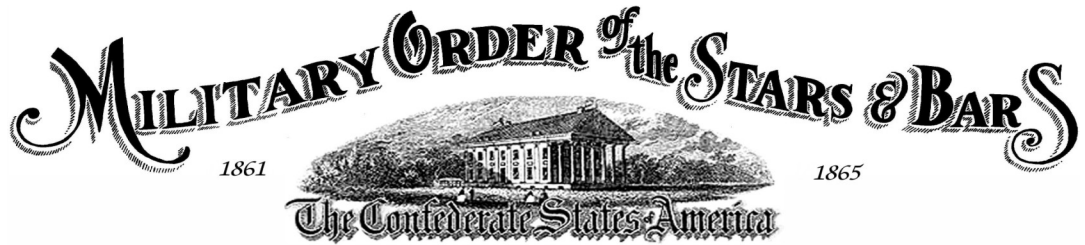




Volume 2, Number 6  
August 2010



## Officer's Call

### TILL DEATH DO US PART

These serious words are well known to us all, but how many have associated them with the Military Order of the Stars and Bars?

Many would ask, "How do the words from a marriage ceremony relate to us?"

A marriage is a holy vow to remain in a relationship, blessed by God regardless of circumstances, and *without end*. This refers to the physical separation but *not the spiritual*; remembrance lasts forever. The words "Till Death do us Part" can just as faithfully be applied to Membership in our Order.

Think of the first moment when you were accepted into our ranks, does not the memory thrill you, does that sensation never really leave you? Search deep in your souls, and you will find a bond that has been forged between us all that cannot be destroyed, even by death itself.

Death has not robbed us of our ancestors, nor our departed Members. They live on in our hearts, records and in our activities. We draw courage and inspiration from those memories. How, then do we apply these principles to the Order and its members?

The answers are very simple, like most of the better things in life. Consider these acts that could add so much to a Compatriot's life in terms of the words that head this article:

- Do you know of a Member who feels that they have reason to resign from the Order? Friendship and a helping hand may give that Compatriot reasons to change his mind. Has the Compatriot had a difference of opinion, a feeling that we are not doing enough? Has he felt that supporting the Confederacy any longer

is a waste of time? A little time contacting Headquarters and speaking to a Member of the Membership and Development Committee may well resolve all issues and lead to a happy conclusion. We are here for all Members – call us!

- Is there a Compatriot who is aged, ill or physically unable to attend meetings and social gatherings? Is it beyond members of the nearest Chapter to arrange to provide transport and assistance to such Compatriots? Can Members not take time out to visit the elderly Confederates in old age care and lighten their lives with company, little gifts and news from the front?

-It has been said that the MOS&B is one big family. This is true; we do place a great deal of value on the importance of family. Our Order is a way of life. We look after our own. It makes good sense to encourage the enlistment of younger male family members to "continue the line". Many members already have grandsons in the ranks. If many more Members can bring younger members into the Order our story will continue to be documented, and more importantly told. Later generations will remember those who went before. In this way we cheat death of his victory.

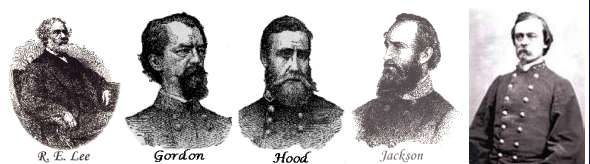
Counsel, respect, recruit, these are our challenges to all. At the end of our days, when the volleys are fired and the soulful sound of "Taps" echoes over fields of honor, the departed joins the ranks of the remembered. The fight for our beliefs passes to the young as each old Confederate finds rest, and this cycle repeats itself over the generations to come. Let us ensure that the Order endures!

### DEO VINDICE

**Roger P Thornton,**  
Membership and Development Committee



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## General Executive Council

### Officers (2010-2012)

Commander General	Max L. Waldrop, Jr.
Lt. Commander General	Richard W. Rhone
Adjutant General	Todd M. Smith
Chief of Staff	David G. Whitaker
Judge Advocate General	Jeffery W. Massey
Treasurer General	James C. Templin

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ANV Executive Councilor	Henry H. Knauf
ANV Executive Councilor	Steven L. Wolfe
AOT Commander	O. David Denard
AOT Executive Councilor	David L. Floyd
AOT Executive Councilor	Walter E. Dockery
ATM Commander	Donald E. Lee
ATM Executive Councilor	W. Howard Jones
ATM Executive Councilor	K. Patrick Sorhwide

### Past Commanders General

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Phillip H. Law	2006-2008
David W. Jones	2004-2006
Jeffery W. Massey	2002-2004
Albert D. Jones, Jr.	2000-2002
Joe B. Gay	1998-2000
James Troy Massey	1996-1998
Perry J. Outlaw	1994-1996
Charles H. Smith	1992-1994
Robert L. Hawkins, III	1990-1992
Edward O. Cailleateau	1988-1990
John L. Echols, Sr.	1986-1988
Mark L. "Beau" Cantrell	1984-1986
Ronald T. Clemmons	1982-1984

The MOS&B *Officer's Call*, a leader among heritage newsletters is published monthly by the Military Order of the Stars and Bars.

The members of the MOS&B are descendants of the Confederate Officer Corps and elected government officials. We are dedicated to the preservation and education of the memory of our ancestors and the traditional values of our Southern Heritage.

Address all general business or advertising correspondence to MOS&B IHQ, P O Box 1700, White House, TN 37188-1700

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<i>Texas</i>	David G. Whitaker
<i>Oklahoma</i>	K. Patrick Sorhwide



# Commander General's Message

## Our Keys to Financial Security

Now, more than ever, financial security is a most crucial area for any organization. While we are registered as a 501c3 non-profit corporation with the IRS and chartered the same in the State of Tennessee, we have to ensure that our expenses do not exceed our current revenue streams or our total assets. To that end, the following keys are integral to our strategic planning:

### **Protection of our investments**

- December 4, 2008 the GEC voted to place all of our assets into a cash position.
- December 4, 2009 the GEC voted to authorize the Investment Committee to invest up to \$75,000 in strategic funds.

### **Structural reorganization**

- June 12, 2009 the GEC voted to decentralize our Headquarters and rely solely upon volunteers to conduct staff functions and responsibilities.
- This methodology continues into the 2010-2012 administration.

### **Operational expense control**

- December 4, 2009 the GEC approved our annual budget for Calendar Year 2010.
- April 29, 2010 the Deputy Treasurer General Jim Templin presented to the GEC the operational results of our 2010 Budget. He is continuing to provide monthly reports on our adherence as our Treasurer General.
- April 29, 2010 the GEC voted to transfer Life Membership payments from our operations checking account into our investments. Annually, we will withdraw these funds on a pro-rated basis to pay for the membership services of the Life Members.

### **Fiduciary responsibilities**

- During the period of June 2008 through May 2010, our IRS Form 990s for FY 2002 through CY 2009 have been completed. We are in compliance with the IRS annual reporting requirements and will remain so.
- May 1, 2010, Richard McLain was appointed Comptroller General and tasked with the primary responsibility of ensuring that all financial aspects of the Order are in accordance with current accounting principles, cash flows both in and out are reviewed for accuracy, and internal weaknesses identified for management correction.
- On June 15, 2010, the Comptroller General was requested to conduct our first semi-annual review of our finances and report to the GEC no later than July 31, 2010. An extension of August 31, 2010 for report completion was requested by the Comptroller General and approved by me.

### **Grants and Endowment Committee**

- May 1, 2010, ATM Executive Councilor and California Society Commander William Howard Jones was appointed Chairman of the Grants and Endowment Committee. The major responsibility of this Committee is to perform research for applicable grants and submit the grant applications to the funding external organizations. Additionally, this committee will develop and implement an endowments program and donation solicitation efforts.
- Emphasis will be placed on our own Confederate Legacy Endowment Fund and each member is encouraged to carefully consider their own generosity to our Order.

