



The Courier

Newsletter of the Sam Davis Camp No. 1293

Sons of Confederate Veterans ** Brentwood, Tn ** January, 2012

Another Year, Another Lawsuit

Sons of Confederate Veterans Sue Lexington Over Flag Ordinance

The Sons of Confederate Veterans today filed a federal lawsuit in Roanoke challenging amendments by the city of Lexington (burial place of R. E. Lee and T. J. Jackson) to a flags and banners ordinance that effectively prohibit the flying of flags of the Confederacy from standards on public light poles in the city.

Flanked by two lawyers, Brandon Dorsey, commander of Camp 1296 of the Stonewall Brigade of the Sons of Confederate Veterans, talked about the lawsuit during an afternoon news conference held on the steps of the Poff Federal Building in downtown Roanoke.

Dorsey said the ordinance amendments were clearly drafted to target the Confederate flag and "silence what we're doing."

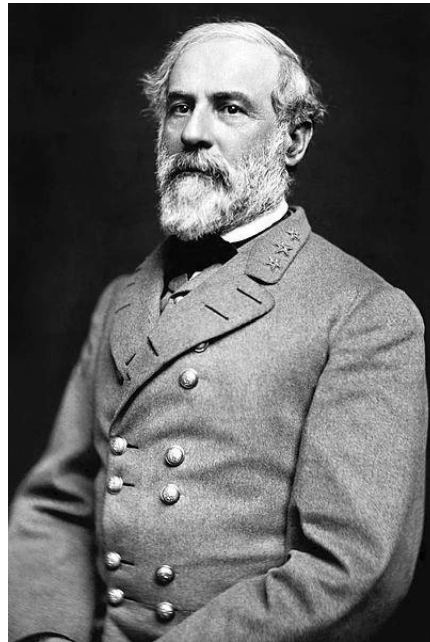
He has previously described the Sons of Confederate Veterans as a history group with members who are descendants of men who "bled and died for this state, at its request, and ought to be remembered and honored."

The lawsuit charges that the ordinance violates the organization's First Amendment and Fourteenth Amendment rights and is in violation of a 1993 federal court order.

As amended in September, the Lexington ordinance on flags specifies: "Only the following flags may be flown on

the flag standards affixed to light poles in the city and no others:" — the United States flag, the Virginia flag and the flag of the city of Lexington.

The ordinance does not prohibit people from carrying the Confederate or other flags or displaying them from private property — a reality cited by many people who supported the amended ordinance's adoption.



But it does effectively ban the display of flags of the Confederacy and others that have previously flown from city light poles — including flags of the Virginia Military Institute and of Washington and Lee University.

Larry Mann, Lexington city attorney, said today he had not yet seen a copy of the lawsuit.

"Without seeing the actual pleading anything I might say would be premature and based only on assumptions," Mann said in an email.

The city and the organization have sparred before in federal court about the display of Confederate flags in public places in Lexington. A 1993 federal court order held that the city could not deny the right of the Sons of Confederate Veterans or its members "to wear, carry, display or show" the flags of the Confederacy "at any government sponsored or government-controlled place or event which is to any extent give over to private expressive activity."

On Sept. 1, after a frequently contentious public hearing that stretched nearly three hours, the city council voted 4-1 to adopt the disputed ordinance amendments. The Sons of Confederate Veterans vowed then to challenge the ordinance in court.

The press conference came on the eve of the annual Lee-Jackson Day state holiday that honors Confederate Generals Robert E. Lee and Thomas "Stonewall" Jackson. Last year, the Sons of Confederate Veterans flew flags of the Confederacy from public light poles in the days preceding the holiday but had wanted to fly them through the holiday and the organization's annual Saturday parade — a display the city did not allow.

The Sons of Confederate Veterans is being represented by lawyers Correy Diviney and Tom Strelka of the Roanoke firm of Strickland, Diviney and Strelka as well as the Rutherford Institute in Charlottesville. -- *The Roanoke Times* - Jan. 13, 2012

Samuel Davis

Next Camp Meeting: Thursday, January 26th Woodson Chapel Church of Christ, 7:00 p.m.

Camp News & Notes

How Many of Us Are There?

