

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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Sons of Confederate Veterans
Temple, Texas

Commander-in-Chief Ousted

SCV LEADERSHIP IN DISPUTE

The leadership of the Sons of Confederate Veterans (SCV), on the national level, has changed based on a court order by a Tennessee judge.

On February 16th during a SCV General Executive Committee (GEC) meeting the GEC passed 13 corporate resolutions. These resolutions were then taken to Judge Robert L. Jones of the Chancery Court of Maury County, Tennessee. Maury County is where the SCV's headquarters are located in Columbia, Tennessee.

Judge Jones on February 19th issued a Temporary Restraining Order that requires the SCV to comply with the GEC's resolutions

until a final hearing can be held. A final hearing is set for sometime in March.

The most controversial of the resolutions was number one, which removed the elected Commander-in-Chief, (CIC) Denne Sweeney from office. The resolution claims that CIC Sweeney, "engaged in misconduct regarding his office as Chief Executive Officer and Commander-in-Chief." The resolution then lists seven charges against CIC Sweeney, including "attempting to manufacture a quorum of the board of directors" at a GEC meeting in North Carolina on December 18, 2004. Resolution number 2 ap-

pointed Lieutenant Commander-in-Chief Anthony Hodges as the new CIC.

Resolution number 7 deems the GEC's actions at the December 18th meeting to be "null and void."

Another resolution, number 13, removed Sweeney appointed staff members, who also serve on the GEC. Removed from office were Jim Dark, Adjutant-in-Chief, Frank Powell, Editor-in-Chief, and H. Rondell Rumburg, Chaplain-in-Chief.

These actions have created a fire storm of controversy. CIC Sweeney in a public statement said of the actions, "the Old Bulls

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Confederate Flag Ceremony Set

In a surprise move County Judge Jon Burrows approved Camp #1250's request to fly the First National Confederate flag at the Bell County Courthouse in Belton all day on March 4th.

The County Judge responded to a formal Camp #1250 request to fly the flag in honor of Confederate Flag Day. The County

Judge approved the flag to fly from 8:00 A.M. on March 4th to 8:00 A.M. on March 5th.

The Camp will hold a special flag raising ceremony at the courthouse on Friday March 4th at 8:00 A.M. All Camp members and friends are urged to attend this event. The flag raising ceremony is expected to last for only 15

minutes.

If you have a uniform you are encouraged to wear it, but no weapons should be brought. There maybe a color guard, but please do not bring any weapons to the event.

A notice will be sent to local newspapers advising them of the event and the ceremony.



CONFEDERATE PROFILE GEORGIA BRED TEXAN

His regiment's
bayonet charge at
the Battle of
Roundaway Bayou
Sent The Federals
Scurrying

While a teenager this future Confederate general visited Texas. He knew right away that Texas was where he belonged. By age 21 he was in the state and when Texas answered the Confederacy's call so did this man.

Wilburn Hill King was born in Cullodenville, Georgia, on June 10, 1839, the son of Alexander and Mary (Douglas) King. He was educated at Americus, Georgia. At age 17 he made a journey to Texas and fell in love with the state. At age 21 he moved to Texas, settling in Cass County.

When the war broke out King was in Missouri on business. He immediately joined the Missouri State Guards and was elected a lieutenant. The Guard unit was ushered into the Confederate military as Company E of the 3rd Missouri Infantry. King and his unit saw action at the Battles of Carthage, and in August of 1861 at the Battle of Wilson's Creek, where King was wounded.

He resigned his commission and returned to Texas. After healing from his wounds, he joined the 18th Texas Volunteer Infantry as a private. King rose quickly through the ranks, by May of 1862 he was appointed a major of the 18th Texas, and he was appointed a colonel by

August of the same year. The 18th Texas was assigned, in October of 1862, to a new division, eventually commanded by John G. Walker. The division was soon be known as "Walker's Greyhounds," reflecting the division's frequent long forced marches between Louisiana and Arkansas.

While training at Camp Texas in Louisiana, an



Wilburn Hill King

enlisted member of the 18th Texas, John C. Porter, recalled the troops entertained by King's misfortune. Porter wrote, "While here, Col. King was thrown from a horse on the drill field. Here, also, to the great amusement of the Reg't., while on the drill field, he stepped into a hole (where a pine stump had burned out) almost to his armpits."

King and his men had seen little action until May of 1863 when they were dispatched to Alexandria, Louisiana as Union Gen-

eral U. S. Grant threatened Vicksburg, Mississippi. They moved from Alexandria to within 15 miles of Vicksburg, with orders to stop any Federals from crossing the Mississippi. They made the hard journey, but arrived too late, as the Federals had already crossed the river. They finally saw serious action at Roundaway Bayou, north of Richmond, Louisiana on June 13, 1863, when they crossed a bayou and charged a larger Union force in a bayonet charge, forcing the Federals to flee.

In November of 1863, King led the 18th Texas, holding the center of the Confederate line, at the Battle of Bayou Bourbeau near Grand Coteau, Louisiana. King led his regiment "with undaunted firmness," as they attacked the Federal army. King would later write about the engagement, "The fight was a desperate one for several hours, my own regiment losing nearly 40% of its strength in killed and wounded - but ended in defeat of the immediate Federal force, the capture of their camp and many guns, and nearly 1,000 prisoners. I had five color bearers shot dead in the battle, and the eyes of the sixth one shot out, but my colors never struck the ground."

