

CONFEDERATE GAZETTE



Confederate Gazette

*Is a monthly publication
of the*

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

Web Site:
www.rootsweb.com/~tx1250

Greg Manning
Commander
Rt. 1 Box 1737
Kempner, TX 76539

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

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Camp #1250
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CAMP MARCHES IN BELTON PARADE

The Major Robert M. White Camp #1250 participated, for the fifth year in a row in the annual Belton Independence Day Parade. Approximately 50 people, including Camp members, reenactors, and members of the "Salado Legends"



The colors and "Patience" line up awaiting the start of the Parade.
(Photograph by George H. Ballentine)

play made an appearance.

Assisting the Camp this year were reenactor members of the Capital Guards, the 7th Texas, and the Arkansas Cavalry. As usual the hit of the show was the Capital
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Two New Exhibits On Display

NEW EXHIBITS AT HILL

Two new exhibits are currently on display at the Texas Heritage Museum on the Hill College campus in Hillsboro. Both of these temporary exhibits will be on display through the end of the year.

"Drawings By Sam Houston, Jr.," includes nine drawings by Sam Houston, Jr., which are on loan from the Sam Houston Memorial Museum. The son of Sam Houston, Sr., Texas general, president, governor and senator, made these drawings during his service in the Confederate

Army. Despite his father's being deposed as Texas governor, for refusing to swear allegiance to the Confederacy, 18-year-old Sam Jr. enlisted in the 2nd Texas Infantry part of the Confederate Army.

The younger Houston was injured and then captured at the Battle of Shiloh in 1862. He then became a prisoner of war for several months. Released in a prisoner exchange, he returned to Texas in time to see his father before the former governor's death in Huntsville,

Texas, in 1863. Back in Texas, the younger Houston entered the 26th Texas Cavalry, another Confederate unit. He participated in the 1864 Battle of Mansfield, finding himself in Alexandria, Louisiana at the end of the war.

It was in Louisiana in 1863-65 when he made the drawings, which comprise the exhibit. Houston's pencil sketches depict camp life, Louisiana scenery around Alexandria, and the Battle of Mansfield. Houston prepared a

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CONFEDERATE PROFILE

LOUIS T. WIGFALL

Wigfall negotiates the end of hostilities at Fort Sumter

It didn't matter to him that he didn't have General Beauregard's permission nor that the Confederates were continuing to shell his destination point, as this Texan rowed in a small boat towards Fort Sumter in Charleston Harbor on April 13, 1861. He was a strong willed Texan and did most things on his own terms. He was only an aide to Beauregard but he was rowing towards Fort Sumter to demand Union Major Robert Anderson to surrender the fort to him.

Louis Trezevant Wigfall was born near Edgefield, South Carolina, on April 21, 1816, to Levi Durand and Eliza (Thomson) Wigfall. Young Wigfall was educated at the University of Virginia, and at the South Carolina College, now known as the University of South Carolina, where he graduated in 1837.

Wigfall served as a sergeant in the Seminole War and in 1839 was admitted to the South Carolina bar. He was involved in politics at an early age, which led to several duels. He killed one man and received and wounded Preston Brooks in another.

In 1846, Wigfall moved to Texas, arriving first in Galveston. In 1848 he and his wife, Charlotte and three children moved to Marshall, Texas. In Marshall, Wigfall resumed his law practice. The lure of politics proved too much

for Wigfall who served in both houses of the Texas legislature. Wigfall was an ardent believer in states rights and soon bitterly clashed with Sam Houston. He was an excellent speaker, rivaling Houston in that ability. He is credited as one of the main reasons that Houston was

ment.

After Abraham Lincoln was elected president in 1860, Wigfall fought against any compromise to save the Union. In fact he urged all the slave states to leave the Union. Wigfall remained in the Senate after Texas seceded, as an unofficial Confederate observer. He spied on the Union, and helped raise and train troops in Maryland. He was eventually expelled from the U.S. Senate on July 11, 1861.

Wigfall traveled to his native South Carolina to serve as an aid on the staff of General P.G.T. Beauregard, commander of the Confederate forces opposed to the Union fort in Charleston Harbor, Fort Sumter. It was there on the day after the firing on the fort began that Wigfall acted on his own to end the fighting. Wigfall got into a boat with a private and two slave oarsmen and headed for Fort Sumter.

They had to dodge Confederate fired shells as they approached the fort. Due to the intense firing they arrived at the fort unseen by the Federals. Wigfall got out of the boat with a white flag draped on his sword and approached the fort. The private had to pull a revolver on the two slaves to prevent them from rowing back without Wigfall, as they feared the raining shells being fired from the Confederate bat-

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Louis T. Wigfall

defeated for governor in 1857. Houston would refer to Wigfall as "Senator Wiggletail."