The latest available information reveals that our camp is the 3rd or 4th largest in the state, and has 111 members. Not bad. But, we've had more and we could certainly be larger. If every one of you who read this would recruit just one new member this year, well, we'd double our membership. Obviously, huh? All of us have a brother, a cousin, or a kinsman who share our ancestry. Membership for that person would be a slam dunk. No family, or they are all already enrolled? That's not likely, but if it's true for you then ask a friend. Genealogy help is available for prospective members, free of charge.

First Camp Meeting of 2012!

It's coming up on January 26th. Just a few days from now. How about you start your new year off right and show up?

Programs! Get your programs here!

Lt. Commander Ronnie Townes already has our meetings this year full of interesting speakers and informative programs. Here's the list, which is, of course, subject to change....

Jan. 26th - Greg Biggs: Confederate Flags

Feb. 23rd - Ed Butler: Southerners Have Nothing to Apologies For

March 22nd - Rick Warwick: Confederate Reunions in Franklin

April 26th - Tim Prince: Confederate Rifles

May 24th - Camp Show And Tell

June - Camp Picnic

July 26th - Randy Bishop: Tenn. Battlefields and Battlefield in Adjoining States

Aug. 23rd - Dr. Michael Bradley: Forrest's Fighting Preacher

Sept. 27th - Dennis Lampley: Baxter Artillery Company

Oct. 25th - Gene Andrews: Topi. To be announced

November - No Meeting

Dec. 6th - Division Commander Mike Beck: Sub. To be announced

Confederate Calendar

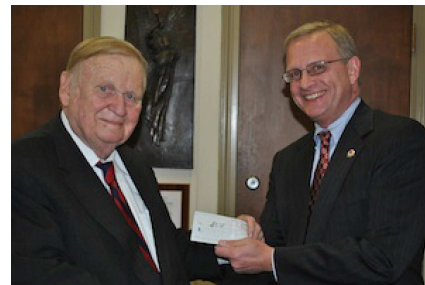
January 26th ~~ Sam Davis Camp meets at Woodson Chapel Church of Christ, 7:00 p.m. The Church is adjacent to the Oglesby Community Center on Edmondson Pike, 1/2 block South of the intersection of Edmondson Pike and Old Hickory Blvd.

February 23rd ~~ Sam Davis Camp meets at Woodson Chapel, 7:00 p.m.

Tenn. Division Announces Flag Conservation Effort

The Save Our Flags program, an initiative of the Tennessee Division Sons of Confederate Veterans, has announced its next conservation project as the Battle Flag of the 14th Tennessee which was carried and captured at Gettysburg. The men of this unit were primarily from Montgomery, Robertson, and Stewart counties in northern Middle Tennessee; their flag is currently owned by the citizens of Tennessee and resides in the Tennessee State Museum, where it has been designated as a priority for conservation.

Across the nation, as Americans commemorate the 150th anniversary of the American Civil War, attention is being drawn to the battlefields, relics, and the memories of the men who fought. This flag of the 14th Tennessee Infantry was used for about a year before it was captured during Pickett's Charge, and then forwarded away from the battlefield (and the elements). Made from wool bunting, a tough fabric which resisted water and the elements much better than cotton and silk, the focus on this flag is toward



conservation, not restoration. Tennessee State Museum textile experts have given us an estimate for conservation at \$12,500.

Senator Douglas Henry of Nashville, a longtime supporter of the State Museum, was pleased to make the first contribution to the project. James Turner, chairman of the Save Our Flags program, stated, "We appreciate Senator Henry stepping forward as he so often has, and we are optimistic that the entire amount can be raised by the end of 2012, making it possible for the flag to be conserved by the end of the sesquicentennial observance in 2015."

The Tennessee Division SCV has donated an estimated \$50,000 to the Tennessee State Museum over the past few years specifically to conserve these historic banners, and now you can also help. More information on the project is available at www.saveourflags.org, where you can learn more about the men of the 14th Tennessee, their flag, and how to donate. Everyone in the state is encouraged to participate in our nation's observance of the men in Blue and Gray, and the conservation of this flag can become a reality with individual donations of \$20 or more. Lest we forget.

The Sons of Confederate Veterans is a historical honor society, founded in 1896 by the United Confederate Veterans, and is a 501 (c)(3) non-profit organization. All monies raised through this project will be donated to the Tennessee State Museum Foundation for conservation of historic flags. Donation are usually tax-deductible, though you may consult a tax professional regarding your personal situation.