### **Financial Committee**

- May 1, 2010, the Financial Committee was appointed and the Chairman is Treasurer General Jim Templin. This Committee has been charged with the development of the CY 2011 budget to be approved by the GEC in December 2010.

### **Membership and Development Committee**

May 1, 2010, this Committee was appointed and the Chairman is Chief of Staff David Whitaker. This Committee has been charged with the recruitment and retention of our membership. This is our major revenue stream and the retention of our membership is as important as the recruitment of new members. All members should consider how their activities can result in successful recruiting of at least one new member during the current Administration. It has been noted that nearly every activity of the Order has an element of recruiting opportunities.

### **MOS&B Store**

June 9, 2009, then ATM Commander Gary M. Loudermilk volunteered to accept the additional work of Quartermaster General. He and his family continue to support the MOS&B Store. This function is our second largest revenue stream and on the average is grossing \$4,000 a quarter. The Order is very appreciative of QM Loudermilk's efforts and also the financial support of the membership. Additionally, we have several ideas which are being considered for implementation to further enhance our merchandise operations.

Your GEC and I are fully committed, and will remain so, in ensuring that the Order maintains its solid financial footing. This is absolutely vital to protecting and preserving the Order's future during this turbulent economic environment.

Highest regards,

***Max L. Waldrop, Jr.***

Commander General



## **Annual MOS&B Convention Jacksonville, Florida in 2011**

Time to think of Florida! The MOS&B Convention will be in Jacksonville so start thinking about joining your friends and compatriots in July 2011 in the River City. We are determined to make the 2011 Convention the one that will set a standard for the MOS&B for years to come. You can help us by telling us what you would enjoy most. We have it all but trying to schedule within the time limit available is difficult so tell us what you want, battlefields, historic lectures, good restaurants, time to visit with old friends, golf courses, museums, river cruise, formal evening, historic sites, beaches and much more. Now is the time for you to tell us before we start to finalize the program. Just send your comments to [headquarters@mosbihq.org](mailto:headquarters@mosbihq.org) or call us at (877) 790-6672.

(Submitted by Ben Willingham)

## **Request for E-Mail and Mailing Changes**

We need your correct E-mail address and mailing address. We are sending out the "Officer's Call" electronically; as well as, printed. We find many members have not reported their address and others have not advised us of address changes. Please make sure we have your current E-mail and physical address. Contact us at [headquarters@mosbihq.org](mailto:headquarters@mosbihq.org) or by phone (877) 790-6672 so we may stay in touch.





## History of the Confederate Cemetery

### Southern Memorial Association

### Fayetteville, Arkansas



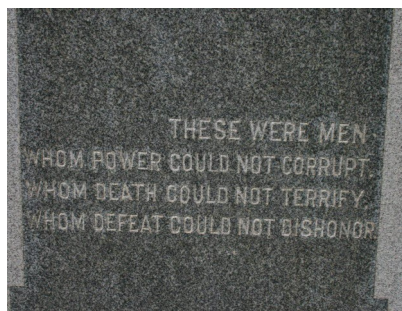
In today's fast paced world, our simple duty of honoring our Confederate dead is sometimes forgotten. Most MOSB chapters annually have a memorial service in April or June to honor our Confederate heroes and President Davis. Confederate flags are placed to mark the graves of those boys who fought in 1861-1865. It is a magnificent sight to see those many flags flying in the wind over the cemeteries from the metro areas to the most remote country cemeteries. One such cemetery in Fayetteville, Arkansas, has a long history of honoring the Confederate dead of northwest Arkansas. They observe with an annual memorial service and the continual flying of the Confederate flag next to the Confederate monument with soldier atop, watching over those resting in eternal sleep. Here is the history of a cemetery that is similar to hundreds across the Old Confederacy.

The view from East Mountain out over the valley where Fayetteville now sprawls is impressive. On a clear autumn day, you can see the courthouse, old Washington County Jail, all 15 stories of the Cosmopolitan Hotel, and just a glimpse of one of the University of Arkansas Old Main's towers. Imagine how surprised the Confederate dead would be if they could sit up from their bare wooden boxes and look out over the land they fought to keep!

Some 622 gray-clad patriots who fought and fell in the Civil War battles of Prairie Grove, Pea Ridge and elsewhere around this corner of Arkansas lie together in a quiet grove on East Mountain. Their history is written on stones that mark their heads, on the statue that guards them, in the rough hewn rocks that surround them. Women's hands and backs and hearts brought them there, for, as a Confederate chaplain, Father Ryan said during the war, "it is the women who must see that those who gave their lives for the greatest Cause the world has ever known live in the hearts of the Southern people." And since 1872, when the effort to build a Confederate Cemetery began, it has been women who have kept the memory alive.

On June 6, 1872 a "call to the ladies" was printed in the Fayetteville Weekly Democrat, urging those interested in remembering the War Between the States Confederate dead to gather Monday, June 10, at the Methodist Church on the Northeast corner of West Center and North Church Streets. At that meeting, the Southern Memorial Association of Washington County was formed.

It illustrates clearly the mindset of the post-Civil War Southern woman; in that one of the first major concerns of the Southern Memorial Association (SMA) was to make plans to have a fence built around the land they hoped to acquire to protect their loved ones even in death. As early as August of 1872, two ladies were named to solicit contributions of money, tools, supplies, and labor toward the building of an enclosure.



It took that original handful of women almost a year, but on April 11, 1873, a plot of "three acres more or less" on East Mountain was purchased from Charles W. and Serena Walker--appropriate and hallowed ground, since members of the Walker family were already at rest there.

According to a book entitled "The Association" by Rowena McCord Gallaway, a Mr. J.D. Henry was employed by the ladies of the SMA to gather up all those dead who had been buried where they fell. For \$1.40 each, Mr. Henry brought remains from Pea Ridge to the new Confederate Cemetery, put them in new coffins, and reburied them in plots set out at compass points for Texas, Arkansas, Louisiana, and Missouri. It cost \$2.50 for Mr. Henry to transport a soldier from Prairie Grove or elsewhere. Those first graves were decorated and the Cemetery was dedicated on June 10, 1873.

The original sandstone head and foot boards, which were placed in 1876, gave way in 1903 to marble stones. Not all the identities of the soldiers buried on East Mountain were known. The stones of some say "Unknown" while others are bare of epitaph.

Of those whose names were known, the first Arkansan interred at the Confederate Cemetery was a Lt. Pawly from Mack Rieff's Company. A Lt. Bliss of the Engineering Corps is the first Missouri soldier buried at the Cemetery, and only T.H.D. marks the first grave in the Texas plot. Of the other Arkansans, some are remembered only by family names, others by their fighting units, still others by their homes: Pullman, Stand Watie's Regiment; Dock Lewis, Cave Creek; Pope, Benton County; Hiram Thornsberry, Brooks' Regiment; and a soldier known simply as Black.

In 1885, work was begun to replace the wooden fence with the rough hewn stone wall that still stands, though in recent years it has begun to need repairs. It was completed in 1890.

On Saturday, May 1, 1897, the cornerstone monument, atop which the statue of a proud Confederate Soldier guards his comrades, was laid "in the presence of an enthusiastic multitude." The monument cost \$3000.00, a huge sum at that time, but the ladies of the SMA worked diligently, raising the money one dollar at a time.

The monument was dedicated a month later, on June 10, 1897 with these words inscribed on one face: "THESE WERE MEN WHOM POWER COULD NOT CORRUPT, WHOM DEATH COULD NOT TERRIFY, WHOM DEFEAT COULD NOT DISHONOR"

A crowd conservatively estimated at 20,000, including University cadets in Confederate gray, formed a hollow square around the monument that Thursday afternoon and waited in silence for Lizzie Pollard of the SMA to unveil the statue.

As the band struck up "DIXIE", wrote W.S. Campbell in his 1928 History of Fayetteville, "strong men wept. The spot was forever hallowed by bone, blood, and tears."

For many years the most honored name on East Mountain was that of Brigadier General W.Y. Slack of Missouri, who was interred in the center of the compass at the convergence of the state plots on Thursday, May 27, 1880.

