

# BANNAL AB BRAITHREAN

"Band of Brothers"

Major John Loudermilk Chapter # 264



## Military Order of the Stars and Bars

Issue Ten, Spring 2011

### THE SESQUICENTENNIAL COMMEMORATION

One hundred and fifty years ago Texas, along with other Southern States, voted to secede from the Union. The reasons were varied and the readers of this newsletter know those reasons better than most. This issue and succeeding issues will contain articles relating to that fateful decision and the 1861 to 1865 events that changed our nation forever.

Texas made the decision to secede on February 1, 1861.

On February 1, members of the legislature, and a huge crowd of private citizens, packed the House galleries and balcony to watch the final vote on the question of secession. Seventy "yea" votes were recorded before there was a single "nay."

One of the negative votes is enshrined in Texas history books. James Webb Throckmorton, from Collin County in North Texas, in response to the roar of hisses and boos and catcalls which greeted his decision, retorted "When the rabble hiss, well may patriots tremble." Appreciating his style, the crowd afforded him a grudging round of applause (like many Texans who initially opposed secession, Throckmorton accepted the result and served his state, rising to the rank of brigadier-general in the Confederate army).

The final tally for secession was 166-7, a vote whose legality was upheld by the Texas Legislature on February 7. Other than in South Carolina, where the vote was unanimous, this was the highest percentage of any other state of the Lower South. The decision was further affirmed on February 23 when a statewide referendum resulted in Texas voters approving the measure, 46,129 to 14,697.

For many southerners, the election of Abraham Lincoln in the fall of 1860 was equivalent to a declaration of war on the South. A few, including Texas' aging Governor Sam Houston, argued against secession. They proclaimed the benefits of mediation and compromise. Further, if Texas did separate from the Union, Houston reasoned, she would fare better as an independent republic than as a member of the Confederacy.

The legislature drafted and signed an Ordinance of Secession, which "repealed and annulled" the Texas annexation laws of 1845. The Ordinance of Secession was subsequently approved by popular vote in a statewide election.

As planned, the convention reconvened after the popular election and adopted another ordinance uniting Texas with the Confederacy. Sam Houston subsequently refused to take the oath of allegiance to the newly organized Confederate government. Undaunted, the convention declared the governor's office vacant and administered the governor's oath of office to Edward Clark, who had previously served as lieutenant governor.

A few days before adjourning the fateful convention on March 25, the delegates ratified the Constitution of the Confederate States.

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### Local Reaction to Secession

Counties throughout Texas held elections to vote on the Ordinance of Secession and the Ayes outweighed the Nays in all parts of the state.

The Brownwood Library provides the following article on the Brown County actions and results. Similar activity was probably repeated in most Counties in the state.

### **Brown County in the WBTS**

Brown County citizens were keenly aware of the War, but the actual fighting had little effect on their

lives. Their greatest concern was the roving Indians. At the very first of the war, eight men from Brownwood joined Henry McCullouch's army to take possession of several Forts and posts, including Camp Colorado.

The Texas State Legislature created Brown County on August 17, 1856, just two months after two white families came to this area and settled on the Pecan Bayou. Brown County was one of the sixteen counties created during 1856. Their action was influenced more by a desire to restrain roving Indians than providing a local government. With the creating of new counties, additional military posts were needed. In July of 1856, Camp Colorado was established. Its location was on the Jim Ned Creek in Coleman County, near the Brown county border.

Before the War started, two troops of the second United States Cavalry were stationed at Camp Colorado to protect the settlers from the Indians. The presence of troops however did not stop the Indians from raiding the settlers.

Brown County men went to the voting place, the Welcome W. Chandler home, to cast their votes to reject or accept the Ordinance of Secession on February 23, 1861.

This was the date for all Texans to vote on the issue. The Brown County vote was 75 for and none against. The Confederate flag was raised at the Brownwood post office, which was the Chandler home.

All of the eligible Brown County men must have voted that day. The United States census of 1860 showed 244 people were living in the county but women and children could not vote; only men ages 21 and up could legally vote.

