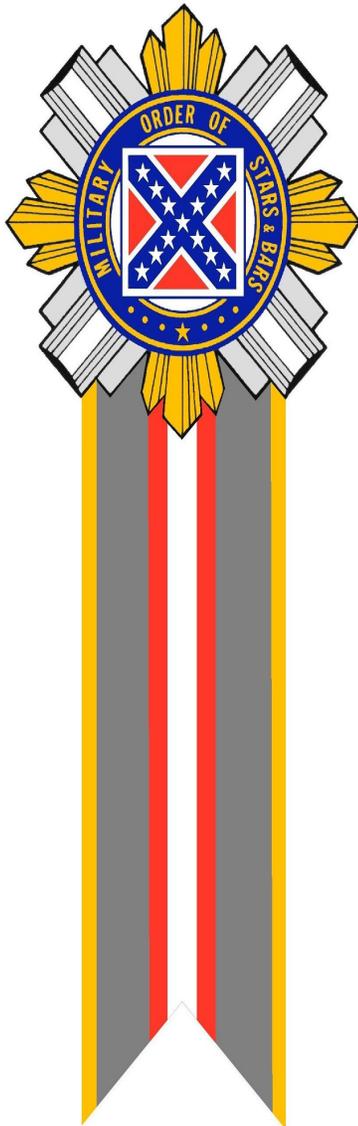


MILITARY ORDER of the STARS & BARS

Officer's Call

Volume 1, Number 2

July 2009



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HIGHLIGHTS OF THE 72ND ANNUAL CONVENTION

This year was not an election year so the business of the convention focused on the future of the business office in Daphne, amendments to the Constitution and By-Laws, the status of the IRS issues evolving for the failure to file the Form 990 since 2002, the report of the Treasurer General and the recommendation that we conduct an independent audit of our accounting records to establish a good beginning and allow us to carry the accounting forward. The time and place committee announced that the next convention will be held in Oklahoma City 6-8 May 2010 and following that on 14-16 July 2011 in Jacksonville, FL.

Just before the end of the convention, it was learned that the IRS had dropped the fines levied against us. We are awaiting written confirmation of this.

Outside of the business meetings, the SC Society hosted a cookout at the Saluda Shoals Park

with a presentation by Dr. Jon Leader, the SC State Archeologist on the Confederate graves found under the football stadium at the Citadel University in Charleston and a boat ride on Lake Murray. Tours were given of Columbia, the Confederate Relic Room and Military Museum. The high point of the convention was the Banquet and Ball on Saturday evening.

At the Awards Luncheon, Dr. Anthony Hodges, Commander General, gave awards to Lt. Commander General Max Waldrop, Robert E. Lee Chalice; Randy Kerlin, Toni Turk, and Ben Willingham, Distinguished Commander Service Award; Col. Barton Campbell, Dr. Richard Rhone, and David Whitaker, Gold Star Awards; members of the state chapters for meritorious service, leadership abilities, and recruitment activities. Dr. Eric Emerson, director of the Charleston Library Society, was presented with the Henry Timrod Southern Culture Award for his book, Sons of Privilege: The Charleston Light.

A special thanks goes out to Steven Wolfe, the commander of the South Carolina Society who organizer of the event.

DISPATCH FROM THE COMMANDER GENERAL

Compatriots of the Military Order of the Stars and Bars:

I hope you enjoy this first issue of the "online" OFFICER'S CALL. It has been too long since an issue of the newsletter went out to the membership and this online version is an effort to correct that situation. The Order is deeply indebted to Jeff Sizemore of the Florida Society for taking the job as editor of the OFFICER'S CALL. Please send any future chapter or society news you would like to share to Editor Sizemore for inclusion in future issues.

I have just returned from Columbia, South Carolina, where Commander Steve Wolfe and the men of the South Carolina Society hosted our seventy-second annual reunion and convention. They had prepared an outstanding program of historical and social activities and are to be commended for the excellent result. 76 members (exclusive of family) representing sixteen state societies of the Order met in Columbia for fun and fellowship, but most importantly, to help the Order resolve some important issues that will affect the future path of the organization.

