

CONFEDERATE GAZETTE



Confederate Gazette

Is a monthly publication of the Major Robert M. White Camp #1250 Sons of Confederate Veterans Temple, Texas

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Temple, Texas

Texan Elected the SCV's Commander-In-Chief

SCV MEETS IN ITS 109TH REUNION IN DALTON

Nearly 1,000 members of the Sons of Confederate Veterans (SCV) gathered in the north Georgia city of Dalton in the foothills of the Appalachian Mountains. The 109th Reunion was held from July 28th to July 31st at the Northwest Georgia Trade and Convention Center.

The reunion was dedicated to the memory of Confederate General Patrick Cleburne who was killed in action on November 30, 1864 in Franklin, Tennessee.

The current SCV membership stands at over 33,000 members which includes about 4,000 new members since last years reunion. An operating budget for 2004-05 of \$1,295,000 was approved by the reunion delegates. This budget is projected to produce an operational net gain of about \$50,000.

Attending the reunion and representing the Ma-

yor Robert M. White Camp #1250 were Camp Commander George Ballentine, Jerry Nelson, and John C. Perry.

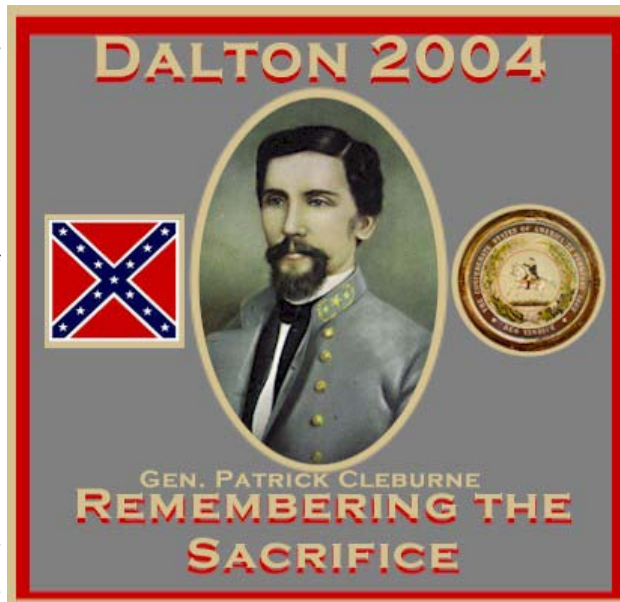
The key issues facing the reunion were the elec-

sion Commander and the current Lt. Commander-in-Chief and Troy Massey, past Arkansas Division Commander. Sweeney, who did not carry his home state of Texas, never less narrowly defeated Massey to garner the top spot in the SCV.

Running for the Lt-Commander-in-Chief was Dr. Anthony Hodges from Tennessee and Paul Grambling of Louisiana. Another announced candidate, Chris Sullivan of South Carolina, pulled out of the race and supported Grambling. Hodges trounced Grambling in the election

Sweeney has already appointed at least one other Texan to serve on his staff. Jim Dark of Arlington will serve as the SCV's Adjutant-in-Chief. Also serving on the Commander-in-Chief's staff are Ron Casteel, of Missouri

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tion of officers for the next two years and a plethora of constitutional amendments, many left over from last year's reunion in Asheville, N.C.

The key race was to see who was going to replace Commander-in-Chief Ron Wilson. Running for the post were Denne Sweeney, past Texas Divi-



CONFEDERATE PROFILE Two Texas Confederates

The Willie Brothers Served Texas And The Confederate Cause

They were both born in Georgia, but made their way to Texas. Both men were quite successful prior to the War Between the States, but only one survived the war. One reached the rank of major in the Confederate Army the other is called a general, but never really reached that rank.

James and Asa Willie were born in Washington (Wilkes County), Georgia. They were the sons of James and Caroline (Hoxey) Willie. James was the older born in 1823, and Asa was six years younger. James moved to Texas in the early 1840s to live with his maternal uncle, Dr. Asa Hoxey near Independence, Texas. Dr. Hoxey had been one of the original settlers in Washington, Texas and was instrumental in naming the town Washington, for his hometown in Georgia, not for Washington, D.C. The "On-The-Brazos" part of the town name was not added until after the War Between the States.

James studied law and began a practice in Brenham. James was joined by his younger brother Asa in

1845 at the age of 16. Asa began the study of law in his brother's law firm.

In 1845 James married Sally Johnson, daughter of Judge Thomas Johnson of Washington. James was elected, in 1846, to the first legislature of the new State of Texas. Asa was admitted to the Texas

Marshal where he had become a partner in a law firm. In 1859 Asa married Bettie Johnson of Brandon, Mississippi. The couple had ten children, five of whom lived to maturity.

When the War Between the States broke out James was in Austin and Asa was in Marshall.



The author was unable to locate any photos of either of the Willie brothers. The photo above is the cemetery where the grave of James Willie is located in Independence, Texas

James' Confederate service is normally misreported. Many references, including the *Handbook of Texas*, list James as a Confederate general. He did serve the Confederate War effort in Texas, but not as a Confederate general.

The confusion over the rank of general apparently originates from an Earl Van Dorn report about operations in Texas, dated May 16, 1861. In that report, which was published in the *Official Records*, it incorrectly refers to James as a general. James became ill while in Houston and passed away there in 1863. He is buried in Old Cemetery in Independence, Texas.

bar in 1849, and then in 1852 served as the district attorney for the 3rd Judicial District for two years. By 1857 James had become Texas' Attorney General. Both James and Asa moved to Austin, with Asa moving to assist James in the attorney general's office. One of the major efforts during James' tenure of office was the revision and rearrangement of the civil and criminal laws of Texas.

