

# 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](http://www.rootsweb.com/~tx1250)

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Camp #1250  
Sons of Confederate Veterans  
Temple, Texas

*County Events Honor Confederate Veterans*

## CONFEDERATE HISTORY MONTH CELEBRATIONS

The Major Robert M. White Camp #1250 will honor 2005 Confederate History Month in Texas with special ceremonies in Belton on Sunday April 10<sup>th</sup>.

Camp members and friends of the Camp are asked to gather in Belton at the Bell County Courthouse at 1:00 PM on Sunday, April 10<sup>th</sup>.

At the Confederate statue on the northwest corner of the Courthouse ground the Camp will gather to lay a wreath at the statue and raise the Confederate flag. County Judge Jon Burrows has authorized the flying of the

flag (see article on page three).

Following the event at the Courthouse the group will re-assemble at the



South Belton Cemetery. Those that are able are asked to walk to the cemetery from the Courthouse.

At the cemetery the

Camp will honor the newly marked graves of Confederate heroes. The grave markers were placed there by the Camp under the leadership of Camp member Rocky Jim Sprott. Compatriot Sprott will give a short talk on the regiments that the men being honored served in.

Following the events at the South Belton Cemetery the Camp will host a luncheon at Confederate Park in Belton.

The park is so named in honor of the Confederate soldier reunions that once were held in Belton at the site. The local Con-

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## Judge Makes SCV Ruling

The fight over the SCV's national leadership was heard on March 9<sup>th</sup> in the Chancery Court of Maury County, Tennessee. The Court allowed Commander-in-Chief (CIC) Denne Sweeney, along with a number of staff members, to be returned to office. The hearing was set to review a February 19<sup>th</sup> Temporary Restraining

Order placed after a February 16<sup>th</sup> General Executive Council (GEC) meeting where the SCV's CIC Sweeney was removed from office. In that meeting Lieutenant Commander-in-Chief Anthony Hodges was appointed CIC.

The temporary restraining order was placed

supporting the GEC's actions until the full hearing on March 9<sup>th</sup>.

Also removed in the February 19<sup>th</sup> GEC meeting were Adjutant-in-Chief Jim Dark, Chaplain-in-Chief Ron Rumberg, Editor-in-Chief Frank Powell, Judge Advocate-in-Chief Sam Currin, Chief of Staff Ron Casteel and Trans-

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Judge Overturns  
the February 16<sup>th</sup>  
GEC Actions

**SCV National Leadership Dispute**

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Mississippi Department council member Chuck Norred, who had been appointed by CIC Sweeney to fill the vacancy when Steve Lucas of Texas resigned.

In the court's March 9<sup>th</sup> ruling Judge Robert Jones overturned the temporary restraining order restoring CIC Sweeney and his staff, except for Norred, to office.

J u d g e Jones said the GEC meeting of February 16<sup>th</sup>, which was held via a conference call, was not proper due to insufficient notice and had unfairly barred CIC

Sweeney and his staff from participating. The judge also ruled against several of CIC Sweeney's earlier actions, including his suspension of GEC members in order to produce a quorum and his unilateral action in filling the Trans-Mississippi vacancy. The actions of a GEC meeting in December in North Carolina, where CIC Sweeney suspended members, was also overturned by the Judge.

In an interview with the *Civil War News* CIC Sweeney blamed the infighting partly on "an ideological difference." CIC Sweeney also told the *Civil War News*, "The board (GEC) is severely divided between past commanders-in-chief and their supporters and the current

administration. But we're going to try to smooth things out and move forward. We'll stop yelling at each other." He said he would send the board an advance of his next article for *Confederate Veteran*, "and if they think there's something defamatory, I'll change it." But he added, "I don't know if we'll ever get to the point of being good buddies again."



*CIC Denne Sweeney*

A special one-day business-only convention, for the purpose of considering Constitutional Amendments was called by the CIC.

The meeting will be held on Saturday, April 23, 2005 at 10:00 A.M. at the Cabarrus Arena, Event Center B, Concord, North Carolina. The call for a special convention meeting was done by CIC Sweeney under Section 79-11-199 (1)(b) of the Mississippi Nonprofit Corporation Act. According to the announcement that act provides that a nonprofit corporation with members may hold a special meeting of the members if the holders of at least 5% of the voting power sign, date and deliver to any corporate officer one or more written demands for the meeting describing the purpose or purposes for which it is to be held.

By March 16<sup>th</sup> CIC Sweeney said he had over

2,000 such requests and declared that the convention would take place.

Two constitutional amendments will be considered, one changing past CIC's tenure on the GEC from their current lifetime membership to limiting past CIC's GEC membership to the immediate past three. The other amendment to be considered is one that removes the Commander-in-Chief of the Military Order of the Stars and Bars as an ex officio, non-voting member of the GEC.

**County Judge Rules On Flag**

Bell County Judge Jon Burrows ruled on the Major Robert M. White's request to fly the Confederate First National flag at the Bell County Courthouse in Belton.

Responding to a request from Camp Commander George Ballentine to fly the flag during Confederate History Month, Judge Burrows ruled that the flag could be flown on three special occasions.

In his response, Burrows said he would favorably consider an annual request to fly the flag on Confederate Heroes Day (January 19<sup>th</sup>), Confederate Flag Day (March 4<sup>th</sup>), and the day of our South Belton Grave Dedication each April.