For those of you who read my annual report, you will remember that the MOS&B had failed to file its annual information return (IRS Form 990) with the Internal Revenue Service for the previous six years and faced a penalty of thirty thousand dollars for this failure. Much of the last year has been spent correcting this longstanding problem by reconstructing records and filing all overdue returns. I am happy to report, that it appears the IRS will be forgiving this thirty thousand dollar penalty based on the excellent appeal written by Judge Advocate General Dick Knight. We were informed of the success of our appeal by the IRS via telephone while in Columbia and we await official written confirmation from them. The Order owes a deep debt of gratitude to PCG/Comptroller General Albert Jones and JAG Dick Knight for their hours of work in correcting this important matter.

The other major issue facing the delegates to the Columbia convention was our headquarters. Also noted in my annual report was the fact that the MOS&B was spending more money on our operations than we took in, a situation which required immediate correction. Three options were considered in Columbia and an all volunteer option was chosen. Lieutenant Commander Max Waldrop will be overseeing our headquarters operations and a letter with some details from Lt. Commander Waldrop is elsewhere in this issue.

It is important to note that we will be closing our headquarters in Daphne. We will be maintaining toll free phone lines and email communications while we close the physical facility in Daphne. Please be patient as we make this transition and rest assured, Commander Waldrop and the staff will do all humanly possible to make sure this transition is as smooth as possible. Please note that any mail intended for the MOS&B HQ should now go to the Tennessee address in Commander Waldrop's letter.

It is hoped these fiscally responsible changes to our operations will allow us the latitude to once again provide the basic membership services, such as a newsletter, that members of the Order should expect. I appreciate your patience as we make these changes and again, when we hit the inevitable "potholes" along the way. We are undertaking this task to make the organization more financially viable which in turn allows us to carry out the real mission of the Order as the founders intended, memorializing and commemorating the men of the Confederate Officers Corps and Civil Government.

I deeply appreciate those at the chapter and society level who have carried on the real mission of the Order while those of us at the national level dealt with these business related problems. I look forward to working with each of you as we preserve the history of the Confederacy.

Respectfully submitted,

Anthony Hodges

Commander General

Military Order of the Stars and Bars

FROM THE LT. COMMANDER GENERAL

Compatriots of the Military Order of the Stars and Bars –

The General Executive Council met on June 11, 2009 to review matters of the Order prior to the commencement of the 2009 Annual Convention in Columbia, South Carolina.

A major topic that was discussed was the economic need to decentralize the operations of our International Headquarters. As stated in Commander General Hodge's Annual Report dated May 15, 2009 our Headquarters operations requires more money to function than we receive in revenues. The GEC met on December 04, 2008 and approved a \$49,700 CY 2009 budget. In order to balance this budget it was anticipated that a \$14,200 withdrawal from our investments would be necessary during the year. Of this \$49,700 overall budget, our Headquarters operation was reduced to a minimum level of \$28,550 which primarily consists of wages and salary, license fees, insurance, rent, and utilities.

Three proposals were brought to the GEC meeting on June 11, 2009. The first option was to keep Headquarters in Daphne as a **status quo operation**, the second option was for the **hiring of a paid Executive Director** operating out of his NC residence for an annual fee of \$18,000, and the third option was to use the General Staff as an **all volunteer operation** to manage our Headquarters operation and to meet the daily requirements of our membership.

The GEC voted on the third option. The planning and initial steps required to implement the GEC decision has been taken this past week. To contact Headquarters now and in the future, please use the following immediately:

Our toll free number is [877-790-6672](tel:877-790-6672)

Our email address is headquarters@mosbihq.org

Our US Postal Service address is:

MOSB IHQ

P. O. Box 1700

White House, TN 37188-1700

It is anticipated that by adopting this decentralized model, we will save on an annual basis a minimum of \$28,000. This savings can be redirected to our investments, used for special projects that support our objectives, and ultimately used to fund a permanent headquarters as our membership expands.

