



Granbury's Texas Brigade



Camp News Letter • Camp 1479 • Conroe, Texas • Sons of Confederate Veterans • February 2009 • Volume 3, No. 2

2009 Confederate Heroes Day Cotillion



MONTHLY CAMP MEETING

The next meeting will be February 3rd at the Gander Mountain store in Spring. The meeting will begin at 7:00 p.m.

Civil War Fact

General Stonewall Jackson walked around with his right hand in the air to balance the blood flow in his body? Because he was right-handed, he thought that his right hand was getting more blood than his left, and so by raising his hand, he'd allow the excess blood to run into his left hand. He also never ate food that tasted good, because he assumed that anything that tasted good was completely unhealthy.



The Order of Confederate Rose "Montgomery Rose" chapter is seeking members to support the efforts of "Granbury's Texas Brigade" and the SCV Texas Division. Anyone ten years of age or older is welcome to join. The Order of Confederate Rose assists the SCV with their historical, educational, benevolent and social functions. Special emphasis is placed on the preservation of Confederate symbols. Refreshments served at our monthly meetings are compliments of the Montgomery Rose.

Please see the link to the Montgomery Rose on the Granbury's Texas Brigade web page for additional information.

If you or someone that you know would like to become a member, please contact: Susan Sager at montgomeryrose47@gmail.com, or Mark Sager, Adjutant, Granbury's Texas Brigade at texasmusic@charter.net.

If you are interested in learning more about the Order of Confederate Rose, please visit the Texas Society Order website: <http://www.texasocr.org/>



Granbury's Texas Brigade



CAMP NEWS

NEW CAMP OFFICERS

2009 Camp Officers were sworn in at the January meeting held on January 6th. As a result of the December elections 2009 Camp Officers are:

Commander:	Joe Raffels
1 st Lt. Commander:	Kip Othold
2 nd Lt. Commander:	Billy Gorman
3 rd Lt. Commander:	Joe Ferguson
Adjutant:	Mark Sager
Treasurer:	Frank Johnson
Chaplain:	Kraig White

Confederate Heroes Day Cotillion

The 2009 Confederate Heroes Day Cotillion was a rousing success. The Cotillion was held at the April Sound Country Club overlooking Lake Conroe.

The service provided by the staff of April Sound was without parallel. The speakers were exciting and informative. A spirited live auction and a silent auction that featured fifty or so items generated much excitement among the guests in attendance. Period music was performed by the Celtaire String Band. Planning will begin soon on the 2010 Cotillion and many volunteers are needed from the camp to assist in this endeavor.



CAMP NEWS

(continued)

The 2009 Texas Division convention is going to be in Waco, Texas June 12th, 13th and 14th. The Waco Hilton is the host hotel. The Hilton is located at 113 S. University Parks Drive and their phone number is 254-754-8484. A room rate of \$109.00 for has been negotiated, but you must reserve before April 30th to get that price. You may call the hotel direct or you can visit their website <http://www.waco.hilton.com/>

UPCOMING EVENTS

The following are a few of the ways to get involved in Camp activities. Please review these and make a commitment to attend any or all of these great events.

- Battle for El Camino Real re-enactment February 6th -8th in Madisonville, TX
Hosted by 8th Texas Terry's Texas Rangers
- General Granbury's Birthday Celebration Parade March 21st in Granbury, Texas
- Grave marker ceremony April 18th @ Old Danville Cemetery on Shepard Hill Rd near Willis, TX
Magnolia Rangers and Granbury's Texas Brigade event
- Grave marker ceremony April 25th @ Glenwood Cemetery, Houston, TX
- April 24th – 26th re-enactment in Brenham, TX
Eberly Ranch - <http://www.eberlyranch.com/index.htm>
- Battle of Temple Junction re-enactment May 15th – 17th in Temple, TX
<http://www.ci.temple.tx.us/index.asp?nid=1065>





ARTICLES OF INTEREST

State NAACP President Edward Vaughn objects to having Mobile's Azalea Trail Maids as Alabama's only group in the upcoming presidential inaugural parade, saying they remind him of slavery days a characterization that Trail Maids supporters decry.

Vaughn said he thinks that Alabama will be a "laughingstock" at the Jan. 20 inauguration. He made his comments in a front-page Montgomery Advertiser story published Thursday.

Vaughn suggested that the Trail Maids' costumes hoop dresses with matching bonnets and parasols reflect the state's slavery past and have no place at the inauguration of the first African-American president, Barack Obama.

This year's Trail Maids include eight black members, two maids of Indian descent, one Asian and 39 whites, said Andy Marasca, president of the group. Marasca said he learned of Vaughn's concerns from local media.

"I wish it wasn't an issue," Marasca said, referring to Vaughn's comments.

Mobile County commissioners, who at their Monday meeting will discuss contributing to the Trail Maids, said they were disappointed by Vaughn's criticism.