*Editor's Note*

Due to expanded news, related to the April Confederate History Month activities and the ongoing events at SCV national, we have not run the Confederate Profile this month. It will return next month.



By: George Ballentine

# Commander's Call

April is Confederate History and Heritage Month. We have a number of events planned, and some we are participating in with other camps. I hope that everyone will take the opportunity to come out and celebrate your Southern Heritage and honor our Confederate Heroes.

As you know we are in a dispute with County Judge Jon Burrows over the flying of the 1<sup>st</sup> National Flag of the Confederate States of America (Stars and Bars). In order to make any ground with him we need maximum participation from both our camp and the citizens of Bell County at these events to show our support and that we are serious about our heritage. What we do this month will go a long way toward showing that pride in our heritage. As it stands right now, he will only allow us to fly the flag on the Confederate Monument for three designated days per year.

The details of our ceremony on April 10<sup>th</sup> are published elsewhere in this issue. I just want to encourage everyone to be there at 1:00 p.m. for the flag raising and wreath laying, even if you cannot attend the other activities. In the fight to fly our flag on our monument, this is the most important event that day. But, the other events are important, too. Our graves dedication will be immediately following the flagpole cere-

mony and will honor the new grave markers placed, as well as all Confederate Heroes buried in South Belton Cemetery and all cemeteries around the country. The Belton UDC Chapter will join us again this year and participate in the ceremonies.

If you plan to attend the cookout and fellowship at Confederate Park after the ceremonies, we need to have a count to plan for cooking. We are in need of side dishes, grills and cooks to volunteer to flip those burgers. If you want to volunteer to do any of these things, please let me know at your earliest convenience. If you have not let us know you are coming, don't be surprised if there is not enough food to go around.

On April 30<sup>th</sup> we have been asked by the Hamilton Camp to provide a Firing Detail for a cemetery dedication. Everyone is invited to attend and more details will follow as that event gets closer. We are also getting requests for Memorial Day in May, and I hope some of you can attend and participate in these events.

Reunion planning is moving along nicely. We are short of volunteers, and will need to start asking compatriots to do duty on the days of the reunion at the Convention Center. There will be a lot to do as the reunion progresses and we will need your help. I hope that everyone will

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## Camp Schedule

**April 9, 2005** Camp meeting, Golden Corral Restaurant, Temple, 7:00 PM. Speaker: John Stovall, Topic: Colonel Augustus Carl Buchel: Service Under Six Flags

**April 10, 2005** Camp #1250's Annual Confederate History & Heritage Month Celebration, at Bell County Courthouse 1:00 PM followed by lunch at Confederate Park in Belton

**April 22-24, 2005** Reenactment at Mexia. Need volunteers for camp store

**April 29 - May 1, 2005** Reenactment at Battle for Hodge Oak Plantation. Need volunteers for camp store

**May 10, 2005** Camp meeting, Golden Corral Restaurant, Temple, 7:00 PM. Speaker: Greg Manning, Topic: Rebellion or Secession?

**May 14, 2005** Camp Family Day at Shiny Top Ranch near Salado, beginning at noon. Family cookout, games for kids, black powder shooting, and lots of fun!

**May 21, 2005** Cemetery Dedication in Temple at noon, details to follow.

**June 3-4, 2005** 108<sup>th</sup> Texas Division Reunion, Mayborn Convention Center, Temple, TX.

**June 14, 2005** Camp meeting, Golden Corral Restaurant, Temple, 7:00 PM. Speaker: TBA

Next Camp Meeting:  
April 9<sup>th</sup>  
at the  
Golden Corral  
Temple  
7:00 PM

## Confederate History Month Activities

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Confederate Rose chapter will furnish a



Rock Sprott, along with helpers, is shown working at the South Belton Cemetery in 2004. He will speak on April 10<sup>th</sup> at the Camp's event at the cemetery.

lunch of hot dogs and hamburgers.

All Camp members are urged to attend this important event. The designation of April being Confederate His-

tory Month was gained in 1999, while Camp member John Perry was serving as the Texas Division Commander.

The Texas Senate passed resolution number 526, proclaiming April as Confederate History Month in Texas. SCV camps and UDC chapters across the state are planning special events in April.

### Confederate Flag Day Observed in Belton

About 50 people gathered in front of the Confederate statue on the Bell County Courthouse grounds at 8:00 A.M. on Friday March 4<sup>th</sup>. The assembled group gathered to raise the Confederate flag on the flagpole next to the statue in honor of Confederate Flag Day.

The event was marred by one man who rudely began protesting the event as it kicked off. The individual was later identified as history professor Dr. Stanford B. Dyer of Central Texas College. He was roundly shouted down and left, accompanied by a young female com-

panion who gave an obscene gesture as they were walking across the street. The event continued without incident.

Camp Commander George Ballentine was interviewed on the air from the event by local radio talk show host Lynn Woolley.

### Commander's Comments

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take the opportunity to attend the Texas Division Reunion. As the host camp I would like to see maximum participation. Without the added cost of a hotel it is very affordable to us. There is much more to the reunion than the business meetings, and I urge anyone who has not attended the dinners and ball to try to be there. You will enjoy it.

We will have the final details on the South Belton Cemetery ceremonies at the dinner meeting on Saturday, April 9<sup>th</sup>. Our speaker will be John Stovall, who some remember as our previous speaker on the Singer Torpedo. Come on out and enjoy John's presentation and a good meal with your compatriots.

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Next Meeting:  
April 9th  
Golden Corral  
Temple