Henry E. McCulloch, a Texas Ranger and a military man who was in a number of Indian campaigns was appointed by the Texas Safety committee to head up an armed force to take possession of Texas military posts, including Camp Colorado. McCulloch enlisted men from Austin, Belton, Gatesville, and Brownwood. He arrived in Brownwood on February 17th and stayed four days. Eight men from Brownwood joined his forces. The names of the men whose record exists were George H. Adams, A. E. Adams, F. A. Baugh, George Isaacs, and Brooks Lee. On Feb. 22nd, the day before the election, McCulloch left Brownwood with 200 enlistees.

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## GENERAL BENNING



Henry L. Benning

Brig. Gen. Henry L. Benning attracted little attention during the war. A Georgia attorney and state Supreme Court justice with no military training, he enlisted on August 15, 1861, as a colonel and gradually rose in rank. He surrendered and was paroled at Appomattox, then returned to Georgia to resume his law practice. Benning would be all but forgotten today, except for Fort Benning at Columbus, Georgia, where the U.S. Army maintains the "world's largest training program for infantrymen."

## SCENES FROM THE WAR



Grant HQ at City Point



Georgetown



Fort Sumter



Gettysburg Address

**NOW THAT THE WAR IS THROUGH**

*By Donald Keith Patterson, Sr.*

**While standing in line at Appromattox  
I felt suddenly vulnerable and weak  
And as reality settled upon me  
Hot tears ran down my cheek,  
A tired old Union soldier  
In his tattered coat of blue  
Looked at me and said, "This War is  
over son, So what is wrong with you?"**

**I could not believe such a question  
Coming from this man,  
So I looked him right in the eyes  
And I said, "You don't understand,  
Has an army ever invaded your  
homeland  
And destroyed your family and  
home?  
Will you go home only to find  
Everything is totally gone?"**

**"The fields you plowed in the spring  
To raise your crops for fall,  
How would you like to go home, Sir,  
And find you lost it all?  
So, unless you've lost everything  
And your loss is truly real,  
How could you hope to understand!  
The way I now feel?"**

**"Go lay down your weapons  
And surrender your flag and then,  
Burn your houses and your fields  
And rape and pillage your land,  
Let someone kill your family and  
friends  
Until no one is left but you  
Now, tell me, Sir, how does it feel  
Now that the War is through?"**

**Trivia # 1**

1. Who was the father of Harvard graduate Will H. (Rooney) Lee, who became a major general after being captured?
2. Because of his treatment of civilians, by what name was Maj. Gen. Benjamin F. Butler, federal military governor of Louisiana, known for the rest of his career?
3. After Shiloh, which Union general did Gov. David Todd of Ohio want court-martialed?
4. What serious health problem was suffered by Edwin m. Stanton, U. S. Secretary of War?

***Special MOS&B Offer for Discounted,  
Signed Civil War Books!***

The Military Order of the Stars and Bars has teamed up with Savas Beatie publishing to provide members with a special offer. Any member who orders a Savas Beatie book (through the website [www.savasbeatie.com](http://www.savasbeatie.com) using PayPal, or by placing an order using phone, fax, or mail) and references the coupon code "MOSB" will receive FREE SHIPPING and a MOS&B-personalized bookplate autographed by the author. Browse titles at [www.savasbeatie.com](http://www.savasbeatie.com) Phone: 916-941-6896. Fax: 916-941-6895 Email: [sales@savasbeatie.com](mailto:sales@savasbeatie.com) Mailing address: Savas Beatie, PO Box 4527, El Dorado Hills, CA 95762. Members who order through the Savas Beatie website using PayPal will receive a refund on the ship charge directly to their PayPal account within one business day. Members who pay with a credit card, check, or money order will only be charged for the retail price of the book. The order must be shipped to a United States mailing address.

## The "Slow" General



George B. McClellan

Admirers said the young Napoleon was a good title for George B. McClellan. Union cavalry swore by the handsome fellow who had invented the saddle in which they rode to battle; infantrymen believed in him fervently. Because he had a severe case of what Abraham Lincoln called "the slows," McClellan was not an outstanding commander. He opposed emancipation of slaves and, as Democratic nominee for the presidency in 1864, might have defeated Abraham Lincoln had it not been for Sherman's capture of Atlanta.

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### New Service Offered To MOS&B Members

MOS&B members now have access to the genealogy of five of the Confederate leaders. This data can be used to trace your own ancestry back to one of more of these heroes. The following article by AG Turk explains the details of the program and members are encouraged to take advantage of the work he has done to develop this information.