Brigadier General Slack now rests at the base of the Missouri plot, his grave marked by this epitaph: "In memory of W.Y. Slack, Brigadier General, son of John and Polly Caldwell Slack of Boone County, Mo., Ky., graduate of Missouri State University, Captain in the Mexican War, fell at the Battle of Pea Ridge March 7, 1862, while leading his brigade of Missouri Confederate soldiers. Died March 21, 1862. Forever honored, forever mourned."

At the turn of the century, members of the Confederated Southern Memorial Associations selected Mrs. Varina Davis and Mary Custis Lee for honorary membership. "I am only too happy to be associated with your worshipful society of patriotic tender Confederate women," Mrs. Davis wrote in a letter to Susie Walker of Fayetteville,

"and beg them to accept through you my affectionate acknowledgment of the distinction conferred upon me for the sake of the love they bear my husband's memory."

"I need to scarcely say how much we were gratified at being elected honorary members of your distinguished society", concurred Miss Lee.

Through the years Southern women have kept the memory alive when no one else would. In 1926 a native brown stone arch was built to mark the entrance to the Confederate Cemetery, decorated with iron gates and bronze tablets and, according to Campbell's history, plans were underway for "classic reference to valor, sacrifice, patriotism, done in bronze and placed where eyes of all ages may spell out the devotion of today and the darlings of yesterday."

A street--Rock Street--wound its way up East Mountain during the winter of 1945-46. In 1947, the SMA approached the United States Government asking that it accept conveyance of the Cemetery and provide for its care and maintenance. Toward the end, two bills were introduced in Congress by Senator J.W. Fulbright. Neither met the approval of the War Department, so women continued their work. The members of today's SMA are thankful that what seemed at the time like a setback has enabled us to own the Cemetery outright and to care for it as we see fit without being under obligation to the government.

In 1955 Scotch Pines were planted and dedicated by Lt. Barry Weaver and Quartermaster Duval Fagan, members of the local Albert Pike Camp, Sons of Confederate Veterans. In the 1980's, a gazebo was built and the stone wall was repaired and partially rebuilt. The first gazebo was built around the turn of the century so this continued to add to the past likeness of the cemetery. The year 2001 brought the SMA the challenge of the restoration of the storm damaged monument. Sixteen months after the damage, the SMA, with many generous contributions, rededicated the restored statue and monument. 2002 again brought challenges as the old trees in the cemetery were badly in need of care. In November, Arkansas' First Annual Arborist Service Day was held at the Confederate Cemetery with many professional arborists donating a day's labor. All the old trees got much needed care. Estimates are that up to \$20,000.00 worth of services were donated that day!

When another hundred years have passed, will the Confederate Cemetery on East Mountain still stand as a tangible reminder of the brave men who died for a way of life they held dear and the proud women who loved and honored them?

The officers of the SMA think the answer is yes. A revival of sorts occurred in the SMA in the late 1990s after a long period of apathy on the part of all but a few faithful members who kept the organization going. As of the year 2007, the SMA has a strong involved membership of about 50 members. We think the future holds much promise and we vow to continue the work started so long ago by the ladies of this county. (1)

The Southern Memorial Association has held an annual memorial service at the Confederate Cemetery since 1873. When the cemetery was dedicated on Tuesday June 10, 1873, the largest crowd ever assembled in the county since the burial of Archibald Yell was present: 3,000 persons. A procession one mile long moved in a falling rain up the hill to the new cemetery. In order to offset the crude appearance of the grounds that morning, a special effort was made to embellish the four burial plots. The ladies designated the four plots by a floral emblem: Arkansas had an anchor, Missouri a wreath, Louisiana a cross, and Texas a star. They set up an imitation monument at the convergence of the grave sections. The imitation monument bore these inscriptions:

**Arkansas: Weep, for Richer Blood Was Never Shed**

**Missouri: Tread Lightly, the Ashes of Heroes Rest Here**

**Louisiana: Time Cannot Obliterate the Name that True Valor Writes**

**Texas: Courage Unflinching and Hearts Unyielding Lie Buried Here**

Confederate General D.H. Hill gave the memorial address at the 1877 Southern Memorial Day service at the cemetery. Before the service began, a long procession formed in the vicinity of Block, Dickson, and East Streets, turned into College Avenue and the proceeded up the rough road which was Rock Street to the cemetery at the top of the

hill. What a grand procession! It included: Washington County Hook and Ladder, the Bentonville band, ex-Confederate soldiers on foot, Southern Memorial members in carriages, the Fayetteville band, members of the press, many people on foot, the Elm Springs band, a flower wagon, and citizens on horseback.

On May 27, 1887, a Fayetteville correspondent reported to the Arkansas Democrat: "Yesterday was Southern Memorial Day, and as usual, a good crowd came to town. The Circuit Court was adjourned and banks and schools were closed for the time and the day observed as a general holiday."

In the year 1897 on Southern Memorial Day at the cemetery the lofty monument and Confederate statue were dedicated. The date selected for the dedicated was June 10 because it was the 25th anniversary day of the formation of the Southern Memorial Association. An estimated crowd of 10,000 people assembled for this all-day celebration. Mrs. Lizzie Pollard, first president of the SMA unveiled the monument. The statesman J. Vol Walker delivered the formal speech of dedication. He concluded with these words: "We stand here in peace today, with respect and without reproach for the Union soldier, with love and without apology for the Confederate, to do honor to the memory of our dead." Mr. Walker's scholarly and eloquent address climaxed the greatest of all Confederate Memorial days in the history of Fayetteville" stated Rowena Galloway in her history of the SMA.

Many Confederate gatherings have been held in the Fayetteville area through the years and the Confederate Cemetery is the ultimate destination for the groups. They pay homage to the brave soldiers from Arkansas, Missouri, Texas and Louisiana, who gave their lives in the hills of Arkansas. The Southern Memorial Association continues to maintain the cemetery with help from the Military Order of the Stars and Bars, United Sons of Confederate Soldiers Association, SCV and UDC. If you are in this area of Arkansas, this is a must visit for peace and quiet and reverence for the "boys in gray who now sleep away their manhood."

Military Order of Stars and Bars members and families who support this historic cemetery are: Life Members -J. Troy Massey, Whitney Massey Branch, Ward W. Slack and the General Patrick R. Cleburne, Arkansas Society, MOS&B. Annual members-Gary Lloyd Loudermilk, Kristin Loudermilk, Dr. Gary Morris Loudermilk and Dorothy Loudermilk, Jeff Massey, Jackie McGehee, and Max Lee Waldrop. If you are interested in supporting this Confederate Cemetery, the dues are \$10 annually and \$200 lifetime and can be mailed to: SMA Treasurer: Mrs. Kristi Lindabury, 12284 Ervan Beeks Road, Farmington, Arkansas 72730

1. Southern Memorial Association website <http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~arsma/index.html>

(Submitted by Troy Massey)



## Close Out Sale

*The MOS&B Store is changing the style and type of emblem jacket offered and closing out the current stock.*

These jackets are currently listed at \$59.00 each plus \$11.00 shipping.

**Sale price is \$50.00 each with free shipping, a savings of \$20.00.**

***There are only 12 of these jackets remaining.***

***Order today!***

<u>Sizes</u>	<u>Item #</u>	<u>Available:</u>
3XL	MC007	1
2XL	MC008	3
XL	MC009	6
L	MC010	2



## Robert Toomb's 200th Birthday Celebration

On July 3, 2010 over 400 visitors joined members of the Georgia Society MOSB, Atlanta Chapter 18 UDC, the William Simmons and Eli P. Landers SCV Camps, and the Friends of Robert Toombs to celebrate the 200<sup>th</sup> birthday of Robert Toombs. Marcia Campbell, curator of the Toombs Home, had a full day planned for the visitors.

