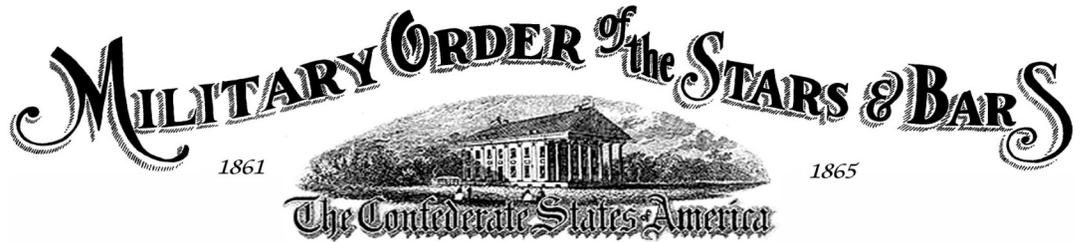




Volume 2, Number 9
December 2010



Officer's Call

Sesquicentennial Series Article #5 Charleston Mercury: The 20th Day of December, In the Year Of Our Lord, 1860 Submitted By Steve Wolfe

Inscribed among the calends of the world - memorable in time to come -- the 20th day of December, in the year of our Lord 1860, has become an epoch in the history of the human race. A great Confederated Republic, overwrought with arrogant and tyrannous oppressions, has fallen from its high estate amongst the nations of the earth. Conservative liberty has been vindicated. Mobocratic license has been stricken down. Order has conquered, yet liberty has survived. Right has raised his banner aloft, and bidden defiance to Might. The problem of self-government under the check- balance of slavery, has secured itself from threatened destruction.

South Carolina has resumed her entire sovereign powers, and, unshackled, has become one of the nations of the earth.

On yesterday, the 20th of December, 1860, just before one o'clock, p.m., the Ordinance of secession was presented by the Committee on "the Ordinance," to the Convention of the people of South Carolina. Precisely at seven minutes after one o'clock, the vote was taken upon the Ordinance -- each man's name being called in order. As name by name fell upon the ear of the silent assembly, the brief sound was echoed back, without one solitary exception in that whole grave body -- Aye!

At 1:15 o'clock, p.m. - the last name was called, the Ordinance of Secession was announced to have been passed, and the last fetter had fallen from the limbs of a brave, but too long oppressed people.

The Convention sat with closed doors. But upon the announcement outside, and upon the MERCURY bulletin board, that South Carolina was no longer a member of the Federal Union, loud shouts of joy rent the air. The enthusiasm was unsurpassed. Old men went shouting down the streets. Cannon were fired, and bright triumph was depicted on every countenance.

But before the Great Seal of the State was affixed to the Ordinance of Secession, and the names of the Delegates to the Convention were signed, it was proposed that this ceremony should be postponed until 7 o'clock that evening; when the Convention should reassemble and move in procession from the St. Andrew's Hall, where they then sat, to the great Secession Hall; and that there, before the assembled citizens of the State, the Great Seal of the State should be set, and each signature made. The proposition was favorably received.

(Article Continued on Page 6)



Stuart



Hampton



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R. F. Lee



Gordon



Hood



Jackson



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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

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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Commander General's Message

Looking to the Future

As we take the time to visit with our families over the Christmas and New Year Holidays we must also pause to reflect on the events of this past year. All of us, I am sure, have experienced both positive and negative changes. It is important, as we adjust to these changes, that we emphasize the positive and look for the "silver lining" in all things.

Our Order is going through its share of change both positive and negative as we continue to develop our corporate maturity. Your General Executive Committee just concluded its meeting today and several initiatives were approved for implementation which will provide us with focus and success during the Sesquicentennial. These next five years will be very important for our mission in preserving our Heritage and for growth in our membership. We approved the CY 2011 financial budget which required us to make some changes in order to support new initiatives. The Order is rapidly becoming an organization where tradition meets and embraces new technology.

Looking to this New Year and the future of the Order, what areas should we seek positive improvements? I believe the answers are simple ones:

1. We need to enhance mutual respect and commitment among each other;
2. Constant communication and responsiveness by all parties;
3. Leadership development at all levels within our Order;
4. Establish achievable goals in membership growth;
5. Continue our financial stability; and
6. Increase positive relationships with other heritage organizations.

I challenge all of us to recruit a new member into our organization. Today, we have 1,640 active members with several pending new member applications. There remain approximately 700 members whose 2011 dues have yet to be received at National Headquarters. Our members are valuable assets for our organization whose contributions are critical to our success. Please concentrate on membership retention as we enter 2011 and also the recruitment of new members.

Thank you for your contributions, loyalty, and dedication to the Order. I pray that your family members will experience the joy of this Christmas Season and that your New Year will be truly a positive experience.