Should you experience any problems or have questions, please do not hesitate to contact your Staff.

Max L. Waldrop, Jr.
Lt Commander General
Chairman of the Headquarters Operations Committee





**HISTORY OF THE
GENERAL JOSIAH GORGAS
CHAPTER #299
ALABAMA SOCIETY
MILITARY ORDER OF THE STARS
AND BARS**

The Gorgas Chapter is named in honor of General Josiah Gorgas, a Confederate Patriot and major player during the War Between the States. General Gorgas was born on July 1, 1818 in Dauphin Co., PA and was given an appointment to West Point where he graduated sixth in his class in 1841. He served for 20 years in the Ordnance Service of the U.S. Army until he resigned in April of 1861 after which he was appointed Chief of Ordnance for the Confederate Government. At the outbreak of the War Between the States, the South had few modern weapons and virtually no manufacturing facilities for making them. An extraordinary administrator, Gorgas, by 1863, had several factories producing weapons, mills making powder, and mines supplying needed raw materials. Despite constant financial and political problems, Gorgas kept the Confederate Ordnance Service running at high efficiency. In recognition of his ability, Gorgas rose from Major to Lieutenant Colonel to Colonel to Brigadier General by the end of the war. From 1865 to 1869 Gorgas managed an Alabama ironworks. He then joined the teaching staff of the University of the South in Tennessee where he became Vice-Chancellor in 1872. In 1878 he was selected as President of the University of Alabama but resigned a year later because of

ill health. He died on May 15, 1883 in Tuscaloosa, AL and is buried there in Evergreen Cemetery.

The organizational meeting for the chapter was held at 2:00 pm on Sunday, March 3, 2006 at the Dockery Museum, 2220 LaVera Drive, Tuscaloosa, Alabama 35404. Fourteen people attended the meeting and voted to establish the chapter. Several names were suggested for the chapter but, when the vote was taken, twelve people voted to name the chapter after General Josiah Gorgas. The election of the first officers for the chapter resulted in Mr. Walter Dockery being elected as Commander, Dr. John Fleming elected as 1st Lieutenant Commander, and Dr. Samuel Gambrell, Jr. elected as Adjutant. Chapter meetings were set to be held on the third Tuesday of each month and annual chapter dues were set at \$25.00 per year. Initially, nine members transferred to the Gorgas Chapter from other chapters. Two more members transferred later from other chapters and twelve members joined making a total of twenty three charter members received during the first year of the chapter's existence. The charter members are John W. Adkison, Starkey E. Armistead, James K. Barksdale, Paul W. Bryant Jr., John W. Coleman Jr., Burton K. Curry, Frank Delbridge Jr., Walter E. Dockery, James D. Dunn, Joe A. Eady, John L. Fleming, Samuel C. Gambrell, Jr., Eugene G. Gravlee, Wiley D. Hales, Hampton E. Stewart Jr., Winfield S. Hughes Jr., Hugh D. McDaniel, Richard K. McLain, Thornton L. Neathery, Daryl C. Patterson, James F. Preskitt III, Norman G. Preskitt, and Richard W. Rhone. To date, two additional transfers, seven new members who joined, and one resignation have brought the membership total to thirty-one.

Chapter members have chosen to emphasize K through 12 education and grave marking and restoration as major objectives. The chapter has a project each Christmas of placing wreaths on the graves of Confederate soldiers buried in various cemeteries in the area and placing a wreath on the large Confederate monument in Greenwood cemetery. The graves of General Gorgas and his wife are especially marked. Speakers are scheduled at chapter meetings each month, except for November and December, and usually present talks dealing with subjects relating to the War Between the States or other historical subjects. Members of the chapter have presented many of the programs given to date.