As visitors entered the property through a Confederate encampment they were introduced to the Flags of the Confederacy, an Artillery diorama, and camp life of the soldiers. When they reached the house they were welcomed to the 1860 birthday celebration of Mr. Toombs by his brother Gabriel and his wife. Mr. Toombs children and grandchildren provided the tour of the home. Mr. Toombs could be found in the Parlor giving an interview to a newspaper reporter. As the visitors entered the lower level of the home they were met by members of The Demosthenian Literary Society, the debating society at The University of Georgia in Athens, Georgia that Mr. Toombs belonged to. The students presented Mr. Toombs life at the UGA when it was known as Franklin College.

Exiting the property visitors learned about the artillery which included cannon firing. The ladies of Washington are still trying to get over the "siege", even though Georgia Society Commander O. David Denard kept the loads "light"! There was a trivia quiz given for the children. The winner got to pull the lanyard. The adults were as excited as the children.

Wilkes County is now in charge of The Robert Toombs Home after budget cuts forced the State to cut hours to one Saturday per month. Thanks to the work of Marcia Campbell, The Friends of Robert Toombs, Wilkes County Commissioner Sam Moore, and the Georgia Civil War Commission Wilkes County is now running the Home and has petitioned the state for the transfer of the property from the state to the county.

This is the first of the events planned for the Toombs Home for the sesquicentennial. The home will reflect the events in Mr. Toombs life as it corresponds with the years 1860 to 1865. The next event will be the Secession Convention of Georgia which will be held during the Christmas Tour of Homes.

## Request for Anniversary Book Information

We are currently working on updating the History Book of the Military Order of Stars and Bars. The last to be created was the Sixty-Fifth Anniversary Edition of 2003.

Please assist in this effort by providing updated information on your Army, Society, and Chapters as soon as possible. This is an important and overdue effort and worthy of our diligence. I encourage and implore all levels of the organization to contribute to a successful document that will endure for generations to come.

Please send all information and documentation to:

Raymond W. Gill, Jr., DCS  
Historian General  
10938 Tidewater Trl  
Fredericksburg, VA 22408-2023  
raywgill@comcast.net



Article & photos submitted by David Denard

## Captain Alonzo Ridley of the Los Angeles Mounted Rifles

(Submitted by Steve Renouf, MOS&B California Society)

Alonzo Ridley was born on 3 June 1826 in Bowdoin, Sagadahoc County, Maine, and was the son of Ambrose Ridley and Abigail Nash.

On 28 January 1849, Alonzo Ridley sailed from Boston, Massachusetts, on the ship *Pharsalia* bound for California. (1) Alonzo Ridley was one of the original '49'ers – he came to California to trade with the Indians. In April 1852, Ridley's Piru (*Tataviam*) Indian girlfriend had a daughter named Guadalupe Ridley at *Rancho Camulos*. Ridley had left the area by this time, and did not find out about the birth of his daughter until he returned from Mexico around 1870. While visiting *Rancho Camulos*, he discovered he had a daughter. Guadalupe was raised by Doña Isabel del Valle on *Rancho Camulos*. Guadalupe ended up in Tempe, Arizona by 1900. Perhaps her father brought her to Tempe.

On 1 July 1855, Alonzo Ridley was appointed Indian sub-agent for the Tejon Indian Reservation (formed in 1851 by treaty between the US government and the Tejon Indians). The Indians approved of the choice of Ridley, as he had lived with them before the establishment of the reservation. Ridley was in charge of the reservation's personnel and management. Ridley divided the Indians into three labor groups, and built an adobe house for the Indian leader of each group. In mid-1856, Alonzo Ridley was replaced as Indian sub-agent by J.R. Vineyard. Alonzo Ridley led a unit of mounted cavalry from Fort Tejon in the Tule War of 1856. He met at the Tule River with Captain Livingston, who assumed command of the force. They attacked the Indians, and drove them from the valley. The Indians attacked at night, and killed livestock and burned homes. The war lasted for 6 weeks, after which an armistice with the Indians was reached. (2)

The Indians living on the Tule River were in desperate straits. The wild game, acorns and berries that were an important part of their diet were reduced by American settlers moving into the area, and their grazing cattle and pigs. After the discovery of gold, Americans began moving into the state. An Indian agent reported that the new settlers were taking advantage of the Indians, and they required protection by the government. Special agent Alonzo Ridley was sent to the Tule River area to investigate the growing crisis between the Indians and the settlers. The Indians told Ridley that they felt that they were not being protected from the settlers. In response to their request for assistance, Alonzo Ridley established a farm on the Tule River. He requested that the Indians voluntarily move to the farm, but said he would use force if necessary to get them to settle there. Ridley provided the Indians who moved to the Tule River Farm with wheat for food. There was no farming equipment on the new farm, so only 7 acres were cultivated with corn and melons by June 1857. In September 1857, J.R. Vineyard sent Ridley farming equipment to prepare the land for next season's crop. Ridley diverted water from the Tule River to irrigate the new crop land. Ridley reported that the Indians were complaining that the treaty they signed in 1851 was not being enforced. Although the treaty was signed by US agents, Congress did not ratify it, so it never officially went into effect, despite the fact that Indian lands were being taken away by settlers. They were concerned that the small amount of land they were now given was not being protected from encroachment by more settlers. Ridley agreed with the Indians, and reported a settler named Wilcox who had moved onto the Tule River Farm he had established for the Indians, and he stated that he had no power to protect the reservation from encroachment. A Special investigator for the Interior Department reported in 1858 that the money being spent to grow the meager crops was out of proportion to the amount of food being produced, and that the Indian Reservations in California were not producing enough food to support the Indians. He said it would be cheaper to purchase the food in San Francisco and ship it to the Indians. He also recommended that each Indian be given his own land to farm for his own benefit rather than have communal farmland.(3) The superintendent for Indian affairs in California was replaced, which caused a shake up in the Indian agents. This is probably when Alonzo Ridley moved to Los Angeles, and he became the undersheriff for the Tejon area of Los Angeles County.

As the crisis between the Northern and Southern States in the East began to deteriorate, Governor John G. Downey of California requested the formation of local militia companies to maintain order. In February 1861, a petition was presented to Los Angeles County Judge William G. Dryden to create a militia company, and it was signed by prominent citizens, including Tomas Avila Sanchez (Los Angeles County Sheriff) and Alonzo Ridley (the undersheriff of northern Los Angeles County). On 17 March 1861, a meeting was held in Los Angeles to organize a

militia unit. Former California Representative George Washington Gift was the chairman of the meeting, and they chose the name *Los Angeles Mounted Rifles* for the militia unit. Elections were held for officers, and Alonzo Ridley was elected captain; Joseph Cattrick was elected first lieutenant; and Tomas A. Sanchez (Los Angeles County sheriff) and Samuel Ayres were elected second lieutenants. Many of the men in the unit were pro-Southern, but to be of any use to the Confederacy, they would have to travel east. The first order of business was to secure weapons for the unit. Captain Ridley wrote to California Adjutant General William Kibbe to request 80 rifles, 80 Colt six-shooter pistols, and 80 sabres. He received 40 rifles reserved for the San Bernardino County Militia that were stored in a warehouse in Los Angeles. He received 11 rifles reserved for the Los Angeles City Guard that were stored at the County Jail. He received 25 rifles reserved for the *Southern Rifles* (then defunct) that were in the possession of Sheriff Tomas Sanchez. Sanchez also gave him a small cannon that belonged to a Santa Barbara County militia unit. Captain Ridley used his personal finances to outfit almost half of the members of the *Los Angeles Mounted Rifles*.

News of the beginning of the War Between the States on 12 April 1861 reached Los Angeles about two weeks later. Captain Ridley decided that the *Los Angeles Mounted Rifles* would travel east to assist the Confederate States in their struggle to regain their independence. George W. Gift suggested sailing to the east, but Captain Ridley thought it would be better to cross through the deserts of the Arizona Territory to reach Texas. Captain Ridley traveled around Southern California making preparations to take the *Los Angeles Mounted Rifles* to Texas, but he had to be careful so he did not attract the attention of the suspicious Union forces in California.