## COLLATERALS

By Adjutant General Toni Turk

The *Military Order of the Stars and Bars* accepts collateral relationships for membership in the Order. Many are descended from an eligible collateral ancestor, but are unaware of the tie. A database of the ancestries of five Confederate notables through their fourth great-grandparents has been developed to assist in the identifying of such ancestors. The notables are President Jefferson Davis and Generals Robert E. Lee, Stonewall Jackson, Nathan Bedford Forrest, and JEB Stuart. Interested applicants, or those seeking to add a supplemental ancestor to their membership, are invited to compare the eligible ancestors in the following linked file with their own pedigrees. Where accepted relationships are identified, it will only be necessary to prove a link to such an ancestor not the complete details back to the key relative. Supplemental membership will be recorded for the applicant in the membership files and a separate certificate issued for a \$20 payment. Please forward the supplemental application and your check for \$20 to: MOS&B IHQ PO Box 1700 White House, TN 37188-1700. The Collaterals online database can be accessed on our new website at: <http://www.militaryorderofthestarsandbars.org/programs-services/collaterals/>.

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## Remembering Our Ancestors

### James Monroe Lindsey

James Monroe Lindsey was born the 30th of December 1829 in Newton County, Georgia. He was the third of twenty-four children. He moved with his father's family to Coosa County Alabama when about fourteen years of age. He was of Scottish descent and spoke with a thick brogue. James was nineteen years old when he married Mary Sarah Ann Little the 11th of October 1849. Sarah was 17.

The first two of their nine children were born in Coosa County, Alabama, probably near the home place where James was reared. They then moved to Hillsboro (later named Helena) Shelby County, Alabama. Here James bought one thousand sixty acres of land along the Cahaba River and Buzzard Creek. They lived in a two room log cabin in the bend of the Cahaba for several years. Back of this two room house was a separate kitchen, built away from the main house as was the custom.

On the 23rd of December 1863, James enlisted for service in the Civil War - at the age of thirty four years. He was a private in Company D., 10th Alabama Infantry and was present at the battle of Spotsylvania Court House, Virginia on the 12th of May 1864. Never were his memories of that battle to be dimmed: He recalled how they heard that Yankee Band playing all through the night:

*"It was like a funeral: It made us feel so sad and forlorn -like a lost soul, we couldn't sleep. Before daylight, the fighting started and oh! what a fight that was. It was still dark and foggy and we couldn't see anything for hours. They killed so many of our men that the trenches filled up and we had to pick up their bodies and stack them in piles behind the trenches, soon they would fill up again. Later in the day it started raining. It rained so hard the water ran deep in our trenches and it was red with*

*blood. We were wet through and through with the rain and mud and blood. We could hardly stand up for the slippery mud and would trip and fall over the bodies of the dead boys. They nearly whipped us that day. We fought hard all day long and all the next night without rest or sleep or food. Never have I seen so much blood. We were dug in and fighting in a sort of half circle." (Later it was called "the bloody angle").*

**During the war, communications were slow and James' family seldom heard from him; however, the few letters that reached them were received with thanksgiving. Copies of two of those letters, now in possession of his great-grandchildren, are given here wherein he conveys his love for his children and talks about his physical condition during that time.**

*John T. Lindsey;*

*My dear son,  
I seat myself to drop you a few lines to inform you that I am well. Hoping that these lines may reach you and find you well and doing well, Johnnie.*

*I received a letter from you a few days ago, I was much pleased to get a letter from you my dear boy. I'm mighty sorry I can't be with you yet. But I hope the time is nigh by when I can be with you. You must do the best you can for yourself and be a good boy, and try to instruct your little brothers and sisters like-wise. And I hope to meet you on earth again Johnnie, but if we don't meet in this world any more, let us try to be prepared to meet in another one.*

*Johnnie, tell Mrs. Jordan and her children howdy for me; tell her to write me.*

*Nothing more this time. Goodbye my son, oh may the Lord bless you is my prayer.*

*James Lindsey*

**This letter to his daughter, his sister and his wife's sister, who was living in his home.**

*I seat myself to write you a few lines to inform you I am well and hoping they may reach you and find you in the best of health. My dear girls I would like to write something that would interest you, but I am in no condition to interest you. All I say is I want you to live right and do the best you can. Study and try to instruct my little ones the best you can.*