The chapter is a proud sponsor of the 5th Alabama

Infantry Regiment Band, an outstanding group of musicians which has played at many activities in Alabama and in several other states. Because of its outstanding performances and reputation, the band was invited to play at the National MOS&B Convention in Mobile AL and at the parade and memorial services for the crew of the Confederate submarine Hunley. The band was THE ONLY band invited to play for those events held in Charleston, SC.

The chartering ceremony for the Gorgas Chapter was held on July 18, 2006 in the Gorgas House, the former home of General Gorgas and his family which was constructed in 1829 and is located on the campus of the University of Alabama. Dr. Sarah Wiggins, a noted historian on the life of General Gorgas, gave the principal address followed by a presentation and tour of the house by Mr. Marion Pearson, Curator of the Gorgas House. Mr. Pearson gave an interesting talk on the activities and tenure of General Gorgas when he was President of the University of Alabama. Mr. Alan Dismukes, then Commander of the Graham Daves Society of Alabama, presented the chartering document to Mr. Walter Dockery, then Commander of the Gorgas Chapter. The chapter's chartering document has been presented to Mr. Pearson and will hang permanently in a conspicuous place on the wall in the Gorgas House, a fitting memorial for an adopted son of Alabama who did so much for his country and gave so much of himself as the Chief of Ordnance for the Confederacy.

Since its organization, members of the Gorgas Chapter have participated in activities including: obtained their chapter's flag made by Mrs. Walter Dockery; hosted the presentation by then MOS&B Commander General Philip Law of the General Basil Duke Award to the University of Alabama Press for republication of historic books; hosted the presentation by then MOS&B Commander General Philip Law of the John Esten Cooke Award to Julia Oliver of Montgomery for her book "Devotions"; placed a Christmas wreath each year at the graves of General Gorgas and his wife in Evergreen Cemetery in Tuscaloosa and at graves of other Confederate soldiers buried in the area; attended two annual meetings of the then Major Graham Daves Society of Alabama at Mountain Creek, Alabama and provided lunch for the group in 2007; replaced the grave marker in Greenwood Cemetery in Tuscaloosa for Sallie Ann Swoope, a nurse for the 11th Alabama; restored the grave site and markers for Capt. Benjamin Eddins (the only Confederate soldier killed in the Battle of Tuscaloosa in

April, 1865) and his daughter in Greenwood Cemetery; and installed a grave marker for an unknown Confederate soldier buried in the Evans cemetery at Vance, AL. An impressive ceremony was held at Vance which involved twelve members of the Gorgas Chapter, members of the Vance community, members of Selden's Battery re-enactors, the 5th Alabama Infantry Regiment Band, and several members of the General R. E. Rodes Camp #262, SCV.

During the chapter's first year, two members received awards at the MOS&B national convention in Mobile, AL. Then Commander Walter Dockery received the John Pelham Medal and both Commander Dockery and then 1st Lieutenant Commander John Fleming received Meritorious Service Medals.

Submitted by: Walter Dockery (Founding Commander), Sam Gambrell, Jr. (Adjutant)

BEAUVOIR MOVES AHEAD

Progress continues with the recovery from the devastation of the storm damages at Beauvoir, President Davis's home in Biloxi, Mississippi. The art restoration in the home is 90% finished. The faux oak finish on the doors adds beauty to everything. The fresco art has been finished in the Reception Hall, Front Parlor, and Library Room. Application of faux marble finish to the fireplace mantles begins shortly. Work continues on cleaning and restoring the grounds.

SUBMITTAL ENTRIES

The Military Order of the Stars and Bars Officer's Call Newsletter is published six times annually and news copy need to be submitted via e-mail to Editor@mosbfl.org on or before the 15th day of the preceding month. Pictures are welcome. Please submit articles in Microsoft Word format or as plain text in your e-mail. It will be most appreciated that a copy of the MOS&B chapters newsletters; as well as, the MOS&B State Society newsletters also be sent to the e-mail above. Thanks!!