Gentlemen, the future of the Order is in **YOUR** hands!

Max L. Waldrop, Jr.
Commander General



Victorian Christmas
Tree, 1848

Chaplain's Corner : Christmas in the Confederate Army

Christmas Day was not uniformly observed in the Confederate armies during the war, nor was it celebrated consistently by all soldiers even in winter camps. Although the German tradition of decorating a Christmas tree had been introduced into Virginia as early as 1842, there were no Christmas cards printed in America until 1875. Gifts, of course, were not expected between soldiers.

Nevertheless there is evidence that many Confederate soldiers remembered Christmas Day, sometimes with services by their chaplains but most often by writing letters to their families. At best there was great diversity in observing Christmas as dictated by the duties soldiers had to perform every day and the resources they had at hand.

Perhaps the most elaborate Christmas celebration occurred at Moss Neck, eleven miles downriver from Fredericksburg, Virginia in 1862. Lt. Gen. T.J. Jackson's Corps headquarters was located there in an outbuilding on the 1600-acre Corbin Plantation.

On Christmas Day General Jackson wrote to his wife, Anna: "I do earnestly pray for peace. Oh! that our country was such a Christian, God fearing people as it should be! Then might we speedily look for peace." (1) Jackson missed his wife and baby daughter immensely as most soldiers missed their families during that long winter.

The Corbin family, however, had fared better than most during the first year and a half of the war. They had been robbed of much of their furniture by Federal troops, but they still had the means to furnish a wonderful Christmas dinner not just for General Jackson, but also for Generals Robert E. Lee and J.E.B. Stuart, as well as ten other officers. The lavish table contained three turkeys, oysters, a ham, fresh biscuits, vegetables and pickles and a large bottle of wine. Even the large mold of butter bore the imprint of a rooster. General Stuart asked Jackson if that depicted his coat-of-arms, much to Jackson's embarrassment. General Lee pretended shock at the commodious accommodations and asked if Jackson and his men were just playing soldiers. Jackson was red with confusion since he had planned none of the dinner, and his embarrassment caused even General Lee to laugh boisterously (2).

On Christmas night the Corbins gave a party at their house, but General Jackson did not attend. Perhaps he had had enough teasing for one day. He did retire to his office, which contained a writing table and a cot by the fireplace, to catch up on his battle reports for General Lee-- who was next door! Meanwhile in the surrounding woods, the 36,600 men of Jackson's Second Corps cut down trees for winter huts. One member of the Corbin family wrote that in less than six weeks great forests were literally mowed down(3).

Two years later and much farther south, Private Reding R. Bowdoin, Company E, 53rd Alabama Cavalry, Wheeler's Cavalry Corps, wrote to his wife two days after Christmas from Springfield, Georgia, near Savannah:

Dear Ann my ever true and loving wife and sweete and dear little children again I have seated myself with dew reference [due reverence?] love and respect to drop you afew lines in ancer [answer] to you very kinde letter...whitch reach me a Christmas day just at nite I was more than glad to hear from you once more yes I was over joyed I cannot tell you how I felt when I open hit and saw it was from one so near and dear to me from hoom...

I can not comply with your wishes at this time that is to come home but that I can come be fore long and when I come I will try and bring you a horse if I can get one you said you had no corn I am sorry to here that and hope you have got corn before now and if you have not I want you to let me know... if you cant get it other wise I will come home and get it for you furlough or no furlough.

I have got my shirt drawers and socks but have not herd of dennison as yet but hope he will be in soon for I neede the close [clothes] very bad. The yanks got about 600,000 bails of cotton in savannah. It is reported in camps this morning that Jef Davis is dead may be that will have some affect to wards peas [peace].

You must tell the children to be good children learn their Books love one another love and obey Mother and forget not pa for he offens thinks of you. My dear wife pray fervently for your husband for I feele that I need your prays and the prays of the church to bear me up in this time of need write soon and may God even be with you and bless and save you all is the pray of one that loves and adores you ever remain your true and loving husband. R.R. Bowdoin (4).

From these two brief accounts, it would seem that the best Christmas present a soldier could get, whether a General or a private, was a letter from home. Food and clothing were important, but connection to family was the balm of the soul. I pray that this Christmas you and your families will connect with one another to celebrate the birth of the Prince of Peace. I also ask that you will pray for our service members who continue to walk in harm's way; and maybe, if you have the time, you can send a deployed soldier a letter of appreciation from home.

John Brinsfield,

Chaplain General, MOS&B

1. James I. Robertson Jr., *Stonewall Jackson: The Man, The Soldier, The Legend* (New York: MacMillan Publishing Co., 1997), 668.

2. *Ibid.*, 669. As also depicted in the movie, *Gods and Generals*.

