

Confederate Gazette

SCV Plate Request Heats Up

The Texas Division of the SCV's request for a specialty license plate in Texas seems to be stalled, but recent media coverage on it has spread across the state.

In April, Texas Department of Motor Vehicle (DMV) license board failed to approve the SCV's request when the vote ended in a 4 to 4 tie, with one member not present.

A promised revote, when all nine members would be present, was supposed to

have taken place in June, but didn't occur due to the death of one of its members, Ramsay Gillman. Gillman was a Houston auto dealership

may not appoint another member so as to avoid a politically sensitive issue. The next scheduled meeting of the DMV is in July.



The *Dallas Morning News* published an article about the SCV's proposed license plate on June 23rd. That article sparked numerous other

owner, who voted for the SCV plate. It likely won't be brought up again until Governor Rick Perry appoints a replacement to the board.

reports of the story in both newspapers and on TV stations across the entire state.

With rumored U.S. presidential aspirations, the governor

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2011 Division Reunion Held

By Steve Woaley

The opening ceremonies Of the 2011 Texas Division Reunion were held at the Best Western Atrrea in Bryan. About 200 SCV members from all over the state of Texas attended. It was an overflow crowd to what would become an interesting Division reunion.

Brazos County Commissioner Miss Irma Cauley from Precinct 4 welcomed the visitors to the Bryan / College Station area. Ms Cauley



New Texas Division Commander Granvel Block, pictured when he spoke to Camp #1250 at the 2010 Lee-Jackson Dinner.

is an African-American woman who has supported "Sul" Ross Camp #1457 for several years. She was instrumental in having April declared Confederate History Month in Brazos County. Ms Cauley told the group that "our histories are intertwined," meaning African-Americans and the Confederacy. Ms Cauley received several standing ovations from the group. Before the

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CONFEDERATE PROFILE

Texas Colonel



**Joseph Brice
Wilmeth**

**Wilmeth had eight
sons serve in the
Confederate
Army**

He was truly a Texas pioneer, moving into Texas in 1845. He first moved into the area that is now Grand Prairie, but was forced away due to the fact, "the Indians were so troublesome."

Joseph Brice Wilmeth was born in Rutherford, North Carolina, on September 11, 1807, to William and Mary Ann Crawford. The Wilmeth family moved to Tennessee where Joseph married Nancy Ferguson in McNairy County, Tennessee in 1826.

In 1831, the Wilmeth family, along with other Wilmeth kin and families from his wife's side, moved to Lawrence County, Arkansas. While in Arkansas Wilmeth rafted timbers to New Orleans to sale, became the village blacksmith, served as a soldier in escorting the Choc-taws and Chickasaws from the Mississippi to the Indian Territory, and also farmed and raised livestock. Wilmeth also became very active in the

Christian Church while in Arkansas and preached to various congregations.

Wilmeth learned of a new colony being formed along the Trinity River in north Texas and the Wilmeths moved south into Texas in 1845. They first stop at a very small settlement known as Dallas, but then moved further west. They settled on land near present day Grand Prairie and laid claim to some fertile soil. It didn't last long as Wilmeth found their location to be too dangerous with marauding Indian bands and the family moved to what is today McKinney. Wilmeth began to farm on 320 acres and set up a blacksmith shop.

Wilmeth and Nancy would have a total of thirteen children, Mary Jane, Mancell W., Martha Marilea, Keturah Miranda, James Ransom, Joseph Bryson, Jr., William Crawford, Hiram Ferguson, Nancy Ann, John Ficklin, Andrew Jackson, Collin McKinney, and Sarah Elizabeth.

In 1846 Wilmeth helped form the first Christian Church in what would become Colin County, with the church originally meeting in his home. Two years later he helped form the First Christian Church of McKinney. Wilmeth also did lay preaching for the Christian Church.

He was involved in local politics and he helped select the county seat of Colin County and would serve as a district clerk and county judge. Wilmeth's farming operations were quite successful and he expanding his holdings and added slaves to help him with the land. His land produced wheat and barley.

When the War Between the States began Wilmeth, who was 53 years old at the time, was an active supporter of the Confederate cause. His land was used to help supply the Confederate Army and he volunteered his services to the

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Texas State Troops

To help maintain local defenses the State of Texas, during the War Between the States, had 33 brigades of Texas State Troops, also known as the Texas Militia, plus a frontier regiment. The men were under control of a newly formed office of the state's Adjutant and Inspector General.

The state was divided into military districts and a brigade was assigned to each district. Bell County for instance was assigned to the 27th Brigade.

Although under state control the units often assisted Confederate forces in the state, but also often had to compete

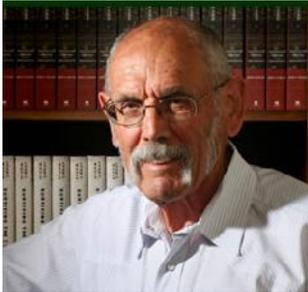
with them for very scarce resources

Membership was men 18 to 45 and was voluntary. The brigades were not allowed to leave the state unless they were pursuing hostile Indians. The ranks of the Texas State

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Noted Author to Speak in July

The speaker for the July Quarterly Dinner meeting will be John C. Waugh. Mr. Waugh is a self described "journalist



John "Jack" Waugh

turned historical reporter." He has written ten books with number eleven due out in December.