General Albert Sidney Johnston resigned his commission as commander of the US Army's Department of the Pacific in 1861, and decided to leave California to join the Confederacy. Johnston and other officers were in Los Angeles waiting to receive acceptance of their resignations from the US Army before they returned to their home states in the South. Johnston's brother-in-law, Dr. John Griffin, offered Johnston the services of the *Los Angeles Mounted Rifles* to assist him in reaching the Confederate States. The following day, Captain Ridley met with General Johnston, who asked Ridley if he could join his expedition for Texas. Union spies were monitoring their movements, and General Johnston and Captain Ridley discovered that they were about to be arrested for treason. They publically announced that they were leaving on 25 June, but instead left secretly on 16 June. As a result, a large number of men from the *Los Angeles Mounted Rifles* who had planned to go with them had to be left behind, as was the small cannon. Johnston, Ridley, and Johnston's black servant Randolph Hughes set out early in the morning for Warner's Ranch in San Diego County. About 30 miles south of Los Angeles at *Rancho Chino*, Ridley left Johnston to be guided south by Dr. Carman Frazee (who served under Colonel Jefferson Davis in the Mexican War, and was also a member of the *Los Angeles Mounted Rifles*). *Rancho Chino* was owned by Robert S. Carlisle (a member of the *Los Angeles Mounted Rifles*) and he ordered his *vaqueros* to keep watch for Union forces. If they encountered Union forces, they would have headed directly to Mexico, but the Union forces were caught off guard by their early departure. Ridley left to gather the men for the expedition. On 22 June, Johnston and Ridley arrived at the rendezvous point (Warner's Ranch), which was owned by John Rains, Esq. (a member of the *Los Angeles Mounted Rifles*).

The expedition consisted of eight former army officers, and 23 citizens of California: General Albert S. Johnston, Brevet-Major Lewis A. Armistead, Lieutenant Aaron B. Hardcastle, Lieutenant Edward B.D. Riley, Lieutenant Francis Mallory, Lieutenant Arthur Schaaf, Lieutenant Nathaniel Wickcliffe, and Lieutenant Richard H. Brewer, were joined by California citizens Captain Alonzo Ridley, William R. Bower, Thomas Stonehouse, Hugh May, James D. Darden, L. Parden, James L. Parker, William H. Cheapline, Cyrus K. Holman, Calvin Poer, William Campbell, Joseph N. Chandler, George W. Gift, David McKenzie, Colonel William M. Skinner, John J. Dillard, Dilon W. Jordan, Antonio M. Abila, Thomas Morran, Thomas Smith, teenager Walker Keith Armistead, William N. Robinson, and Frank Varnell. They would later be joined in Tucson by Richard Simpson, George Byerson and William A. Elam. (4)

After acquiring provisions for the journey, they set off on 27 June under the command of Alonzo Ridley. On 30 June, the expedition stopped at Vallecito. They saw a bright comet in the sky, a good omen, which helped them travel at night. On 1 July, they arrived at Carrizo. They traveled 37 miles to Indian Wells, arriving on 2 July. On 3 July, they arrived at Alamo Springs. They finally arrived at Fort Yuma on 4 July, where they heard people firing 13 guns to celebrate Independence Day. The trip through the Colorado Desert was terrible, with high temperatures, swarming flies, brackish water and tiresome marching. They had to approach Fort Yuma with caution, as

there could have been a Union trap there, but scouts reported that the Union officers at the garrison were sick. Major Armistead was approached by a soldier of the Fort Yuma garrison who had served with Armistead in the past. The soldier offered to have some of the soldiers desert the fort and join up with the Ridley expedition, and burn Fort Yuma to the ground. General Johnston objected, as they were not commissioned in the Confederate Army yet, and this action would be tantamount to piracy. They stayed within sight of Fort Yuma for three days before continuing on their journey. On 18 July, they arrived at Blue Water near Tucson, where they were informed that the Union forces were evacuating the territory, and were burning the forts and mills behind them, causing ill-feelings amongst the residents. They wanted to join the expedition and fight the vandals. General Johnston again objected that they must not commit any acts of piracy until they were officially commissioned by the Confederate Government. They rested near Tucson for four days. There were very few inhabitants along the trail, but there were roving bands of Apache and Navajo Indians, so they had to remain on constant alert. General Johnston wanted the expedition to avoid conflict with Union forces, so when they saw the smoke from the Union vandals at Fort Buchanan, they hurried their march to Apache Pass, so as to reach it before the Union forces did. Union forces had orders to intercept and arrest General Johnston, but by the time they reached Dragoon Springs, they were 36 hours too late to catch him. After leaving Apache Pass, they came across an Indian massacre. The men had bravely fought off the Indians under Cochise, but ended up dying from their wounds and lack of water. They reached Cook's Spring, and then set out for the Rio Grande some 60 miles away. As they approached Mesilla on 25 July, they were concerned about the Union garrison south of the town at Fort Fillmore. If they were assaulted, they would delay the enemy while General Johnston and two men headed straight to the Mexican border. Ridley entered Mesilla on 28 July, but the town seemed deserted. He eventually captured a Mexican, and convinced him that he was a Union soldier. The Mexican told him that Texans were everywhere, and had captured all the Union soldiers from the garrison. They eventually made contact with the Confederate Texans under Colonel John R. Baylor. At Mesilla, the Los Angeles Mounted Rifles was disbanded after successfully crossing from California to Confederate territory. The men then enlisted in various Confederate units. Two weeks after arriving at Mesilla, General Johnston, Captain Ridley, Randolph Hughes, Lewis Armistead and Walker Armistead took a stage coach to El Paso. (5)

On 1 September 1861, Johnston reached Richmond, Virginia, and his friend President Jefferson Davis made him a full general in the Confederate Army. At the Battle of Shiloh on 6 April 1862, Johnston was shot in the back of his right knee. The bullet hit an artery, and he bled to death minutes later. Captain Ridley remained with General Johnston as captain of his bodyguard until Johnston was killed at Shiloh.

On 1 January 1863, Alonzo Ridley was at the Battle of Galveston. The US blockade ships were occupying the town of Galveston, when the Confederates struck. The *USS Westfield* engaged approaching Confederate ships, while Confederate General John B. Magruder's land forces took Galveston's forts, and began shelling the invading Union ships anchored in the harbor, beginning the Battle of Galveston. The Union was forced to ground the *USS Westfield*, and the Confederate ships were able to assist in the assault on the Union blockade ships. Captain Ridley, one of the riflemen on the Confederate ships, was credited with dispatching Captain Jonathan M. Wainwright, Jr. of the *USS Harriet Lane* with a sniper shot. The *Harriet Lane* was rammed and boarded by the *CSS Bayou City*, and captured along with its US signal service code book. During surrender negotiations, the *USS Owasco*, under a flag of truce, cowardly fired upon the *USS Harriet Lane* in a failed attempt to detonate her munitions. The Union forces destroyed the grounded *Westfield*, and fled Galveston Harbor for New Orleans. The *Harriet Lane* became the Confederate blockade runner *Lavinia*.

Alonzo Ridley joined Madison's Regiment, Texas Cavalry. On 21 February 1863, the Third Cavalry Battalion, Arizona Brigade was consolidated with independent companies into the Third Texas Cavalry Regiment, Arizona Brigade. Alonzo Ridley was elected Major of the brigade.

On 26 June 1863, the Third Arizona Brigade marched all night, and camped 9 miles from Donaldsonville, Louisiana. In the morning darkness on 28 June, the Confederate forces surrounded the Fort Butler, and a fierce battle ensued. The attackers were shelled by the US gunboat *Princess Royal*, which scattered them. In the confusion, Major Ridley was captured by Union forces. Ridley languished in prison for almost two years before being exchanged on 9 April 1865 in Red River, Louisiana.

