

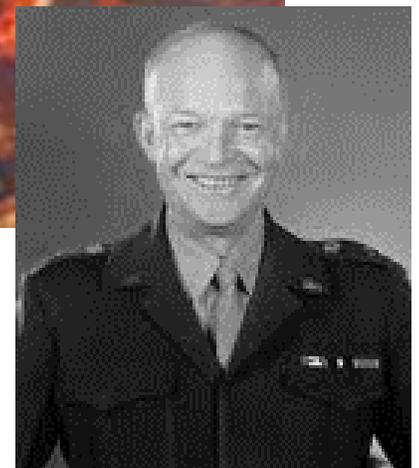
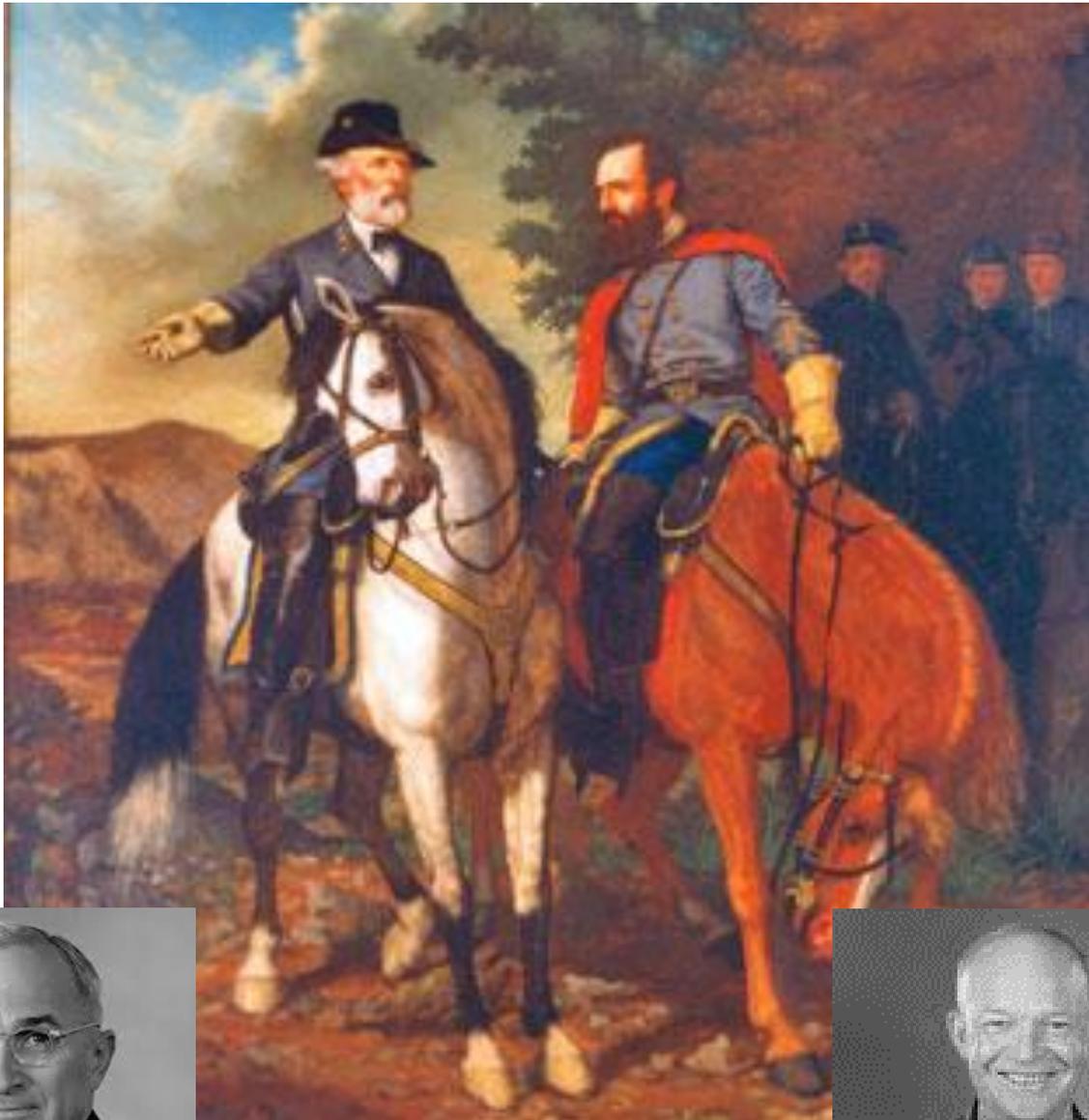