FROM CHAPLAIN-GENERAL WALTER M BLACKMAN

In studying the War of Northern Aggression, or War Between the States, one could easily identify with the opening words of Charles Dickens' *A Tale of Two Cities*, "It was the best of times, it was the worst of times," especially in the South. Early in the war, the Southern armies were not as well supported by "organized religion" as the Northern armies with the establishment of the U.S. Christian Commission. Fortunately, many of the members of the Confederate officer corps were men of faith, and they actively encouraged the spreading of the Gospel throughout the troops. From the beginning of the war, chaplains complained that camp life was infested with gambling, profanity, and drunkenness.

The early sowing of the Gospel through the army by the distribution of tracts, Bibles, and other religious literature began to reap a great harvest of souls beginning in 1863 in what can only be described as a "Great Revival." A great many of the South's leading officers accepted Christ as their personal Lord and Savior and were saved and baptized, setting the example for a great many of the Confederate soldiers who also made personal commitments to Christ during the same period.

It is estimated that as many as 100,000 Confederate soldiers professed Christ during the Great Revival. Among the notable converts was Gen. John Hood. He was baptized in the fall of 1864 after having one of his legs amputated and losing the use of one of his arms. One of the great Christian generals, Leonidas Polk, who was also a Bishop, performed Gen. Hood's baptism. In fact, Gen. Polk also baptized Gen. Joseph E. Johnston and Gen. William Joseph Hardee. Gen. Richard Stoddert Ewell and Gen. Braxton Bragg became believers during the war. Ewell's conversion was so dramatic that his speech, once riddled with foul curse words, was cleaned up. Gen. Bragg became head of a Temperance Society.

As more and more soldiers professed faith in Christ, the camps became the place of reading clubs, where Bibles were passed around and read. "Experience meetings" were commonly seen, as soldiers shared their conversion experience with others. One example of how profoundly the men were changed took place during the Seven Day's campaign. While the soldiers were gathered around praying, they came under fire from the Union troops, but kept their eyes closed until the prayer was concluded.

Author of the great book, *Christ in the Camp*, Dr. J. William Jones, a Confederate chaplain stated that virtually every Confederate brigade was affected and about ten percent of the Army of Northern Virginia received Christ as their personal Lord and Savior and were baptized.

The same great change that took place in the lives of Confederate officers and soldiers during the war through faith in Christ still takes place today in the lives of those who place faith in Christ for salvation.

MOS&B OKLAHOMA SOCIETY ANNOUNCEMENT

It is with extreme pleasure to announce that the Hon. Brad Henry, Governor of the Sovereign State of Oklahoma has signed Senate Substitute Bill 1137 on May 26, 2009. This bill was personally sponsored by Senate Pro Tempore Glenn Coffee and Reps. Banz and McMullen. The Oklahoma Society - MOSB, OKC Civil War Roundtable and the General Stand Watie Society were heavily supporting this legislation which creates the Oklahoma American Civil War Sesquicentennial Commission.

A very special thanks to PCIC Charles Smith for his great assistance at the Oklahoma Legislature.

Source: Jeff Massey, MOSB Oklahoma Society Commander

IMAGES FROM THE 72ND ANNUAL CONVENTION COLUMBIA, SOUTH CAROLINA



Dancing to period music provided by a local group.



Treasurer General Bryan Roehrig being awarded the Commander General's Award by Commander General Anthony Hodges



Georgia Society Commander David Denard being Awarded the Commander General's Award by Commander General Anthony Hodges



Genealogist General Randy Kerlin being awarded the Distinguished Commander Service Award by Commander General Anthony Hodges



Judge Advocate General Richard Knight being awarded the Commander General's Award by Commander General Anthony Hodges



Adjutant General Dr. Toni Turk being awarded the Commander General's award by Commander General Anthony Hodges.