In 1859, Wigfall was elected as a U.S. senator from Texas. In the Senate, the flamboyant Wigfall earned a reputation for his eloquence, his debating skills, and his willingness for a fight. He was one of the leading southern "fire-eaters," senators. While in the Senate, Wigfall strongly fought for slavery, states rights, and against a strong national govern-

Confederate Profile

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teries, and were ready to return to the mainland.

As Wigfall entered the fort alone and encountered a Union lieutenant. "Your flag is down," the Texan yelled, "you are on fire, and you are not firing your guns. General Beauregard desires to

forces at the fort, arrived on the scene. To avoid shells that were continuing to fall, Wigfall and Anderson went to a bombproof shelter to discuss the end of hostilities. Anderson agreed to leave the fort with his command, taking all arms and company property and saluting the U.S. flag upon his departure. Wigfall accepted the terms, even though he had absolute no authority



Contemporary drawing showing Wigfall talking to Anderson. It incorrectly shows Wigfall remaining in his boat.

stop this."

"Let us stop this firing," Wigfall told him. "Will you hoist this?" Wigfall asked, indicating the white flag on his sword. The lieutenant refused.

As impatient as ever, Wigfall went to the fort's wall facing Fort Moultrie, which was still firing at them. He poked the flag out and waved it. In rather strange logic, the Union lieutenant then relented; thinking that as long as Wigfall had put the flag out, he would allow one of his soldiers to hold it for him. Neither men, Wigfall nor the lieutenant had the authority to wave a white flag.

Eventually Major Robert Anderson, commander of the Union

to do so and left the fort. Major Anderson ordered at 1:30 P.M. on Saturday, April 13th, 1861, after thirty-three hours of bombardment, that the U.S. flag be taken down and be replaced with a white hospital bed sheet.

Wigfall was commissioned colonel of the 1st Texas Infantry in August of 1861, and in October of 1861, President Jefferson Davis appointed him a brigadier general as the commander of the Texas Brigade, part of the Army of Northern Virginia. He served in that capacity until February 1862, when he resigned to become a senator from Texas in the Confederate Congress.

In the Confederate Congress Wigfall became a

constant thorn in the side of President Davis, as they quarreled over military and civilian issues. One of his last acts in the Confederate Senate was to push through a bill that made Robert E. Lee the General-in-Chief of the Confederate armies.

When Richmond fell Wigfall fled Virginia. He first came home to Texas, then fled to England in 1866. He practiced law in England, but returned to the United States in 1872, first residing in Baltimore, Maryland.

He wanted to return to Texas, which he did in 1874. His return, however was short lived, as he died in Galveston on February 18, 1874, the month after his returned to Texas. He

Camp Schedule

[August, 2001](#)

August 14th: Camp Meeting, King's Daughters Hospital, Temple, TX, 7:00 PM. Speaker: Larry Converse, "Port Hudson."

[September, 2001](#)

September 11th: Camp Meeting, King's Daughters Hospital, Temple, TX, 7:00 PM. Speaker: TBA

[October, 2001](#)

October 13th: Camp Dinner Meeting, 7:00 PM, Inn at Scott & White, Temple, TX. Speaker: TBA

August Camp Meeting:
Larry Converse Program on the Battle of Port Hudson

Belton Parade



David Weber and Central Texas Brigade Commander Jerry Nelson, await the start of the Belton 4th of July Parade. (Photograph by George H. Ballentine)

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Guard's 6-pound cannon, named "Patience."

Also participating were a number of cast members of the play "Salado Legends." The play predominantly features Texas' Confederate history.



The 6-pound cannon "Patience," furnished by the Capital Guards (Photograph by George H. Ballentine)

New Exhibits

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dramatic drawing showing General Camille de Polignac's Texas Brigade charging across the field of battle at Mansfield, which is featured in the exhibit.

Together with the drawings, visitors see related contemporary artifacts including a Hall carbine of type used by men in the 26th Texas Cavalry, an 1860's cavalry bu-

gle, a drum-style tin canteen, and soldiers' hand-carved lead gaming pieces.

The other exhibit is "Confederate Currency and Bonds." The exhibit consists of a wide selection of both bank notes and bonds issued during the War Between the States.

Several distinct entities printed and distributed the currency, including the Confederate central government, individual states, counties, municipalities, and even railroad companies. The notes on display originated throughout the Confederacy, and include substantial number issued in Texas.

Both exhibits are planned for public viewing through the end of the year. They may be seen with other Texas military history exhibits at the Texas Heritage Museum on the campus of Hill College.

The museum is open with an admission charge on Monday through Saturday from 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM. For more information call 254-582-2555, extension, 258.



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**Next Meeting:
August 14th
King's Daughters
7:00 PM**