In 1858 Asa moved to

Asa offered his ser-

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109th SCV Reunion Held in Dalton, GA



*Left - New
Commander-in-
Chief Denne
Sweeney from
Farris, Texas
was elected in
Dalton.*

*Below - Dr.
Anthony
Hodges, a den-
tist, from Chat-
tanooga, Tennes-
see was elected
Lieutenant
Commander-in-
Chief*

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who will be a hold over as the Chief of Staff, Paul Grambling as the Chief of Heritage Defense, and Frank Powell of North Carolina as the Editor-in-Chief.

There were also elections in the Army Departments. John C. Perry, the outgoing Army of the Trans-Mississippi (ATM) Commander, presided over the ATM meeting.

There were two candidates for the ATM Commander position, Beau Cantrell, who was serving as the ATM Councilman and Texan Jim Dark of Arlington. Cantrell defeated Dark by a vote of 247 to 210.

In the ATM Executive Councilman race, Chuck Norred, the California Division Commander, ran against Steve Lucas, immediate past Texas Division Commander. Lucas defeated Norred 217 to 172.

All of the 17 constitutional amendments were



either defeated or withdrawn except for the amendment dealing with increasing life member dues. The very controversial amendments relating to the status of the past Commanders-in-Chief were defeated. A constitutional amendment requires a two-thirds vote in order for it to pass.

Three camp members received awards at the Awards Luncheon on Friday. George Ballentine, Jerry Nelson, and Greg Manning each received the Meritorious Service

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Camp Schedule

August 10, 2004 Camp Meeting, 7:00 p.m., Golden Corral Restaurant, Temple, TX Speaker: Bell County Attorney, Rick Miller, Topic: "Sam Bass."

September 11-12, 2004 Fort Griffin Reenactment, Albany, TX. Camp Store to be set up—NEED VOLUNTEERS

September 14, 2004 Camp Meeting, Golden Corral Restaurant, Temple, TX. Speaker: Stephanie Turnham

September 17-19, 2004 Battle of Sabine Pass Reenactment, Sabine Pass, TX. Camp Store to be set up—NEED VOLUNTEERS

October 1-3, 2004 Granbury Reenactment, Glen Rose, TX. Camp Store to be set up—NEED VOLUNTEERS

October 9, 2004 Quarterly Dinner Meeting, Golden Corral Restaurant, Temple, TX. Speaker: TBA

October 16-19, 2004 Ogletree Gap Festival, Copperas Cove, TX. Camp Store to be set up—NEED VOLUNTEERS

October 22-24, 2004 Battle for Crockett Springs, Crockett, TX, Camp Store to be set up—NEED VOLUNTEERS

November 9, 2004 Camp Meeting, Golden Corral Restaurant, Temple, TX. Speaker: TBA

December 11, 2004 Southern Christmas Party, Location: TBA

Next Camp Meeting:
Aug. 10th
7:00 P.M. at
Golden Corral,
Restaurant,
Temple, TX
Speaker:
Rick Miller

Two Texas Confederates

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vices to the Confederacy and was commissioned as a major in the 7th Texas Infantry, serving on the staff of Brigadier General John Gregg. Asa, along with the rest of his unit surrendered in 1862 at Fort Donelson.

Asa spent nine months in a Federal Prisoner of War Camp at Camp Douglas in Illinois before he was exchanged. After being exchanged Asa returned to duty in time to participate in the battle of Chickamauga in September 1863. He remained in service in the Army of Tennessee until the war ended in 1865. Like his brother certain histories have factual errors about him. Often Asa is listed as a major in the Union Army, which is incorrect.

During the war it is interesting to note that Asa's home in Marshall served as the capitol of the Confeder-

ate State of Missouri. When the Confederate government fled Missouri they went first to Arkansas and then, when forced to flee that state, Governor Thomas Reynolds moved the government to Marshall. The home of Asa was used as one of two buildings that housed the Missouri government.

After the war Asa went to Brenham to live. He was elected associate justice of the Texas Supreme Court, but was removed by the Union occupational forces in Texas as an, "impediment to Reconstruction."

In 1866 Asa moved to Galveston and eventually became a partner in a prominent Galveston law firm. By 1873 he had been elected to the U. S. House of Representatives, but chose to only serve a single two year term.

He returned to Galveston where he was elected city attorney in 1875 and 1876, and in 1882 he was appointed Chief Justice of the Texas Supreme Court and served until his retirement six years later. He lived the rest of his life in Galveston where in died in 1899. He was buried in Trinity Episcopal Church Cemetery in Galveston.

2004 SCV Reunion

(Continued from page 3)
Medal.

The reunion was complete with multiple tours available during the periods of time when there were not any SCV business sessions going on. Tours that were available included a bus tour to Stone Church, capture site of the *General*, Ringgold Gap, and Tunnel Hill, a Tennessee River cruise, and a Tour of Chickamauga Battlefield.

Next year's reunion will be in Nashville, Tennessee at the Sheraton Music City Hotel on July 19 through July 23. About 500 rooms have been reserved at the Sheraton at a nightly rate of \$99. The 2006 reunion will be held in New Orleans, Louisiana.

Editor's Note

Due to your editor attending the SCV Reunion this past week and due to no one submitting any information the newsletter is shortened for this issue.



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**Next Meeting:
Aug. 10th
Golden Corral
Temple
7:00 PM**