Southside Sentinel



Quarterly Newsletter of the
Colonel Thomas H. Williamson Chapter #249
Military Order of the Stars and Bars
Chase City, Virginia
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Lee, Jackson, Truman and Eisenhower



Lee-Jackson Day Comments

Heritage of Honor

Delivered on 17 January 2014
Martinsville, Va
Colonel Greg Eanes, USAF (Retired)

When General Robert E. Lee died in 1870, a Northern newspaper wrote of him:

*"We have long since ceased to look upon him as the Confederate leader, but have claimed him as one of ourselves; have cherished and felt proud of his military genius; have recounted and recorded his triumphs as our own; have extolled his virtue as reflecting us --- for Robert Edward Lee was an American, and the great nation which gave him birth would be today unworthy of such a son if she regarded him lightly."*¹

General Robert E. Lee's birthday on January 19th has been a holiday in the Commonwealth of Virginia since 1890.² It was a day of remembrance for General Lee and later Stonewall Jackson whose birthday is the 21st of January.

While January 19th was a time to celebrate the lives and leadership of two of Virginia's most prominent sons, it was also, by extension, an opportunity for so many of Virginia's citizens to honor and celebrate the lives of the grandfathers, fathers, sons and brothers who were veterans of or died in Confederate service.³ It is estimated that 120,000 Virginians⁴ served in the Confederate Army at various times with nearly 29,000 deaths from wounds, disease and all other causes.^{5 6}

Lee and Jackson came to symbolize their men, a devotion to the principles of Constitutional liberty, and defense of their homeland; concepts for which they and their men were willing to leave their families and surrender their lives. Their consciously made sacrifices are an example to be enshrined and emulated.

In speaking about Confederate veterans, President Theodore Roosevelt said:

¹ http://www.sonofthesouth.net/leefoundation/Lee_Religious_Views.htm

² *Virginia Statute*, The provisions enumerating public holidays (Code 2844) amended by adding January 19th in each year, (known as "Lee's Birthday") - Act Feb. 28, 1890 (Public Acts 1889-90, c.150, p117).

³ By 1904 the following states were recognizing Lee's Birthday as a holiday: Alabama, Florida, Georgia, North Carolina, South Carolina, and Virginia. See *The American Almanac, Year-Book, Cyclopedia and Atlas* (San Francisco: W.R. Hearst) 1903. p38; See also *Collier's Self-Indexing Annual, 1905* (New York: P.F. Collier & Son) 1905, p334-335

⁴ That reflects roughly 12% of the total white population. Casualties amounted to nearly 3% of the population. By today's population of 8.2 million, that would equate to 246,000 dead.

⁵ The *Library of Virginia Military Dead Database* contains 32,380 entries for Virginia's Civil War dead of all causes. It reports 3,557 as men who died in the Union Army leaving 28,823 dead in various Confederate and Virginia State and militia forces.

⁶ The public record shows for the school year 1920-1921, Richmond public schools were closed for nine different holidays, one of which was Lee's Birthday and two others were Confederate related: Oakwood Memorial Day on May 10th and Hollywood Memorial Day on May 30th, the latter two places being the interment locations of many Confederate soldiers. In fact, Oakwood Cemetery has been called 'the Arlington of the South'. The other days include the State Fair, 6 October; Armistice Day, 11 November; Thanksgiving 25-26 November; Christmas, 24 December 1920 to 2 January 1921; Washington's Birthday, 22 February and Easter, 24 to 29 March. See the *Annual Report of the Superintendent of the Public Schools of the City of Richmond, Virginia for the Scholastic year Ending June 30, 1921* (Richmond: Clyde W. Saunders & Son, Print) 1922, p.6

*"They by their deeds reflect credit upon their descendants and upon all Americans, both because they did their duty in war and because they did their duty in peace."*⁷