*Girls, I need some socks. I hate to tell you my condition about clothing and rations but if I live to come home I will tell you about them. I have no socks only an old pair Mr. Robison gave me two nights ago when I came off the picket wet and muddy all over. If I were to tell you all I know it would break your heart. I have been hacked about until I have become used to it. Can't write any more this time. I hope the Lord blesses you all. Goodbye.*

James Lindsey

**Records in the Montgomery, Alabama library state that James had arrived in Hanover Junction, Virginia beside the North Anna River by the 25th of May 1864, and that he was in the battle that occurred there from the 29th to the 31st of May 1864.**

**James was also in action in the Battle of Turkey Ridge, Virginia from June 3rd to 12th in 1864. Turkey Hill overlooks the Chickahominy Valley, and was a place greatly desired by both Armies. It was here James fought through the second Battle of Cold Harbor. It was a day of cold drizzling rain and vicious fighting when the dead and injured fell upon one another for miles along the front. The last pay James received was issued immediately after this battle, June 20, 1864, by Major Pierce. His services thereafter were without pay. James was in the Brigade Hospital for some time. His brother-in-law, A.T. Fleming, wrote home in August 1864, that James was still in the hospital and had been very sick but was improving.**

**James told many stories of his War experiences. Among them were the following:**

**One afternoon when things had taken a turn for the worse, he stood outside the cavalry horse lot and watched the cavalryman feed dry corn to the horses. One infantryman asked for some of the corn to eat. A cavalryman tossed several ears of corn over the fence to them and they built a fire, parched the corn and James said he believed he ate a dozen ears without stopping.**

**Another time James was in battle for several days and felt he was starving. He had a small piece of side meat and hard corn pone in his pocket. He found a stalk of poke that had run up to seed. He built a fire and started to cook the side meat and poke. The Yankees started shooting into the fire and scattered the ashes in his pan. He was told he must put out the fire or would probably be shot. He said he would as soon be shot as starve to death and continued his cooking!**

**While James was away in the War, Sarah found it difficult indeed to feed her five children but tried to eke out a living from the farm, and always in fear of the soldiers. As they gathered their corn, they put it in sacks which they hung from the ceiling near the window in the bedroom for they feared it would be stolen or burned in the barn. When they believed the way to be clear of Union soldiers, the boys took the corn to mill to be ground. Many times they ate hominy for bread when they couldn't get to the mill. Of course the people were all in constant fear of the enemy.**

**One afternoon, Sarah and the children were in the barn shucking corn. One child looked out the door and yelled (as a joke) "The Yanks are coming". The smaller children were frightened and started trying to climb the corn pile, some trying to hide in the corn. Four year old William Jasper grabbed a red handled curry comb belonging to his father and hid it in a hollow stump. Children had few toys then**

and Billie prized this curry comb and played with it constantly. The Yanks did come before night. They took Johnnie's gun (his father had left one for him), and wrapped the barrel around a tree. Sarah did her own spinning and weaving. She had made a new uniform and underwear for James. She had hidden them and the only picture she had of James under the mattress. She had also tried to hide some food. The Union soldiers found the food, clothing and picture. They took the new clothes and the food, tore the picture in half and threw it on the floor. They then rode through Sarah's kitchen on their horses, destroying everything in sight. As they left they look with them James' finest stud horse, a big black stallion. Sarah took it from the pasture and penned it near the house several days previously as she knew the soldiers were near and feared they might take him. As they took the horse away, Sarah stood at the window watching as long as she could see them. He tossed his mane, kicked up his heels, then reared up and walked on his hind legs for a long way. This time the Yanks got the corn she had ready for the mill. She had not been able to have it ground because the Yankees were near and she feared they might harm the boys if she sent them out alone - but they didn't get little Billie's red handled curry comb.

James was with General Lee when he surrendered at Appomatox Court House on April 9, 1865. His name appears on a list of one thousand, six hundred and fourteen Confederate Prisoners of War paroled at Burksville Junction, Virginia on the 14<sup>th</sup> to the 17<sup>th</sup> of April, 1865. When James was paroled, he started home from Virginia to Alabama - walking - with his gun and everything he had over his shoulder. He'd had no pay for ten months, no food and little chance of getting any, as was the circumstances of a great many of his southern fellowmen along the homeward route. Once, when so very hungry he felt he could go no further without food, James used one of his few shells to kill a crow. He saw a Negro woman near a log cabin and

asked her to cook it for him. She did, and he ate it.

