<sup>th</sup> of July Parade participation were discussed. Plans will be developed for Camp participation at both of these events.

(6) Compatriot Ralph Snyder received a flag from the Virginia Flaggers to display at the Texas Division Reunion, which the camp will provide a pole for.

(7) Compatriot Snyder proposed an idea to acquire land and put up a large Confederate Battle flag along I-35 near Belton. The idea was considered a good one for a near future project and will be researched by camp members.

## Tennessee Fighter

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With Gordon's capture and with six other Confederate generals killed and six others wounded the Confederates were unable to destroy the Federal army, which had been Hood's goal. The Federals would slip off that evening to defensive positions

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**Camp decides to do Lee-Jackson in 2016 at Gober**

## Camp Schedule

### March 10 2015

Regular Camp meeting at Cotton Patch Café, Temple Mall, 6:00 PM Social and 7:00 PM Meeting, Holly Liefermann, Temple Parks & Recreation.

### April 11 2015

Quarterly Dinner meeting at

Cotton Patch Café, Temple Mall. 6:00 PM Social and 7:00 PM Meeting. Speaker to be determined.

### May 12, 2015

Regular Camp meeting at Cotton Patch Café, Temple Mall, 6:00 PM Social and 7:00 PM



Meeting. Speaker to be determined.

### June 9, 2015

Regular Camp Meeting

**Next Camp Meeting:  
March 10<sup>th</sup>  
Cotton Patch Cafe  
6:00 PM Social  
7:00 PM Meeting**

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P.O. Box 794 Salado, Texas 76571

Next Meeting:  
March 10th  
Cotton Patch Cafe  
6:00 PM-Social  
7:00 PM-Meeting

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## Waco Ceremony

The General Felix H. Robertson Camp #129 is holding a ceremony on March 28, 2015, at Oakwood Cemetery, in Waco, to promote Col. Joseph Speight to be a "honorary general" in the Confederate Army. It will take place at 10:00 AM and Kelly Barrow, our National Commander, will be there to make the presentation.

Col. Speight was a colonel in the 15<sup>th</sup> Texas Infantry and was credited with never losing a battle during the war. General Kirby Smith, the commander of the Army of the Trans Mississippi, sent the paperwork to the Confederate Congress to have Colonel Speight promoted, but the war came to a close before the promotion was put before them.



## Tennessee Fighter



*(Continued from page 3)*

at Nashville.

Gordon was sent to Fort Warren in Boston harbor, where he would spend the remainder of the war. He was not released from prison until July of 1865. He returned south eventually settling in Memphis. In Memphis he studied law and became an attorney. Gordon was one of the six original founders of the Ku Klux Klan in December of 1865, and wrote the Klan's Pre-script which said among other things, "the reenfranchisement and emancipation of the white men of the South, and the restitution of the Southern people to all their rights."

He was also quite active in civic

and governmental activities, including serving as a Memphis school superintendent and as a state railroad commissioner. Gordon also did a stint as a U.S. Indian agent in the west, mainly in Arizona and Nevada.

In 1906 Gordon entered the political arena by being elected to the U.S. House of Representatives, as a Democrat, and was twice reelected. Gordon was the very last Confederate general to serve in the U.S. Congress.

Post war Gordon was described as being 5 foot eight and a half inches tall, weighing 140 pounds and had brown hair. Gordon was married twice. First in 1876 to Ora Paine, who died within a few

weeks of their wedding. In 1899 he married Minnie Hannah, of Memphis.

Gordon died on August 9, 1911, while still a member of Congress. At the time of his death he was also serving his second term as the Commander-in-Chief of the United Confederate Veterans. Gordon is buried in Elmwood Cemetery in Memphis.

## State Holiday

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Austin, TX 78768, Our State Senator is Troy Frazier who can be reached at PO Box 12068, Austin, TX 78711.