On another occasion he said, "*...the memory and the valor shown alike by the men who wore the blue and the men who wore the gray, is a heritage of honor for the whole country.*"⁸

With that in mind, I submit the dedication and sacrifices of the Confederate veteran *were*, in fact, emulated by their sons, grandsons, and great-grandsons in United States military service in 20th Century wars. It is *even today*, emulated by their great-great grandsons on battlefields in our 21st Century wars.⁹

The spirit of Lee, Jackson and the Confederate soldier has been displayed on diverse battlefields since the end of the Civil War. There are countless photos of U.S. soldiers, proud of their Confederate military heritage, displaying the Confederate battle flag on modern battlefields: in the Pacific and Europe in World War II; with the U.S. Eighth Army and U.S. Navy in Korea; with U.S. Marines in Beirut in 1958; at Khe Sanh, Dong Ha and other battlefields in Vietnam; in Kuwait, Iraq and Afghanistan.¹⁰ A World War II veteran¹¹ who had served in Europe, a nephew of Confederate veterans from Mosby's Rangers, told me he flew a Confederate battle flag on his personal half-track. I myself carried a Confederate battle flag with me in five overseas campaigns to include Iraq and Afghanistan.

Additionally, the public record contains news reports of Confederate heritage organizations -- the United Daughters of the Confederacy, the Military Order of the Stars and Bars and the Sons of Confederate Veterans, and before them the United Confederate Veterans -- actively supporting the soldiers and sailors of the United States since the Spanish-American War.¹²

⁷ President Theodore Roosevelt comments, Raleigh, North Carolina, 19 October 1905.

⁸ President Theodore Roosevelt, 6 February 1908, to the Committee of the Arlington Confederate Monument Association, at the White House. Roosevelt carried on President McKinley's work in reuniting blue and gray and this is evidenced in many of his speeches across the country. He was often met and escorted by delegations of veterans from both the North and South. On one occasion he said, "*...as a reunited people we have the right to feel the same pride in the valor of the man who conscientiously risked his life in the Confederate uniform that we have in the man who fought in the blue.*"

⁹ Lee and Jackson represent the best of our Southern Military Tradition, a tradition very much alive according to a 2005 study sponsored by the Heritage Foundation. The study found evidence of a Southern Military Tradition with the South overrepresented among military recruits. In 1999, over 42% of military recruits came from the Southern States and in 2003, after 9/11, 41% of the military recruits came from the South while the northern states, in general, were underrepresented. This is pretty significant when one considers the South -- at the time of the survey--only had about 35.6% of the total population. See the report: '*Who Bears the Burden? Demographic Characteristics of U.S. Military Recruits Before and After 9/11*', a study by Tim Kane, Ph.D., Center for Data Analysis Report #05-08 on National Security and Defense, 7 November 2005, for the Heritage Foundation. The study also found that current recruits are better educated and comes from slightly wealthier and more rural families. These facts destroy the myth that recruits go into the military because they are poor, minority, urban and uneducated. The report notes a Chicago Tribune statistic that 35% of those who died in Iraq and Afghanistan were from small, rural towns, in contrast to the 25 percent of the population. Entirely urban areas are underrepresented while suburban and rural areas are overrepresented in recruiting.

¹⁰ <http://freenorthcarolina.blogspot.com/2011/08/battle-flag-around-world.html>

¹¹ Former 1st Lt. Charles Kincheloe, now deceased.

¹² At least five former Confederate generals were given commissions in the U.S. Army during the Spanish-American War, specifically: Fitzhugh Lee, Joseph Wheeler, Thomas L. Rosser, Matthew C. Butler and William C. Oates. Five of the VMI Cadets from New Market served in the U.S. Army or Navy during the Spanish-American War. In Colorado, Margaret Davis Hayes, the last surviving daughter of Confederate President Jefferson Davis greeted troop trains en route San Francisco to embark troops for the Philippines. According to one news report, she "*brought fruit, flowers and was tearfully profuse in her welcome and God-speed to the sons of the men who fought for her father.*" All three Confederate heritage organizations have a War Service Cross, based on the Southern Cross of Honor, to recognize the combat service of descendants of Confederate veterans. Other medals recognize peacetime military service. At the camp and chapter level, they continue to send 'care' packages and letters to troops in the field.