During the war James was fighting in Virginia and his farm was in Alabama. When his family heard the war was over, of course they began hoping for his return, but he had to walk the entire way. Three months passed and Sarah had decided that James had been killed.

When he did come home, Sarah was in the garden digging potatoes. She had filled her basket and lifted it upon her shoulder, bending forward under its weight and started to the house. Someone called to her, and she knew immediately it was James' voice. Raising up and removing her sunbonnet, she saw him sitting in a chair in the shade of the house leaning against the wall. She dropped her basket of potatoes, ran to him and fell across his lap. Thus ended James Monroe Lindsey's participation in the War.

James Monroe Lindsey is the great-grand uncle of your editor.

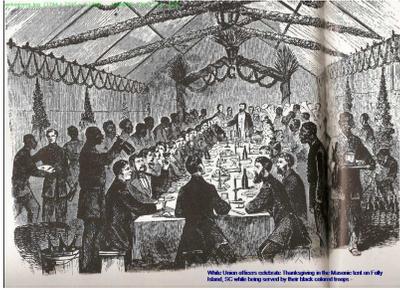
We solicit more stories from our Chapter members. They can be long or short, unedited or complete. Please share your ancestor stories with us.



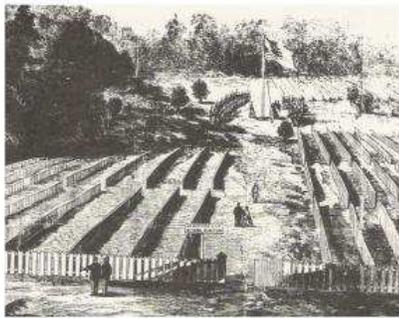
James Monroe and Sarah (Little) Lindsey  
And Their Children



## MORE SCENES FROM THE WAR



**Maine White Officers Celebrate Thanksgiving  
At Folly Island SC  
While Being Served By Their Black Troops**



**Andersonville**



**Entrance to Mine at Petersburg**



**Graves at Burnside Bridge**

## Trivia # 2

5. Based in Virginia, Capt. E. Porter Alexander was in charge of what special reconnaissance missions for the Confederacy in 1861-62?
6. What physician-inventor devised a weapon for the Union army that was the prototype of the machine gun?
7. What important military message was found by the enemy after being used as a wrapper for cigars?
8. How many transportation units did C.S.A. General John Morgan confiscate during a raid on Lexington Kentucky?

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## Arkansas in the War

**Our sister state also faced the prospects of secession and all that it meant at about the same time as Texas.**

**The following is a brief article about what was occurring in Arkansas 150 years ago.**

As tension over states' rights and slavery grew, Arkansas aligned itself with the South, and in February 1861 state officers took over the Federal arsenal at Little Rock. However, a convention in March 1861 voted against secession, hoping the differences between North and South might be resolved without bloodshed but vehemently opposing coercion of the seceding states.

Then came April 12-14. Fort Sumter was bombarded and captured by Confederates, Lincoln asked for 75,000 volunteers to put down the rebellion, and Arkansas called a second convention. On May 5 they passed, with only one adverse vote, a secession ordinance joining the state to the Confederacy.

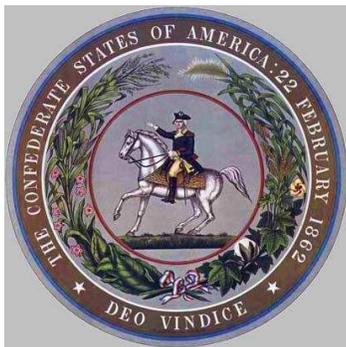
Arkansas Gov. Henry M. Rector had already replied to Lincoln's call for volunteers:

*In answer to your requisition of troops from Arkansas to subjugate the Southern States, I have to say that none will be furnished. The demand is only adding insult to injury. The people of this commonwealth are freemen, not slaves, and will defend to the last extremity their honor, lives, and property against Northern mendacity and usurpation.*

Arkansas troops fought in Virginia, Kentucky, and Missouri, as well as in their home state; in northwest Arkansas Confederates were defeated in the bloody Battle of Pea Ridge in March 1862.