3. *Ibid.*

4. Excerpted from Robert G. McLendon, Jr., *History of the 53rd Regiment Alabama Volunteer Cavalry*, (Troy Alabama: Blackhorse Publishing, 2007), 280-281. Private Bowdoin survived the war and lived until 14 March 1877. His widow Ann applied for a pension from Elmore City, about eight miles north of Montgomery, Alabama.

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 or by phone (877) 790-6672 so we may stay in touch.

— Continued from Page 1: Sesquicentennial Series Article #5

At 6 1/2 o'clock p.m., the Convention reassembled at St. Andrew's Hall. At 6 3/4 o'clock p.m., they formed in procession and moved forward in silence to Secession Hall. The building was filled to overflowing, and they were received by some three thousand people in the Hall.

The Convention was called to order. The scene was one profoundly grand and impressive. There were a people assembled through their highest representatives -- men most of them upon whose heads the snows of sixty winters had been shed -- patriarchs in age -- the dignitaries of the land -- the High Priests of the Church of Christ -- reverend statesmen -- and the wise judges of the law. In the midst of deep silence, an old man, with bowed form, and hair as white as snow, the Rev. Dr. BACHMAN, advanced forward, with upraised hands, in prayer to Almighty God, for His blessing and favor in this great act of his people, about to be consummated. The who assembly at once rose to its feet, and with hats off, listened to the touching and eloquent appeal to the All Wise Dispenser of events. At the close of the prayer the President advanced with the consecrated parchment upon which was inscribed the decision of the State, with the Great Seal attached. Slowly and solemnly it was read unto the last word -- "dissolved" -- when men could contain themselves no longer, and a shout that shook the very building, reverberating, long-continued, rose to Heaven, and ceased only with the loss of breath. In proud, grave silence, the Convention itself waited the end with beating hearts.

The President then requested the Delegates (by previous decision) to step forward as they were called in the alphabetical order of the Districts which they represented, and sign the Ordinance. Two hours were occupied in this solemn ceremony - the crowd waiting patiently the end. As the delegation from St. Phillip's and St. Michael's came forward, again, the hall was filled with applause. And as the Hon. R.B. RHETT advanced to the parchment, the shouts became deafening, long-continued, until he had seated himself, signed and retired. It was a proud and worthy tribute, gracefully paid, and appreciated. The same special compliment was paid to our Ex-Governor GIST, who recommended in his message to the extra session, the immediate secession of South Carolina from the Union.

At the close of the signatures the President, advancing to the front of the platform, announced that the Seal of the State had been set, the signatures of the Convention put to the Ordinance, and he thereby proclaimed the State of South Carolina a separate, independent nationality.

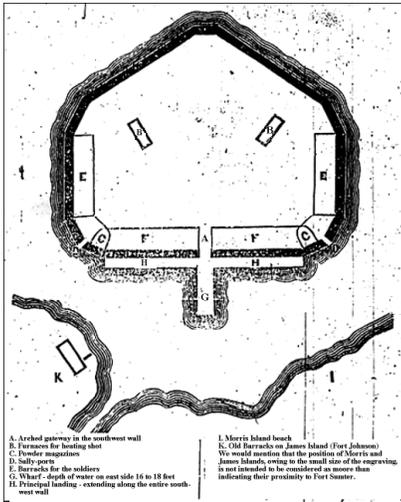
To describe the enthusiasm with which this announcement was greeted, is beyond the power of the pen. The high, burning, bursting heart alone can realize it. A mighty voice of great thoughts and great emotions spoke from the mighty throat of one people as a unit.

The State of South Carolina has recorded herself before the universe. In reverence before God, fearless of man, unawed by power, unterrified by clamor, she has cut the Gordian knot of colonial dependence upon the North - cast her fortune upon her right, and her own right arm, and stands ready to uphold alike her independence and her dignity before the world. Prescribing to none, she will be dictated to by none willing for peace, she is ready for war. Deprecating blood, she is willing to shed it. Valuing her liberties, she will maintain them. Neither swerved by frowns of foes, nor swayed by timorous solicitations of friends, she will pursue her direct path, and establish for herself and for her posterity, her rights, her liberties and her institutions. Though friends may fail her in her need, though the cannon of her enemies may belch destruction among her people, South Carolina, unawed,

unconquerable, will still hold aloft her flag, "ANIMIS OPIBUSQUE PARATI." ["READY IN SPIRIT AND DEEDS"]

Our Harbor Defenses -- Fort Sumter

For Sumter is built upon an artificial island, at the entrance of our harbor. The foundation being of stone, it must be of the strongest nature. That portion of the fort above the water-line is of brick and concrete of the most solid character. Its plan is a truncated pentagon, with one side parallel to the adjoining shore, thus presenting an angle to the channel. Of the truncated angles the eastern, western and northern are simply formed into *Pan-coupeês* [a piece of wall that forms a cutoff corner of a building], whilst the other two are formed into two small faces, making an angle of about fifteen degrees with the sides of the pentagon. At each intersection of the small faces is a sally



port. The height of the parapet above the waterline is sixty feet. On the eastern and western sides are the barracks for the privates, mess hall, kitchen, &c. On the southern side are the officers quarters, which are finished in very handsome style.