Allow me to share a few historical vignettes of the positive influence of Robert E. Lee, Stonewall Jackson and our Confederate military heritage on two of our greatest leaders:

A young World War One Captain of Artillery by the name of Harry S. Truman was very much influenced by Robert E. Lee and Stonewall Jackson. A keen student of military history, he grew up at a time when Civil War veterans were very much alive and part of the community, Truman recorded Robert E. Lee and Stonewall Jackson were *"all down in his head as 'the heroes'."*

He wrote, that Lee, along with Hannibal and Napoleon, *"were his particular favorites"*¹³

Truman recollected his early years in the National Guard noting, *"when he became a horseman on a gun he considered himself rather well along on his proposed emulation of Napoleon and Marse Robert."*¹⁴

Sometime in the 1920s, World War One Army combat veteran Harry Truman gave his mother a miniature portrait of Robert E. Lee. She prominently displayed it on her bedroom dresser until the day she died.¹⁵ In Truman's home and White House, he maintained a 1947 copy of the famous Stapko painting depicting the 'Last Meeting between Lee and Jackson', the original of which holds an honored - almost shrine-position - in the Museum of the Confederacy



Capt. Harry S. Truman

¹³ Harry S. Truman Library, "Long Hand Note by Senator Harry S. Truman", ca. 1940, Senate and Vice-President File, Truman Papers.; see also HST Library, Oral History with Mrs. W.L.C. Palmer, City Assessor in Independence, MO, 18 Jan 1962. She said, *"Harry Truman was presiding judge, and when Harry would come over, if we ever had a minute together, he would want to talk. He wanted to talk about the "War Between the States" and about my father Hopkins Hardin, who was in Pickett's Charge at Gettysburg...He was very interested in that battle. And he would want me to tell the whole story about father having been wounded three times in Pickett's Charge and left on the field as dead; and how three days afterwards, he was found by Catholic sisters going over the battlefield looking for wounded soldiers and was taken to Baltimore to be nursed back to health; and how after his recovery, and on crutches, the United States Government asked for his allegiance, which he wouldn't give; and how he was kept in prison from then until the end of the war. Harry always wanted to know all about that Father was, of course, in General Lee's Army of Northern Virginia, and Harry is a great admirer of General Robert E. Lee. Once when Bess Truman had a trip East, she wrote me that she went to the Battle of Gettysburg field and thought about my father having been in the battle there. Several times my father was asked to come to the high school in those days and talk to Miss Margaret Phelps' history class about his experiences in the War Between the States. I can remember that Harry would tell me how he considered General Robert E. Lee a great hero. Well, Harry and I had some happy hours together at the courthouse when he was judge of the county court and I city assessor for Independence. I was city assessor from 1926 to 1936."*; see also Harry S. Truman Library and Museum, Oral History Interview with Robert P. Weatherford, Jr, Mayor of Independence, MO (1950-58), 11 June 1976 by James R. Fuchs. Weatherford said, *"[Truman] and I were always interested in Southern history. I made a specific study of General Robert E. Lee and President Truman's hero was Stonewall Jackson of the Civil War era. And I remember one time down on Proctor Place, when I was in high school, he made a speech on the life of General Stonewall Jackson and I made one on General Robert E. Lee. That's the first public appearance that I ever had with Mr. Truman, sharing any kind of a social, or historical reference point....Oh, it must have been in 1928, '29, possibly '30....He had an excellent memory, but he had read American history over and over until dates and events were just branded on his memory."* (<http://www.trumanlibrary.org/oralhist/weatherr.htm>)

¹⁴ Ibid.

¹⁵ The image was eventually given by his sister to her daughter, or Truman's niece worn statement of Mary J. Truman, sister of Harry S. Truman, on 15 August 1963 testifying to the disposition of family furniture. President Truman and his brother signed as witnesses to the document.

in Richmond.¹⁶

Truman was an expert on Civil War history and very interested in the battle of Gettysburg, having known men who fought there. He visited there on Sunday, July 7, 1935 and wrote a letter to his eleven year old daughter describing the visit. Allow me to share:

*"Sunday, I went up to Gettysburg and went all over the battlefield. You know it is one of the great military contests of history. I stood on the spot where General Robert E. Lee stood while the famous and immortal Pickett made his charge. The charge that was to win or lose the third day's battle. It lost and I wondered what 'Marse Robert' thought when the [remnants] of those brave battalions came straggling back across the field. **I picked two little flowers from the foot of the Virginia Monument which stands on the spot where Lee stood and I am sending them to you. They will remind you of how a great man takes a terrible defeat.***

*"Lee didn't blame anybody. He accepted the responsibility and stated that if there was any fault it was his, although two of his principal leaders had been remiss in their duties. Longstreet did not come up and Ewell wouldn't move forward. **Yet Lee blamed no one.**"¹⁷*

It is clear to me that Lee's example of leadership and accountability directly influenced this future President who proudly displayed a sign that said 'The Buck Stops Here'.

Lee even made an appearance in Truman's personal diary. On June 17, 1945, Truman lets off steam railing against Douglas MacArthur ending with *"Don't see how a country can produce men as Robert E. Lee, John J. Pershing, Eisenhower, and Bradley and at the same time produce Custers, Pattons and MacArthurs."*¹⁸

In 1960, President Truman visited Lexington, Va to give the keynote speech at Washington and Lee's mock convention. While there, he was able to slip away to visit Lee's tomb and explore some of Lee's personal papers.¹⁹

Most telling was Truman's routine invocation of Robert E. Lee's prayer. Harry Truman memorized the prayer and used it throughout his life. It read as follows:

*"Help me to be, to think, to act what is right because it is right;
Make me truthful, honest, and honorable in all things;
Make me intellectually honest for the sake of right and honor,
And without thought of reward to me."²⁰*

Can there be any more telling evidence of Lee's positive influence than this?

General and later President Dwight David Eisenhower also greatly admired Robert E. Lee and Stonewall Jackson. As our Nation's greatest World War II hero, it is easy to see how he too was influenced by our "heritage of honor".²¹ While President, he had a portrait of Robert E. Lee in the Oval Office and he made this publicly known on several occasions.

¹⁶ Harry S. Truman Library.

¹⁷ http://www.trumanlibrary.org/whistlestop/study_collections/personal/large/folder1/1935julytxt.htm

¹⁸ HST Library, 35-The General vs The President.doc

¹⁹ HST Library, Oral History Interview with H. Graham Morison, 16 August 1972 by Jerry N. Hess.

²⁰ HST Library. This Robert E. Lee prayer was memorized by Harry Truman and used by Truman throughout his life.

²¹ He made remarks in ceremonies honoring Robert E. Lee at Stratford Hall, Virginia in 1958 ending with a quotation from Lee. Said the President: *"I think it is one of the noblest expressions ever heard or ever read uttered by any other man of the*

Eisenhower is quoted as saying: *“From boyhood, I was raised to respect the word ‘Confederate’ – very highly, I might add”*²²

While President, in remarks to the United Daughters of the Confederacy, Eisenhower described his image of Lee and Jackson:

“When we think of Lee, the qualities for which he stood, the things for which his name stands today, it seems almost redundant--superfluous--for anyone to try to describe them, even to himself.

*“...Lee was one man who early showed to all of us that a man could be a soldier who could fight with all that was in him--and fight brilliantly--for ideals in which he firmly and honestly believed, but still, at the same time, could be a great and noble character. He himself did not fall prey to the passions of the battlefield and to its contaminating filth and dirt. **He remained always a pure soul that today makes us better people.***

“And he had the perfect lieutenant in Jackson...A strict disciplinarian, who yet had one great support outside of his faith in Lee--his unshakeable faith in his God.

“These two people today are probably more influential than in the days when they led the Confederate armies to so many victories...They hold before us

*a veneration for ideals, a conviction that to rise high in your profession you do not have to surrender principle. You can stand for what you believe...”*²³



English-speaking race. He was talking about the dedication and the obligation of each of us to his country. He said, 'We cannot do more than our duty. We would not wish to do less'.

<http://www.presidency.ucsb.edu/ws/index.php?pid=11371&st=General+Lee&st1=>; Remarks at the Ceremonies Honoring Robert E. Lee at Stratford Hall, Virginia. May 4, 1958.”