"The Trail Maids do not represent the Confederacy or antebellum times but reflect the beauty of Mobile and its 300-plus years of fascinating history," commissioners said in a statement.

The first Trail Maid court was formed in 1949, according to the group's Web site.

Vaughn, of Dothan, told the Advertiser that marching bands from historically black Tuskegee University or Alabama State University should have had positions in the parade. "I think that, along with the Azalea Trail Maids, would have been a better representation to show we have all come together as one, and that we are together as a people united."

The Presidential Inaugural Committee, set up by Obama, selected the parade participants.

The Azalea Trail Court consists of 50 senior girls from Mobile County high schools. Members of the racially integrated group represent the city at hundreds of local affairs throughout the year, as well as at out-of-state events.

continued



Granbury's Texas Brigade



This will be its second inaugural parade in a row.

Jean Potter, whose daughter, Valencia Potter, was a member of the 2007-08 Trail Maids, said that participation in the group "brought her out."

"I saw something positive in it," said Potter, who is black. "It really builds up the young ladies' self-esteem. I think that before you judge something, you need to find out about that organization."

The attire is not a representation of slavery, said Valencia Potter. "It's just a Mobile tradition, and Trail Maids dress that way to promote themselves and the city," she said.

To help select Trail Maids, administrators at the county's public and private schools forward the names of possible candidates to Trail leaders, Marasca said. A special formula limits the candidate list to 100.

A series of interviews determines who gets on the court.

The girls must answer questions about Mobile and Alabama history, and national, state and local current events. Three out-of-town judges grade each girl on academics and the interview.

The 50 highest scorers form the next year's court.

"These girls represent the best and brightest of Mobile," Marasca said.

The entire group makes about 10 appearances a year, with smaller groups of five making numerous appearances, Marasca said.

Marasca said that the Trail Maids have always worn antebellum-style dresses. "That's what we're sticking with," he said.

Marasca said that despite Vaughn's comments, the Trail Maids plan to march in the parade and continue to raise money for the trip.

See related article below



RELATED ARTICLE

Alabama's NAACP President Edward Vaughn is apologizing for comments made about the Mobile, Alabama area's Azalea Trail Maids.

The group of 50 high school seniors, dressed in pastel-colored dresses of yesteryear, are part of a long standing tradition that will soon become a part of Presidential history. The racially integrated group will walk in next week's inaugural (sic) parade of President Barack Obama.

The controversy started last week when Vaughn said the costumes worn by the maids reminded him of slavery.

"These are not just regular costumes. These are the costumes that remind someone of the plantation in *Gone with the Wind*," Edward Vaughn said in a phone interview.

On Wednesday Vaughn apologized for saying the group would make Alabama a "laughing-stock" and said he never suggested excluding the group from the parade.

Mobile officials immediatly (sic) took offense to Vaughn's assertions (sic). "We want everyone to know that these young ladies do not need to be identified with slavery," said Mobile County Commissioner Stephen Nodine.

"I don't see what the dresses have to do with racism. I don't see it. It's just a regular dress to me. Just a dress they wore back in the day," said Carolyn Tius of Montgomery.

Organizers stand behind the tradition, but opponents say tradition is the problem.

"We needed something that could show Alabama's great progress rather than something that shows a shameful past," Vaughn said at the time.

The Azalea Trail Maids haven't let the controversy slow their march to Washington, however. They leave for our nation's capital on Sunday.



Granbury's Texas Brigade



On The Lighter Side

(Humorous News and Stuff)

LEAST COMPETENT CRIMINALS

A 46 year old man was charged with attempted petty larceny in Jamestown, N.Y., in December after he had filed an insurance claim against a Farmer's Market for having tripped over a rug at the front door. Shortly after the filing, the man was informed that the store's front-door surveillance camera had captured a sequence in which he had sat down and adjusted the rug to make it look like he had tripped. Harkins then immediately withdrew the claim but was arrested anyway.

Generous Lawyer

A local United Way office realized that the organization had never received a donation from the town's most successful lawyer. The person in charge of contributions called him to persuade him to contribute.

"Our research shows that out of a yearly income of at least \$500,000, you give not a penny to charity. Wouldn't you like to give back to the community in some way?"

The lawyer mulled this over for a moment and replied, "First, did your research also show that my mother is dying after a long illness, and has medical bills that are several times her annual income?"

Embarrassed, the United Way rep mumbled, "Um ... no."

The lawyer interrupts, "or that my brother, a disabled veteran, is blind and confined to a wheelchair?"

The stricken United Way rep began to stammer out an apology, but was interrupted again.

"or that my sister's husband died in a traffic accident," the lawyer's voice rising in indignation, "leaving her penniless with three children?!"

The humiliated United Way rep, completely beaten, said simply, "I had no idea..."

On a roll, the lawyer cut him off once again, "So if I don't give any money to them, why should I give any to you?"

de nobis fabula narrator