One of his most notable books was his first book, *The Class of 1846*, published in 1994, which won the New York Civil War Round Table's Fletcher Pratt Literary Award for the best non-fiction book of that year.

He was born in California but raised in Arizona. He was a reporter for the Christian Science Monitor for many years.

Waugh will speak to the Camp on Samuel Bell Maxey and Confederate Indians.

SCV Specialty License Plates

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The media coverage of the license plate application has fanned opposition to the plates. The NAACP's state director, Gary Bledsoe, told the *Dallas Morning News*, "You might as well have a plate with a lynched black person on there as well as that one because of the signal that it sends." They have vowed to let their feelings be known to state officials.

KHOU-TV 11 News reported that Bledsoe thought that the Confederate Battleflag on the SCV plate "would be humiliating and demeaning."

The DMV put the proposed plates up on its web site for public comments. During the review period they received 186 positive comments and only 7 negative comments.

The plates were sponsored by Texas Land Commissioner Jerry Patterson, a SCV member. Patterson also sponsored specialty plates for a Buffalo

Soldiers group which is predominately African-American.

If approved Texas would join other Southern states with SCV specialty plates. There has been controversy about SCV specialty plates in most of the other Southern states and legal action was taken in several states. The courts have upheld the SCV right to have plates in every case. Currently SCV plates are available in Alabama, Georgia, Maryland, Louisiana, Mississippi, North Carolina, and South Carolina with other states pending.

There are currently about 180 other approved specialty plates in Texas. A number promote out of state universities. The SCV Texas plates, if approved, would be available to any Texan even if they are not members of the SCV.

The proposed SCV specialty plate was designed by Concentus Media Group in Temple, owned by Camp member John C. Perry.



Jerry Patterson, Texas Land Commissioner who was a sponsor of the SCV Specialty plate.

SCV's Specialty Plate Application Draws Fire From NAACP

Camp Schedule

July 9, 2011

Quarterly Camp Dinner meeting at Cotton Patch Café, Temple Mall. 7:00 PM. Speaker: Jack C. Waugh.

July 13-16, 2011

SCV National Reunion, Montgomery, Alabama. Visit: www.2011SCVreunion.com

August 9, 2011

Regular Camp Meeting at Cotton Patch Café, Temple Mall. 7:00 PM. Speaker: John C. Perry.

Through August 21, 2011

Memories of World War II Exhibit at Bell County Museum in Belton.



September 13, 2011

Regular Camp meeting at Cotton Patch Café, Temple Mall. 7:00 PM. Speaker: TBD.

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

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2011 Reunion

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beginning of the meeting it was announced that the IHOP restaurant was to be boycotted by the host camp as they refused service to members from the reunion in period dress (Confederate Grey)!

The election of officers was the first item on the agenda. Commander James started the election process with division commander up first. First Lt. Commander Granvel Block ran unopposed for Commander and was voted in unanimously. The first lieutenant position was the only announced position that was to be contested. This was between current 2nd Lt. Commander Mark Vogl and Johnnie Holley, Com-

mander of the East TX Brigade. Mark Vogl won this election to become the next Texas Division 1st Lt. Commander.

Gary Bray Commander of the 4th Brigade was running unopposed for the 2nd Lt Commander's position until Michael Hurley from the Colonel A. M. Hobby Camp #713 was nominated from the floor. The group then broke for lunch. After lunch the results for 2nd Lt. Commander was announced with the winner being Michael Hurley.

At the luncheon awards ceremony Central Texas Brigade Commander Steve Wooley won the Silver Cross for distinguished service. After the awards luncheon Brigade meetings were held and officers elected. From the Central Texas Brigade, Waco Camp Commander Charles Oliver was elected Brigade Commander. This is a

post he held ten years ago. Tom Harrison remains as the 1st Lt. Commander. Major Robert M. White Camp #1250's newest camp member Mike Belcher was elected to the 2nd Lt. Commander's position.

The members from the camp present at the reunion were Commander John Larson, 1st Lt. Commander Jimmy Dossey, Mike Belcher, Rocky Spratt and CTB Commander Steve Wooley. Members of the Wildflowers of Texas Chapter #19 in attendance were Darlene Dossey, Barbara Larson, Heather Larson and Chapter rep Linda Wooley who won an award from Texas Society Order of Confederate Rose, the "Lady Bug" award. This award is given for "assisting beyond expectations her time, energy and financial support to the camp".

Texas Colonel

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Texas State Troops. He served as a lieutenant colonel in the 3rd Texas State Troops and helped raise men for the Confederate cause allowing men to drill on his property. Eight of his sons and three of his son-in-laws served in the Confederate Army. Two of his sons didn't return home.

Postwar Wilmeth and his wife continued to live on their land as farmers. Nancy died on January 14, 1892 and her husband of 66 years died the next day.

Texas State Troops

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Troops declined as the war progressed, as men would be drafted into the Confederate Army.