²² Dwight D. Eisenhower, *The President's News Conference*, 15 October 1958. Eisenhower was responding to a reporter's question on the criminal bombings of Jewish synagogues and community centers in the western U.S. which were attributed to a group who called themselves the “Confederate Underground”. Eisenhower responded, in part: *“Now, you had certain phrases in your question to which I want to avert. You said these people described themselves as part of the Confederate underground. From babyhood I was raised to respect the word “Confederate”--very highly, I might add--and for hoodlums such as these to describe themselves as any part or any relation to the Confederacy of the mid-19th century is, to my mind, a complete insult to the word. Indeed, they should be described as nothing but Al Capones and Babyface Nelsons and that kind of hoodlum.”*

²³ Dwight David Eisenhower, *Remarks at the Annual Convention of the United Daughters of the Confederacy*, 10 November 1953. (www.presidency.ucsb.edu <http://www.presidency.ucsb.edu/ws/index.php?pid=9757&st=Confederate&st1=#ixzz1sVshod3p>).

In 1960, a Dr. Leon Scott from New York wrote President Eisenhower a letter saying he did not understand why Eisenhower thought Lee is someone to be emulated.²⁴ Eisenhower responded with a letter, on White House letterhead, as follows:



WORLD WAR II HEROES - French President Charles de Gaulle and U.S. President Eisenhower at Gettysburg

"Dear Dr. Scott:

"Respecting your August 1 inquiry calling attention to my often expressed admiration for General Robert E. Lee, I would say, first, that we need to understand that at the time of the War Between the States the issue of Secession had remained unresolved for more than 70 years.

Men of probity, character, public standing and unquestioned loyalty, both North and South, had disagreed over this issue as a matter of principle from the day our Constitution was adopted.

"General Robert E. Lee was, in my estimation, one of the supremely gifted men produced by our Nation. He believed unswervingly in the Constitutional validity of his cause which until 1865 was still an arguable question in America; he was thoughtful yet demanding of his officers and men, forbearing with captured enemies but ingenious, unrelenting and personally courageous in battle, and never disheartened by a reverse or obstacle. Through all his many trials, he remained selfless almost to a fault and unflinching in his belief in God. Taken altogether, he was noble as a leader and as a man, and unsullied as I read the pages of our history.

*"From deep conviction I simply say this: **a nation of men of Lee's caliber would be unconquerable in spirit and soul.** Indeed, to the degree that present-day American youth will strive to emulate his rare qualities, including his devotion to this land as revealed in his painstaking efforts to help heal the nation's wounds once the bitter struggle was over, we, in our own time of danger in a divided world, will be strengthened and our love of freedom sustained.*

"Such are the reasons that I proudly display the picture of this great American on my office wall.

"Sincerely, Dwight D. Eisenhower²⁵

Eisenhower ended his comments with a salute to the UDC stating, *"I do merely want to say this with all the strength that I have: if you [the UDC] had no other reason for existence except to hold before America the memory, the accomplishments, the characters, the qualities, of these two men, I still think your association would be well worth while."*

²⁴ Dr. Scott was responding to remarks Eisenhower made 27 July 1960 at the Republican National Committee Breakfast in Chicago. He said: "Now, the first thing I should like to do is to mention the great compliment paid to me by Governor Stratton and the people of Illinois in presenting me with this bust of Lincoln. I might tell you that for eight-for seven and a half long years--there have always been in my office four prints. All of us certainly know who they are; four men I admire extravagantly. They are Benjamin franklin, George Washington, Abraham Lincoln and General Lee. I cannot think of any four men whose histories and whose records could do more to inspire anyone to try to do his best."

(<http://www.presidency.ucsb.edu/ws/index.php?pid=11891&st=General+Lee&st1=>).

²⁵ President Eisenhower Explains His High Regard for General Robert E. Lee, 1 August 1960 letter to Dr. Leon W. Scott, a

dentist in New Rochelle, NY. http://georgiaheritagecouncil.org/site2/commentary/Eisehower_letter_Lee080960.html

Let me end however, where we began; with Lee and the ordinary Confederate soldier. During the April 6, 1865 Battle of Sailor's Creek, a Private Samuel Vaughn of Company B, 18th Va Infantry was among those who made his escape from Marshall's Crossroads when Confederate lines collapsed. Vaughn made his way through the woods for several miles eventually reaching his very own home, near the Lockett Farm. He was joyously welcomed by his family and hurried to change into civilian clothes and eat. Afterwards he went to sit on his front porch watching the Union armies pass on their way to the High Bridge, following Lee's Army through Farmville.