In 1863 the Confederate state government was forced from Little Rock southwest to Washington, Arkansas, and early the next year Union sympathizers from twenty-three counties met in Little Rock, wrote a Unionist constitution, and set up their own government. For the rest of the war Arkansas had two governments, one giving allegiance to the North, the other to the South, the dividing line roughly following the Arkansas River for the rest of the war.

Arkansas furnished seventy different military organizations to the Confederate army and seventeen to the Federals. Records of losses are incomplete, but at least 3,080 Arkansans in the Confederate service were killed in action or died of wounds.



## Chapter Commander's Report

Gentlemen,

The sesquicentennial remembrance of the War Between the States is well underway. In February 1861, many important steps were taken in Texas and in the Confederacy. Notably, Texas officially seceded from the Union, the first provisional Confederate Congress convened and Jefferson Davis was inaugurated as President of the CSA. The new country was beginning to take shape. There were many Southerners and Northerners in early 1861 that still believed war could be avoided and the States could peaceably separate. All thoughts of avoiding war would soon pass as Federal troops refused to leave Southern soil. In April 1861, all eyes turned to Fort Sumter.

I see and hear very little mention of these historic dates and events on national television, radio or print media. This is one of the reasons that organizations like ours are so important. There are those that wish to forget the war entirely, and those that want life to be simple by brushing aside the war as "a war to free the slaves and the good guys won". I have quoted our MOSB Pledge here before, but now it seems more important than ever. "... to perpetuate the true history of their deeds for the edification of ourselves, our society and for generations yet unborn." A lot of thought went into those words and I cannot and would not try to improve on them.

I heard it said recently that we should say, "The Civil War is..." not "The Civil War was...". As in, "The Civil War is one of the most important chapters in American history" This is good advice and helps keep the history alive.

Along those lines, I also recommend using the grammatically correct, "The United States are..." in place of the more common "The United States is...". It was at the end of the WBTS that "is" became acceptable.

The MOSB Pledge also says, “ ... in the cause of fundamental American principles of self determination and states’ rights...”. We are a group of united states; therefore we are, not is.

Don’t forget the Texas Society Convention coming up April 29<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup> in Brownwood. You should be receiving (or already received) your registration form in the Clarion Call. If you don’t get a form let me know. I sure would like to see everyone there.

God Bless and  
Keep the Truth Alive

Gary L. Loudermilk  
Commander Chapter 264



Trivia Answers

1. Gen. Robert E. Lee.
2. “Beast.”
3. U. S. Grant.
4. Asthma.
5. Aerial observation with a gas filled silk balloon.
6. Dr. Richard J. Gatling.
7. Lee’s General Order No. 191
8. Seven thousand horses.



**DEO VINDICE**

**BANNAL AB BRAITHREAN** (*Band of Brothers*) is a newsletter published of and for the Major John Loudermilk Chapter # 264 of the Military Order of the Stars and Bars. It is published electronically and issued seasonally. Comments, suggestions or questions may be sent to the Editor, Gary M. Loudermilk, at [gmlhdl@harrisbb.com](mailto:gmlhdl@harrisbb.com). Winner of the Captain John Morton Award for Best Chapter Newsletter, 2009 & 2010

Military Order of the Stars  
and Bars Benediction

Leader: I asked God for strength, that I might achieve,  
Members: I was made weak, that I might learn humbly to obey.  
Leader: I asked for health, that I might do greater things,  
Members: I was given infirmity that I might do better things.  
Leader: I asked for riches, that I might be happy,  
Members: I was given poverty, that I might be wise.  
Leader: I asked for power, that I might have the praise of men,  
Members: I was given weakness, that I might feel the need of God.  
Leader: I asked for all things, that I might enjoy life,  
Members: I was given life, that I might enjoy all things.  
Leader: I got nothing that I asked for – but everything I had hoped for.  
Members: Almost despite myself my unspoken prayers were answered.  
ALL: I am, among all men, most richly blessed.  
*Prayer of an Unknown Confederate Soldier*  
Found on his body in the “Devil’s Den” at Gettysburg