The next April, King and his men participated in

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Georgia Bred Texan

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the Battle of Mansfield where the Confederates were able to smash three Federal divisions. King was severely wounded, towards the end of the fight, and would spend the next several months recovering from his wounds.

King was promoted to brigadier general, by Edmund Kirby Smith, on April 16, to date from April 8.

Walker's Division, where he commanded the newly formed 4th Brigade. King remained in that assignment until the war was over.

Post war King fled to Mexico and later owned a sugar plantation in Central America. He returned to the United States after the death of his wife and infant son. King settled first in Jefferson, Texas where



Grave of General King in Corsicana

After being discharged from the hospital and returning to active duty he was put in command of Walker's Texas Division. Unfortunately, King had not made a full recovery and was forced to transfer to a less demanding command. He then took over command of the Camille Polignac's Brigade in Mouton's Division, when Polignac was sent to France, in a failed effort to request France's intervention in the war, on behalf of the Confederacy. In February of 1865, King was transferred back to

he practiced law, and later in 1875 he moved to Sulphur Springs. In Sulphur Springs he entered politics, serving as the mayor and as a member of the Texas legislator from 1878 to 1881. He was appointed and reappointed by Texas governors as the state's adjutant general, serving for ten years. In 1891, King retired as adjutant general to his home in Sulphur Springs. During retirement King wrote a book, "History of The Texas Rangers," and he was an active Mason. He died on December 10, 1910, in

Camp Schedule

March 4, 2005 Confederate Flag Day Ceremonies at Bell County Courthouse in Belton, 8:00 AM. All Camp members and guests are invited.

March 8, 2005 Camp meeting, Golden Corral Restaurant, Temple, 7:00 PM. Speaker: Dr. Ray James, A confederate Infantryman's Travels Through the Eastern and Western Theaters."

April 9, 2005 Camp meeting, Golden Corral Restaurant, Temple, 7:00 PM. Speaker: TBA

May 10, 2005 Camp meeting, Golden Corral Restaurant, Temple, 7:00 PM. Speaker: TBA

June 3-4, 2005 108th Texas Division Reunion, Mayborn Convention Center, Temple, TX.

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

July 9, 2005 Tentative date for Quarterly Dinner Meeting, 7:00 PM. Location & Speaker: TBA

Sulphur Springs.

His body was transported by train to Corsicana where he was buried. A death notice in the Fort Worth paper said, "His remains were carried today to Corsicana for interment. Oakwood Cemetery, Corsicana, TX. . . . His body was transported by train, and a large crowd of military service personnel waited to pay their respects."

Next Camp Meeting:
March 8th
at
Golden Corral
Temple
7:00 PM

SCV Leadership Fight

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won all their arguments in a Tennessee court today. At least temporarily I have been removed as CIC . . . Clearly, the deck was stacked against us when we went into this court. Our attorney was only told about the hearing a few minutes in advance. The most disturbing thing is that the Old Bulls convinced the court that they represent the SCV, not me. In fact, they sued on behalf of the SCV, not against it. As a result, I may not even be able to defend my position without raising my own money." A fund has been set up to assist Sweeney in his legal efforts to restore his position.

The "Old Bulls" apparently is CIC Sweeney's name for former Commander-in-Chiefs (CICs) who sit on the GEC. The current SCV Constitution permits all past CICs to remain on the GEC as long as they are alive, subject to certain meeting participation rules. A constitutional amendment to limit past CICs participation on the GEC was not passed at last year's national reunion in Dalton, Georgia.

Many divisions, brigades and camps have passed resolutions or have protested CIC Sweeney's removal. Many have described the GEC meeting of February 16th as a "coup d'état" and claim that the meeting was illegal.

In a public statement made February 23rd CIC Hodges said, "In fulfilling its duty to the SCV, its members and applicable state law governing corporations, your General Executive Council (GEC) has taken forthright action under extraordinary circumstances. Faced with a chief executive officer, (CIC Denne Sweeney) who repeatedly violated the SCV Constitution and governing state corporate law, the GEC faced the unpleasant task of having to make disciplinary review of CIC Sweeney's conduct."

Texas Division Commander Steve von Roeder said on February 25th, "There is nothing in the Constitution of the SCV that can nullify a ruling of a court. I am confident that the legal battle is not over. If the judge's order is overturned or not sustained for the purposes of a permanent order, we should also follow the results of that legal ruling." He also said "I must attempt to

guide this division in a manner that will allow Texas to remain a leading force no matter which faction ultimately prevails in the legal system. I call upon all compatriots of this division to continue to do what our organization was created to do; to Honor our Confederate ancestors."

Camp #1250 Commander George Ballentine on February 23rd stated, "I do not have all of the information, yet, to try and make a determination of who we should back or if we should call an emergency Executive Council meeting to make a stand. Do we even need to take a stand one way or the other? The(re) is just too much information missing at this time. I think we should wait and see what the result of the court decision is, and then fall in behind whomever is in control of the SCV at that time."

One of the resolutions passed by the GEC removed Chuck Norred as the Army of Trans Mississippi (ATM) councilman on the GEC. Camp #1250 member John C. Perry was appointed by CIC Hodges to fill that vacant position. Perry, the immediate past ATM Commander, declined the appointment, "for a variety of reasons."



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**Next Meeting:
March 8th
Golden Corral
Temple**