After the war, Ridley refused to take the oath of allegiance to the United States, and left the country. He arrived in Mexico on 8 August 1865. Emperor Maximilian wanted to encourage former Confederates to settle in Mexico, and develop agriculture there. The prices for land were cheap because of the fighting between the Mexican *guerrillas* under Benito Juarez, and the French and Imperial forces. The Emperor assigned American colonization agents



in Guadalajara, Monterrey, Durango, Mazatlán, Mérida and Vera Cruz. Alonzo Ridley was sent to Mazatlán, where he was in 1866. The colonization plan was doomed to failure – the emigrants to Mexico were beset by thieves, guerrillas, mosquitoes and disease. These former Confederate soldiers would have been more productively used by the Emperor as much needed soldiers, but with French support declining and American opposition growing, the Emperor wanted to get American recognition of his government. The Emperor feared employing former Confederates as soldiers would alienate the Radical Republican government of the United States. Despite the terrible conditions in Mexico, reports from the South reached the exiles of conditions of carpetbag rule, so they were not eager to return home. At the end of 1866, Empress Carlotta went to Paris and Rome to beg for support, but was turned away by Emperor Napoleon III and the Pope.

In September 1866, the French began evacuating the Mexican State of Sonora. Alonzo Ridley was at the evacuation of Guaymas, and during the battle between the evacuating French and Imperial forces and the attacking Mexican guerrillas, Ridley was commissioned a Captain in the Imperial service. By November 1866, the Emperor's government was in retreat, and the French were withdrawing their forces. In early 1867, Emperor Maximilian asked Joe Shelby if he could rally the former Confederates in Mexico to save the Imperial government, but Shelby replied it was "too late."

After the fall of the Second Mexican Empire on 15 June 1867, and the murder of Emperor Maximilian by the Mexican republican government four days later, Ridley left Mexico and stayed briefly in Cuba. On 21 June 1872, Alonzo Ridley left Havana, Cuba and arrived in New Orleans, Louisiana on the steamship *Maryland*.

Ridley eventually moved to Tempe, Arizona. He visited Los Angeles on a few occasions, but never again lived in California. Alonzo died on 25 March 1909 in Tempe, Arizona, and was buried in the Double Butte Cemetery, 2505 West Broadway Road, Tempe, Arizona.

1. <http://www.calarchives4u.com/argonauts/argonauts-ships-2.txt>

2. *Memorial and Biographical History Of The Counties Of Fresno, Tulare, and Kern, California 1892*, page 16.

3. *Draft Report – United States' Intent and the Creation of the Tule River Indian Reservation*. Historical Research Associates, Inc. Missoula, Montana, 22 January 1992. p. 32-39.

4. *Confederate Veteran Magazine*, Vol. III, No. 1 (January 1895), p. 333.

5. *The life of Gen. Albert Sidney Johnston*. By William Preston Johnston.

## GRANTS AND ENDOWMENTS COMMITTEE

One of our major challenges as an organization is to plan for our long-term financial health. Grants and endowments are an integral part of the balance sheet for any non-profit 501 [c] (3) corporation such as ours. Our responsibility as a committee is to examine our current activity in these areas and make specific recommendations to assure our funding in the future.

We have assembled an excellent team on the committee with a wealth of financial experience. Our members include: Dr. Anthony Hodges, Bob May, Col. Jeb Stuart IV, David Whitaker, and Chairman Howard Jones. Our mission statement is:

*Identify sources of grants and endowments for the purpose of securing long term funding for both the Military Order of Stars and Bars and for projects that are endorsed by the Order.*

In recent years, a few notable projects have been funded by grants and charitable donations. The Lee Chapel restoration fund is an excellent example. Through the generosity of our members over \$20,000 was raised to assist Washington and Lee University with the cost of necessary renovations. We have also benefited from two grants from the Historical Heritage Corporation. Every year this organization holds the Southern Heritage Ball in Houston for the benefit of charity.

In the past few years our efforts to obtain grants have been sporadic at best. We need to re-double our efforts to obtain grants from a variety of sources. These sources include Southern heritage organizations, foundations, individual philanthropists, and various levels of government. Of course, our greatest source of funding is from our own membership.

The best means of guaranteeing future revenue streams is through endowments. An endowment is a donation that remains intact forever. The donation is invested and only the income generated by it is consumed. Thus, it becomes a means of perpetual funding. Most endowments are created by 501 [c] (3) corporations. In such case, the entire amount of the donation is tax deductible. Endowments also have regulations that stipulate exactly what the income can be spent for.

The Military Order of Stars and Bars is fortunate to already have an endowment fund that meets our needs precisely. The Confederate Legacy Endowment Fund was created in 2002-2004 during the administration of Past-Commander General Jeffery Massey. It calls for a pledge of \$1000. The pledge amount can be paid immediately or in the amount of \$250 per year over a four year period. Once the entire amount has been paid, the donor will receive the prestigious Confederate Legacy Legion of Merit drop to compliment his attire. The donor will also receive a beautiful certificate with a statement of gratitude.

A copy of the Confederate Legacy Endowment Fund pledge form is included below. Please consider that your donation is 100% tax deductible because of our 501 [c] (3) corporate status. Also keep in mind that many employers will match the charitable donations made by its employees. We would like to see this fund achieve a minimum balance of \$100,000 in the short-term. A long-term balance of \$1,000,000 is still a worthy goal.

Every time our heritage has been questioned our members have responded. We have seized every opportunity to preserve the memory of our ancestors and the cause that they fought for. We have given generously to worthy projects such as the Lee Chapel fund and the Beauvoir restoration fund. We now have the opportunity to support an endowment fund that will support our ideals for future generations. Please consider the Confederate Legacy Endowment Fund for a portion of your future donations. We are grateful for your support.

**Howard Jones**

### **Confederate Legacy Endowment Fund Pledge**

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\_\_\_\_\_ YES, I want to help. Enclosed is my gift of: \$250 \_\_\_\_ \$500 \_\_\_\_ \$1,000 \_\_\_\_ other \$ \_\_\_\_\_

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## Sesquicentennial Series: Alexander Hamilton Wolfe

### *Ancestor of Steven I. Wolfe*

(Submitted by Steven Wolfe)

Taylorsville Va  
Sept 4th 1864

Dear Nis

I have as long as one with patience could for an answer to my last letter to you; but no answer comes, Can it be that you are so lost in the pleasures of home Since the Commencement of your vacation; as to foreget to answer a letter from a brother in the army or is it this; that you have greater pleasures to take up your time with than letter writing. I hope neither may be your case, for that I can assure you that nothing on earth can give greater pleasure than to receive a letter from either Mother or Sisters at home, nor can any thing give me more pleasure than that which I derive from answering those fond messages. but I can assure you, if this is not answered, That hereafter I will not be the first to write after the correspondance is dropped by you, I have not received a line from home now for near four weeks. can it be that all have come to the conclusion that I can always write and never get tired of waiting an answer. I fear it is a great mistake for I like to read letters for kindred at home as most men and consequently will have to wait for an answer. I expect you think my language used above is rather rough and plain but you must recollect that the life that I now lead is rather rough & plain itself and consequently plain terms & words must be used. Last night I returned from a five days Scout on the Rapahanoc River; ever thing is perfectly quite in that quarter, no yankees to beheard of beyond that point or rather between the above named river and the Potomac River It was my first visit to Fredericksburg and I can assure you that I have never seen such destruction of property as that at the far famed "old town" Scarcely was there a dwelling in the town that escaped the iron hail of the enemy It is hardly possible for one to imagine the extent of destruction of property in that town. I noticed that the tallest steeple was pierced through by not less than fifteen different shells all of large size, well can all say "gallant little Fredericksburg" for nobly did She bid defiance to her enemies. The people suffered considerable in that quarter but they seem as unconquerable as ever. always willing to Share with the hungry Soldier as he passes on his way to duty, I found a plenty of apples & peaches on my road there and back; a great many of the citizens are turning their crop of apples into brandy; for sale; in order to be able buy up corn to feed themselves. as the army in the Spring destroyed all grain crops in that country. The place where our Company is stationed is considered very healthy with plenty of good water to drink and vegetables to eat, though we eat the latter only by paying large prices for them. Day before yesterday our Government issued flour rations to us which has been the first for lo these many days; though I expect in a Short time we will be able to get regular rations of it, if not I can not say that we know for what, or to what use our Government can be putting the wheat to; that she has on hand.