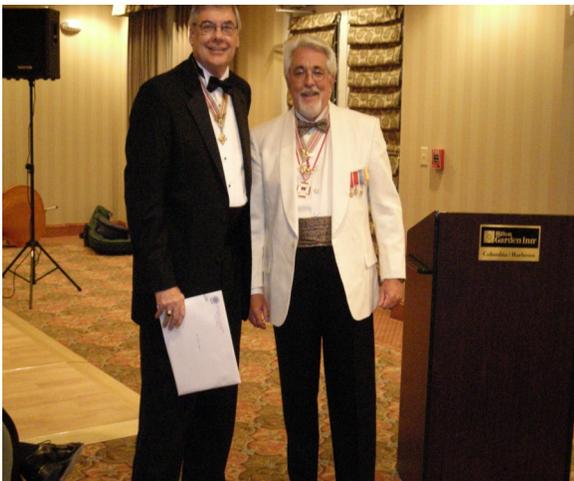
Lt. Commander General Max Waldrop at the banquet with his mother, Mrs. Waldrop.



Lt. Commander General Max Waldrop being awarded the Robert E. Lee Chalice by Commander General Anthony Hodges.



Dr. Jill Hodges & Virginia Ann Rhone being awarded the Varina Howell Davis Award by Commander General Anthony Hodges.



Dr. Richard Rhone being awarded the Army of Tennessee Gold Star Award by Commander General Anthony Hodges.



Chief of Staff Captain Ben H. Willingham being awarded the Commander General's Award by Commander General Anthony Hodges.

MOS&B ADJUTANT GENERAL'S STATISTICAL REPORT*

JUNE 11-13, 2009

Membership = 1657

Annual Members = 1163 Life Members = 494

Membership by Department

ANV = 413 ATM = 408
AOT = 514 At-Large = 322
Median Member Age = 62
Oldest Member = 100 Youngest Member = 13
New Members (May 2008-May 2009) = 85

Rebel Club Leaders

James Randy Kerlin (8) Walter Dockery (4)
William Richard Morris (6) David Whitaker (4)
William Andrews (4) Ben Willingham (4)

Member Residences

6 Foreign Nations 41 States plus DC
8 states exceed 100 members – AL, FL, GA, NC, SC,
TN, TX, VA (1 state exceeds 200 members – TX)

Chapters, States & Societies

Active Chapters (5 or more members) – 90
Active States (1 or more active chapters) – 21
Active Societies (15 or more active resident mem-
bers) – 16
ANV – Maryland, North Carolina, South Carolina,
Virginia
AOT – Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Illinois, Missis-
sippi, Tennessee
ATM – Arkansas, California, Louisiana, Missouri,
Oklahoma, Texas

Reported Deaths (33) occurred

May 2008 to May 2009

George Lee Balsey, Raytown, MO
David Winston Barrett, Tucker, GA
Jacob L. Bateman, III, Montgomery, AL
Aubrey Alison Bishop, Jr., Mobile, AL
Lee Edward Bishop, Jr., Santa Monica, CA
Charles Robert Blackmon, Ona, FL
Col. Rev. William Armistead Boardman, Sewanee,
TN

Charles Edward Briggs, Gibson City, IL
Dr. Clifton Rowland Brooks, Chatsworth, CA
John Clifton Cochran, Mason, MI
Albert Lucien Dale, Sr., Brentwood, TN
Alfred Cole Daves – DCS, Mobile, AL
Philip Michael Edenfield, Twin City, GA
Leroy Vincent Epperson, New Almaden, CA
Joe Daniel Ginn, Jr., Cherryville, NC
Joe Parker Harris, Carthage, TX
Col. John Campbell Howard, Arcadia, OK
David Herman Jones, Raleigh, NC
Kenneth Dayton King, O'Brien, FL
William Roy Knowles, Sr., Houston, TX
Clifford Kinzer Marks, Albany, NY
Joseph Richard McClure, Charleston, SC
Roy Burton Morgan, Jr., Bethesda, MD
William A. C. Neely, Atlanta, GA
Dr. James William Newman, Jr., Austell, GA
James E. Polk, Scottsdale, AZ
Rodolph Massie Price, V, Norfolk, VA
Marshall Hoppock Ruxton, Kansas City, MO
James Marshall Scruggs, Cocoa Beach, FL
Emory Ward Stearns, Cary, NC
Col. Walbrook Davis Swank, Mineral, VA
Albert Carl Wirth, Jr., Raleigh, NC
Paul Douglas Zapffe, Clinton, OK