A Union officer, capturing straggler Confederates, saw Vaughn and his small children. He recognized in Vaughn the look of a soldier and asked him if the house was his. Vaughn answered 'yes'.

The Union officer then asked Vaughn if he was a Confederate soldier involved in the recent battle, adding quickly, that if Vaughn said 'no', that the Union officer would ride away and say nothing more, but that if he said 'yes', Vaughn would have to submit to captivity, leaving his family to live life as a prisoner of war.

Vaughn, looked about his home and then longingly at the faces of his wife and children. He breathed heavily, sighing and finally turned to the Union officer.

Said, Vaughn, *"For four years I've served with Robert E. Lee. I was in every major battle. I never deserted General Lee and I can't do so now. Yes, I am one of Robert E. Lee's soldiers."*

Vaughn was sent to Point Lookout POW Camp in Maryland returning home in June of that year after several months as a prisoner of war.

This example of a simple soldier in the literal last days of the Army of Northern Virginia exemplifies our heritage of honor, or to reiterate Teddy Roosevelt's words, "*a heritage of honor for the whole country.*"

Lee, Jackson and our Confederate family members not only personify our Southern Military traditions, but are also a proud part of **our American military heritage.** We must do more to educate others to that simple fact.

-End-



National and State Society News

Fly the Colors and Recruit!

The National and State Society MOS&B urge all members to 'fly the colors' during the Sesquicentennial of the American Civil War (or War between the States). The easiest way to do this is through the purchase of an MOS&B 2012 Sesquicentennial Pin or an MOS&B member lapel pin for only \$10.

These pins will generate interest and are an automatic conversation starter on the MOS&B thereby aiding in education (as members talk about the roles, mission and functions of the organization) and in

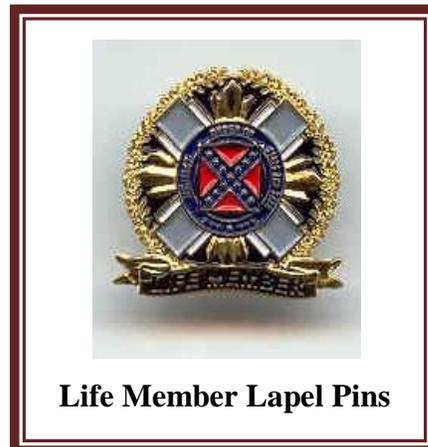


recruiting as people voice interest. Further, these pins reflect our great and noble Southern heritage and are destined to be passed down to your grandchildren.

Order you pins from the MOS&B web store.

(<http://www.militaryorderofthestarsandbars.net/store/>) Your grandchildren will thank you!

The web store offers hats, polo shirts, suspenders, CDs, DVDs, books, ties, gym bags and numerous other items with the MOS&B logo. Support the cause and the organization with your purchases



Attend A Virginia Society Meeting When Traveling!

The Virginia Society MOS&B has several chapters scattered across the Commonwealth which means that, when traveling on vacation or business, you are probably near an MOS&B Chapter where you can attend a meeting, meet old friends and make new ones while learning what that chapter is doing to further the mission of the Military Order of the Stars and Bars in Virginia.

State Chapters are listed below. For more information, visit chapter websites on the Virginia Society website (http://va_society_mosb.tripod.com/) for meeting times. Schedules vary from chapter to chapter.

- General Samuel Cooper Chapter 105, Alexandria (<http://www.generalcooper.com>)
- George E. Pickett Chapter 115, Richmond (<http://www.pickettmosb.org/>)
- Col. Thomas Williamson Chapter 249, Chase City
- MGEN John Bankhead Magruder Chapter 258, Fredericksburg (<http://www.jtdonnelly.com/mosb>)
- Skipwith Dance DeNoon Chapter 260, Powhatan
- Jubal Anderson Early Chapter 277, Hillsville
- Maj. Edgar Burroughs & Princess Anne Cavalry Chapter 281, Virginia Beach
- Immortal 600 Chapter 298, Luray