We are looking for Hampie to arrive at camp by evry train that rolls in; and I hope that when he does get here that he will bring something good with him. I will now try to give you a Short description of the place at which we are at camp ie Taylorsville; which consists of three dwellings and one church; is on the Fredericksburg R Road near the Middle Anna river, we are in camp about three quarters of a mile east of the village in some log huts built last winter by North Carolina troops. The huts look more like a village than the village itself, there are between three and four hundred of these log huts all in perfect order, The one that I am in is really comfortable no rain can reach you and it has a good fire place to it; which adds much to its comfort as the nights are growing cooler and cooler. each night. That it is really pleasant to be siting by the fire in our log cabin. Our horses are getting more grain than they have been getting for some time and mending but slow as they were quite poor before they commence raising the feed of Horses

The health of our company is very good My health is what I might term good. Dave Wise was sent to one of the Hospitals in Richmond on account of itch which was very bad on him. When you might let me know all of the news as to who is to be married and every thing in general This leaves both of us in good health,

Your Brother  
A. H. Wolfe

P.S.

I wrote to mother a few days ago and to Bet Several days before that Ask mother to send out to Pecks and find out; if he has finished my boots, he was to fix them and was to have them ready by the middle of Summer. When I left home last March Willie Geiger promised to carry my boots out to Pecks for him to work on them. If they are finished ask Ma to settle with him for me, Let me know about them when you write

*Nis is his sister Narcissa*

*Hampie is his brother Wade Hampton Wolfe who was wounded at Riddles Shop on June 24, 1864 and is now returning to his unit.*



**Pictured Above:** Colonel Thomas Wirz (left) and his father Colonel Heinrich Wirz, MOS&B during Easter in Switzerland

## EASTER FAMILY GATHERING IN SWITZERLAND

We received news from our long time friend and current Europe-based Aide de Camp and International Dispatches Committee Member Colonel Heinrich Wirz. To celebrate Easter, Colonel Wirz and his wife Annemarie visited with their son Colonel Thomas Wirz, and his family. Thomas is a General Staff Officer in the Swiss Armed Forces, who is currently commanding a large training facility.

Heinrich expressed the hope that Thomas will join him in the MOS&B (We naturally extend our invitation) and his other military activities and kindly sent us the splendid photograph of himself with his son to accompany this article.

Whilst at a family gathering, Heinrich was delighted to encounter Daniel Schwab, his own ADC who accompanied Heinrich on his visit to the United States in May 2009. Many happy memories were recalled, as can be imagined. Daniel is presently completing his training at the Police School in the Canton of Zurich.

In his dispatch, Heinrich accepted his appointment as ADC Europe from Commander General Max Waldrop, and emphasized his commitment to the MOS&B and to the Confederacy generally.

We are delighted to receive this news from our Swiss Compatriot and to know that he is a vital addition to our 2010-2012 Administration.



## Florida Society Annual Meeting

On July 17, 2010, the MOS&B Florida Society held their annual meeting at Ruby Tuesday's located on SR200 in Ocala, Florida. Members came throughout the state. This was an election year for the Florida Society. Those that were newly elected were as follows: Randy Kerlin - Society Commander; Eric Hague - Society Lt. Commander; Raleigh Worsham - Society Adjutant; Ben Willinham - Society Chief of Staff; and Jeff Sizemore - Society Editor. Planning for the 2011 Annual General Convention in Jacksonville, Florida was discussed. Pictured above is a group picture of all the MOS&B Florida Society attendees that were present at this meeting. This was also the first time that a group picture had been taken at any of the MOS&B Florida Annual meetings.

(Submitted by Jeff Sizemore)



## Reduced Price On Bronze MOS&B Grave Markers

*These beautifully crafted grave markers are 4" by 4" and are the "lug" type with the screw receptacle on the back. Can be mounted in concrete or on a metal shaft.*

**Many of us have purchased these in the past for \$55.00 (plus \$10.00 shipping) but thanks to a new price from the supplier we can offer them for \$40.00 each (plus \$10.00 Shipping.) Save \$15.00**

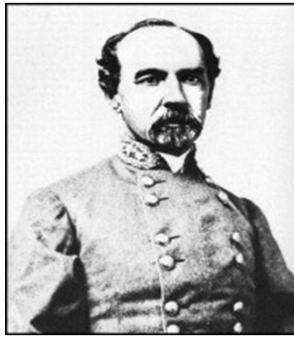
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## Brigadier General Montgomery Dent Corse Marker Restoration



While walking through St. Paul's Cemetery in Alexandria, Virginia, on a cold, blustery winter day in February, 2010, Todd Lewis, a member of the R.E. Lee Camp of Sons of Confederate Veterans noticed that the tombstone of Brigadier General Montgomery Dent Corse, CSA, had been toppled by the fierce snowstorms of this winter. He notified J.J. Smith, a neighbor and Adjutant of the Samuel Cooper MOS&B Chapter, of the condition of the tombstone.

General Corse was a native of Alexandria and his house on Prince Street is marked by a plaque placed by the Samuel Cooper MOS&B Chapter several years ago.

The following is from Wikipedia and has been edited to a limited degree: "Montgomery Dent Corse (March 14, 1816 – February 11, 1895) was an American banker, gold prospector, and soldier who served as a general in the Confederate States Army during the Civil War. He commanded a regiment and then a brigade in the Army of Northern Virginia, and served in several of that army's most important battles.

"Montgomery D. Corse was born in Alexandria, Virginia in 1816, the eldest son of John and Julia Corse. He attended Major Bradley Lowe's military school at Colross and Benjamin Hallowell's school on Washington Street. As a young boy he witnessed Lafayette's 1825 visit to Alexandria and participated in the inauguration of President Andrew Jackson in 1829.

"He worked in business with his father and was then a captain in the 1st Virginia Regiment during the Mexican War. He sailed for California in 1849 and participated in the Gold Rush. He returned permanently to Alexandria in 1856 and entered the banking business with his brothers, J. D. and William Corse. Three years later became the first lieutenant of the Alexandria Home Guard. In 1860, he organized a militia company known as the Old Dominion Rifles and became its captain.

"In early 1861 he was given an appointment as the major of the 6th Virginia Infantry Battalion and soon after he received the colonelcy of the 17th Virginia Infantry. He commanded the 17th at Blackburn's Ford during the First Battle of Manassas, as well during the 1862 Peninsula Campaign. He saw action at the battles of Yorktown, Williamsburg, Seven Pines, and throughout the Seven Days Battles. During the subsequent Northern Virginia Campaign, Corse commanded Kemper's Brigade during the Second Battle of Manassas until he was wounded. He was healthy enough to participate in the Maryland Campaign and was wounded at both South Mountain and Antietam at the head of his regiment. A new brigade was created for him, and he **was promoted** to brigadier general on November 1. His brigade was placed in a division commanded by General George E. Pickett and was only lightly engaged at Fredericksburg.

"In early 1863 he accompanied Lt. Gen. James Longstreet on an expedition to southeastern Virginia, resulting in the absence of Corse and his brigade from the rest of the army during the Battle of Chancellorsville. During the Gettysburg Campaign, Corse's Brigade was detached from Pickett's Division to guard Hanover Junction, north of Richmond. Because of this, the brigade did not participate in the battle nor the disastrous assault known as Pickett's Charge.

"Pickett's Division was detached from Longstreet's Corps when they were transferred to Georgia and Tennessee in late 1863, operating in western Virginia. In January 1864, Corse and his brigade participated in Pickett's operations against New Bern, North Carolina. After seeing action at Drewry's Bluff against Benjamin Butler's Bermuda Hundred operation, the brigade finally rejoined the Army of Northern Virginia and fought at Cold Harbor and through the Siege of Petersburg. Following the disaster at the Battle of Five

Forks, they began the retreat which would eventually end at Appomattox Court House. Corse himself was captured at the Battle of Saylor's Creek on April 6, 1865.