Nashville Confederate Veterans, 1917 (colorized). This photo was taken at the UCV Reunion in Washington, D.C. In addition to Troop A, Forrest Cavalry, there was also a Company "B" of Confederate Veterans in Nashville, and similar groups in Memphis. These were not UCV groups, they were military organizations of Confederate veterans sworn into service with the State of Tennessee as reserve units of the period equivalent of the National Guard. They were ready to go if called....

Georgia Division Publishes Book

The Georgia Division of the Sons of Confederate Veterans announced its first audio book, entitled *"The Other Side of the Coin: A Southern View of the War for Southern Independence."*

Its release is in conjunction with the sesquicentennial commemoration of the War Between the States.

"The Georgia Division has become a leading organization in America for supplying historically accurate information on the Southern role during the War Between the States," according to a press statement issued recently by the Sons of Confederate Veterans.

"It has been our goal to provide an accurate version of the facts and motives surrounding the South's participation in the war," said Georgia Division Commander Jack Bridwell. "So many of the history textbooks currently being used in high schools and colleges have adopted a revisionist view of history that is quite different than the traditional version of history taught for generations throughout America.

"It is merely a symptom of the same attack going on against everything that is good about America's past — an attempt to denigrate traditional American values, and heroes," he said.

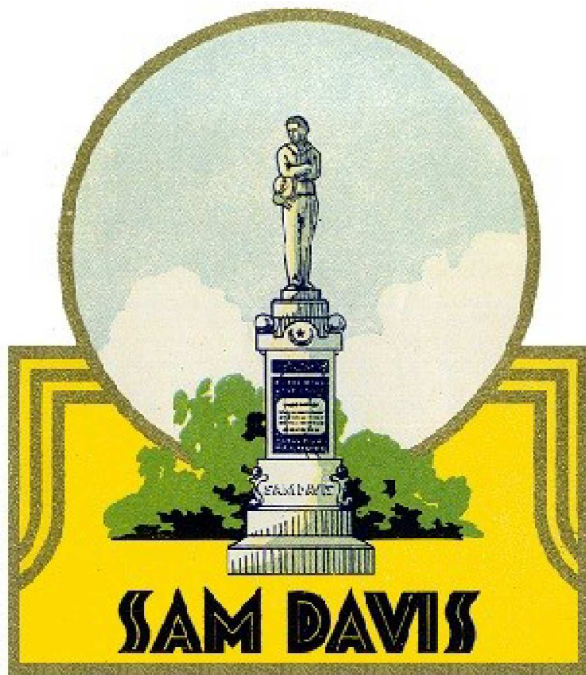
"There was a time when all American school children were taught that Robert E. Lee and the South were great examples of our

Christian American heritage," Bridwell continued. "Now our children are taught that they should be ashamed of their own heritage. Consequently, our young people, today, have no sense of who they are and are turning to drugs, gangs, and other types of dysfunctional lifestyles.

"We are excited about the effectiveness already of 'The Other Side of the Coin,' in presenting an alternative to the revisionist history presented in so many of the textbooks, and we are happy to make the audio version of it available to the general public."

The book is being offered, free of charge to the public, as an immediate MP3 download on the Division's web site, at www.GeorgiaSCV.org. A compact-disc version will be available soon.





Published by The Sam Davis Camp #1293, Sons of Confederate Veterans, P. O. Box 3448, Brentwood, Tenn. 37024
Commander ~ David Eagan 790-0162
1st Lt. Commander ~ Ronnie Townes
2d Lt. Commander ~ Nelson Boren
Adjutant ~ Chris Sollmann 453-6299
Treasurer ~ James Turner 335-6944
Chaplain ~ Tony Rocchietti 399-1606
Newsletter Editor ~ Allen Sullivant 373-0058
Web Address ~ <http://www.samdaviscamp.org>



"I might have tasted it, but I don't think I did. All I can remember now, is a dim recollection of a nasty, greasy, burning something going down my throat and chest, and smelling as I remember at this day, like a decoction of red-pepper tea, flavored with coal oil, and tobacco juice." -- Sam Watkins on camp distilled "whisky"

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Sons of Confederate Veterans
P. O. Box 3448
Brentwood, Tenn. 37024



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