New Initiatives:

MOS&B Website

Ancestors – 3430 MOS&B Ancestors are now honored online.

Memoriams – 1160 deceased MOS&B members are now honored online.

Members may contribute bios and jpg pictures through the Adjutant General for inclusion in either *Ancestors* or *Memoriams*.

MOS&B listservs

MOS&B listservs have been established to facilitate communications within the Order. A master listserv inclusive of all members with email is being developed. Current email addresses are solicited.

*All data are the status of the Order on 5/11/09.

MOS & B SOCIETY GENEALOGIST

Below is a listing of the various genealogist in each state that are available to help members and potential members find their officer ancestors. Please feel free to contact them.

AL	Clif Crisler	614-782-6874
CA	Maner L. Thorpe	805-969-2457
FL	Randy Kerlin	352-694-3346
LA	Ed Cailleateau	225-344-5967
NC	Rodney Williams	336-656-7008
OH	Curtis Early	440-585-8837
SC	Alan Frye	803-356-5554
TN	Sid Johnson	615-452-5988
VA	R. Allen Brahin	540-447-4036

MOS&B TEXAS SOCIETY CONVENTION

The 2009 convention of the Texas Society of the Military Order of the Stars and Bars was held in

Fort Worth on April 24-25. Texas Society Commander Jim Templin presided. A reception Friday evening gave members a chance to socialize before the business session on Saturday morning. The business session opened with pledges, salutes, and greetings from other patriotic groups. We were pleased to be honored with the presence of MOS&B Lt. Commander General Max Waldrop and Executive Councilman Richard Rhone, both of whom reported on activities and status of the general organization. Texas Society officers gave reports on their responsibilities. Plans were announced for an at large chapter for Texas. New officers for the state were elected. Bill Morris, Commander of the Col. Benjamin Morris Chapter, won a very close election but for personal reasons chose not to serve as Texas Society Commander. Gary Loudermilk will serve in that position. Our luncheon program was presented by Tony Sinclair speaking on the subject of "Female Spies of the Confederacy." The Convention ended with a visit to the Texas Civil War Museum.

NEWS FROM THE FLORIDA SOCIETY

The annual reenactment at Olustee was 14 February 2009. The event was opened with the parade in Lake City. Commander-General Dr. Anthony Hodges and his wife Dr. Jill Hodges along with Katrina Counts and MOSB Chief of Staff Ben H. Willingham were in the parade riding a renovated horse drawn wagon.

At the battleground site, the MOS&B had a display and was well represented. Florida Society Commander Randy Kerlin representing both the Museum of Southern History and the Florida Society MOS&B had an extensive display of artifacts.

Lt. Commander Eric Hague did a great job of coordinating the educational displays and sutlers at the event. Members of the following Florida Society Chapters helped out at the tent over the weekend, Ocala, Gainesville, Alachua and Jacksonville. Commander Bob McLendon formerly of Gainesville and now of the Alabama Society stopped by and helped spread the good word of our organization.

OFFICER'S CALL

Officer's Call newsletter is a publication of the Military Order of Stars and Bars. Distribution of this newsletter is only available in digital form. The MOS&B is an organization of descendants of the Confederate Officers Corp, members of the Confederate Congress, or any elected or appointed member of the Executive Branch of the Confederate Government. MOS&B is dedicated to the preservation of our Confederate and Southern History. Permission to reprint any articles are hereby given.

WEB SITE

www.mosbihq.org