"After his surrender, General Corse was conveyed to Fort Warren near Boston, Massachusetts, on the day that Abraham Lincoln was assassinated, and he and the fourteen generals accompanying him narrowly escaped the violence of a mob at a town in Pennsylvania on the next morning. They were only saved by the determination of their small guard of Union soldiers and officers.

"Following the war, he took the Oath of Allegiance to the United States of America on July 24, 1865, and was released from Fort Warren. He subsequently returned to his banking profession in Alexandria, Virginia, with his brothers. He was a charter member of the R.E. Lee Camp of the United Confederate Veterans. In 1870, he was seriously injured when part of the Virginia State Capitol building in Richmond collapsed. He suffered partial blindness for several years thereafter. On May 24, 1880, Corse was a distinguished guest along with Governor Fitzhugh Lee and General Joseph E. Johnston at the dedication of the Confederate monument at Washington and Prince Streets in Alexandria.

"General Corse died at his home in Alexandria on February 11, 1895, following a brief illness. He and his wife are buried in the St. Paul's Episcopal Cemetery, Alexandria, Virginia. His personal and wartime papers are in the special collections of the Alexandria Library."

Adjutant Smith informed leaders of the Chapter and obtained authorization to remount and secure the tombstone. General Corse's grave had been marked in prior years by the chapter with a bronze plaque that received no damage when the tombstone toppled. Adjutant Smith contracted with Mr. James Click, Cemetery Superintendent, to remount and secure the tombstone and, at the same time, remove an offending dead cedar root that apparently had been the culprit that set the deadly chain of events into action many years ago.

Mr. Click performed as required and the tombstone was remounted, secured, and gave the Samuel Cooper Chapter a lifetime guarantee. When Adjutant Smith asked what "a lifetime guarantee" meant, Mr. Click responded, "That's in my life time." Although not a physician, Adjutant Smith, observing the physical stature and mental acuity of Mr. Click, concluded the guarantee likely extended beyond Adjutant's Smith's life time, and he felt secure in giving Mr. Click the agreed-upon fee.

## Mississippi Society Report

The LT GEN Nathan Bedford Forrest MOS&B Chapter # 100, Ripley, Miss., had its most recent meeting on 24 JULY in Tupelo, Mississippi, at 11 AM at the Lee County Library. Judge Roberts, former State Supreme Court Justice, was the guest speaker. More details of this meeting will be forthcoming. We are working on placing several Southern Crosses of Honour and are collaborating with other like-minded organizations to further the mission of the MOS&B. The LT GEN NB Forrest Chapter 100 also participated with local citizens, CofC, UDC, SCV and OSC members in the recent Confederate Memorial Day Service in April in Ripley, Miss.

The Mississippi Society MOS&B will be having its annual meeting on Saturday the 30th of October in Ripley, Miss. More details will follow in the October edition of the Officer's Call. There will be several seminars. Elections will be held for the Society.

I call on all Mississippi MOS&B members that do not have a Chapter affiliation to get one ASAP. This will help you stay connected to YOUR society. If you are not sure how to do so, please, contact me. I also request that all Chapter Commanders in Mississippi submit updates to me via e-mail, or otherwise, so that we may share with the Order what Mississippi is achieving. God bless.

Deo Vindice

Christopher J M Cummins, MD  
MAJ, MS ARNG  
Aide de Camp & Deputy Surgeon, General Staff  
LT Commander, Society  
Commander & Surgeon, Chapter  
LT GEN N B Forrest MOS&B Chapter # 100  
Ripley, Miss.



## ALABAMA SOCIETY GORGAS CHAPTER

### ROTC Award Appreciation Thank You Letter

To all whom it may concern,

It is with my sincerest apologies that I have contacted you so late. I would like, very much & from the bottom of my heart, to express my dearest honor in receiving this award. In all my wildest dreams, I would have never considered myself an individual to be all compared with such an extraordinary leader as General Robert E. Lee. However, take my word, gentlemen, I will, wherever I go in this wide world, display the honor and character, to the rest of my ability that was shown so greatly in so great of a man. I cannot tell you the honor and absolute pride I

have in receiving this award. My father, once told, was ecstatic with the news and immediately expressed how proud his mother, my grandmother, would have been of me had she still been alive today. This is a most humbling experience for me, gentlemen. This plaque and saber will be displayed prominently wherever my career takes my family. Again, gentlemen, I am honored, humbled, grateful to be the recipient of so wonderful award. Thank you.

Truly Honored,

***C/Lt. Col. William Joseph Damare, Jr.***

Cadet Inspector General  
10th Training Wing  
University of Alabama

(Submitted by Sam Gambrell)



Virginia Society Genealogist Allen Brahin, Judge Edward Butler, and Virginia Society Adjutant Lee Scouten pose for the Officer's Call at the grave of Thomas Jefferson.

## Virginia Society Report

Many of us belong to more than one heritage organization. We join one, then we just can't resist applying for another such as the Society of the War of 1812 or Sons of the American Revolution. I applied for membership and joined the SAR right about the time I was accepted in the MOS&B and I have enjoyed my membership in both organizations.

In June, I had the privilege of meeting another man who also belongs to both MOS&B and SAR, one Edward F. Butler of Texas. He is not only a member of the SAR, but the President-General for 2009 and 2010. It all started about a month ago when PG Butler contacted our SAR chapter here in Charlottesville and asked if we could arrange a wreath-laying ceremony at the gravesite of Thomas Jefferson on June 10, 2010. He was planning a trip up the east coast, visiting SAR chapters and Revolutionary War sites along the way. His destination was West Point and Stony Point in New York.

On the morning of the event, members from the Charlottesville and Culpeper chapters began to arrive. Most of them wore Continental uniforms and formed a color guard. Next, Judge Butler and wife Robin arrived followed soon afterward by the cameraman/reporter from WCAV. After an interview and photo-shoot, PG Butler made brief remarks about Thomas Jefferson and his role in America's founding. After the ceremony, the Judge and Mrs. Butler were treated to a tour of Monticello plus the dome room on the second floor.

While talking to Judge Butler, I could tell he values his membership in the MOS&B and Lawrence Sullivan Ross Chapter 184 in San Antonio. He plans to be at the national MOS&B convention there in 2012.

Submitted by Lee Scouten, photo by Stephanie Anne Brahin



CATALOG 256

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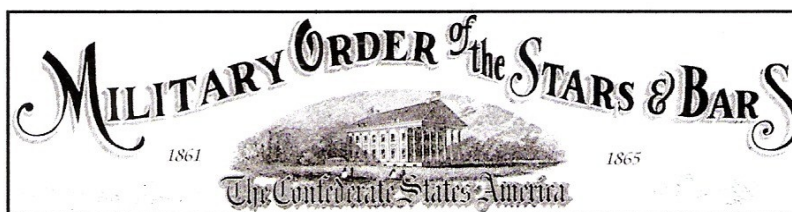
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*On April 30, 2010, we were honored to receive the  
Judah P. Benjamin Merit Award for outstanding and  
meritorious services to the Military Order of the Stars  
and Bars for our ongoing efforts in promoting and  
preserving Confederate Literature.*

## **Appreciation Acknowledgement of Judah P. Benjamin Award**

Just wanted to let you know how much I appreciated receiving the Judah P. Benjamin award from the MOS&B. I was invited to the reception of the General Picket Chapter at the Museum of the Confederacy last Wed. evening, and presented the award in person by Allen Mock. It was a true honor, and a genuine pleasure to be with this fine group of folks that evening. I said something about as long as there are books, the Confederacy will live forever, to which the room exploded in applause. I like that group!

Taylor Cowardin is in the store at the moment and sends his best. Once again, thank you for this honor, and for appreciating what we do here at Owens & Ramsey Historical Booksellers.

***Marc Ramsey***