It is mounted with the heaviest guns of the United States service, arranged in three tiers, the two lower being Casemates and the upper Barbette guns. The Casemate guns are those which are fired from an embrasure in the Scarp Walls, and are protected from the enemy's shells by an arched bomb-proof covering overhead; the Barbette, those which fire over the parapet, which exposes the cannoniers to the fire of the enemy, although, in this instance, the height of the ramparts is so great that there is comparatively no danger from the shot of an enemy's fleet. The armament consists of 140 pieces, placed in the following order: The heaviest guns, such as the 32 and 63 pounders, on the first tier; 24 and 32 pounders on the second tier; Columbiads (8 and 10 inch) and heavy sea coast mortars on the top of the ramparts.

The heaviest pieces are turned toward the harbor, the lighter toward the land, side; which side is further protected by musketry, for which loop-holes are cut in the Scarp Wall. The number of each kind of gun is about thirty 64-pounders; the same number of 32-pounders; forty 24-pounders; ten of each calibre of Columbiad; ten 13-inch and ten 10-inch mortars, capable of throwing about four thousand (4000) pounds of shot and four thousand three hundred (4300) pound of shall at each discharge.

On the terra-parade plain are situated two furnaces for heating shot. The magazines are situated on the inner sides of the sally ports, and contain, pat present, 40,000 lbs. of powder, and aproportionate quantity of shot and shell. The landing to the Fort is on the southern, or land side, and is formed by a wharf projecting towards the shore, and also extending the length of that face.

This Fort would be nearly impregnable if finished and properly manned. It is at present so far completed that with a little temporary work, it could be made so strong as to defy any attack by a fleet of large vessels. Its weakest point is on the south side, of which the masonry is not only weaker than [sic] of the other sides, but it is not protected by any flank fire, which would sweep the wharf. Once landed, an entrance may, at the present state of the construction, be easily made, for the blinds of the lower embrasures, though six inches in thickness, may yet be easily blown away, and even if this was impossible, scaling ladders can reach those of the second tier which are not protected in this manner.

This concludes the brief sketch of a fort, which is a most perfect specimen of civil and military engineering. The whole work has been conducted in a manner that reflects the highest credit upon the engineers, and is worthy to occupy the prominent position that it holds. In conclusion, we take occasion to allude to one point of especial beauty - the construction of the arches - of which there are nearly every variety - the "Full Centre," the "Segment," the "Groined," the "Askew," and the "Rampant" - and to add that the walls at their base are 12 feet thick, and at the top 8 1/2 feet thick.

Fort Johnson

The position of this old fort, which is of the utmost importance as a connecting point in the defense of the Harbor, has been considered by the highest military authority, as the key to all the defensive works in the Harbor. Against the attack of forces by land, or a boat attack by the Stono River, it must be considered an essential element of defense. So soon, then, as the State of South Carolina assumes the control of the Harbor fortifications, no time should be lost before a permanent fortification is commenced here, if time does not admit of a substantial work being built, a field-work of earth and timber to mount sixty guns, could be created in a very short time, which would offer a respectable defense against any probable land-attack, and furnish at the same time a heavy battery against shipping.

<http://www.tulane.edu/~sumter/Dilemmas/Mer21Dec.html>



New Member Induction Ceremony

On October 19th the St. John Richardson Liddell Chapter #271 welcomed 3 new members with a brief induction ceremony. Compatriot Larry Johnson brings a wealth of knowledge to the Chapter and is eager to protect the good name and final resting places of our ancestors. Compatriots Dillon Anderson and Zachary Locklear represent the future of the Order.

In the far left photo, seen is the administration of the oaths. In middle left picture, the new members proudly display their new Certificates. In middle right picture, the Commander pins the younger new members. Compatriot Johnson was pinned by his wife.

In addition to the swearing in, Compatriots Anderson and Locklear were awarded the Joseph Davis award. Being under the age of 18 and meeting all requirements for regular membership, they were entitled. The far right picture shows them wearing their new medals.

As a side note to the Joseph Davis medal, I was very surprised at how nice a medal it is. It is really first class and I would advise any chapter with eligible members to order it and present it with a small ceremony.

(Submitted by Bert Blackmon-Commander, St. John Richardson Liddell Chapter #271)

Lt. John M. Stribling Grave Clean-up

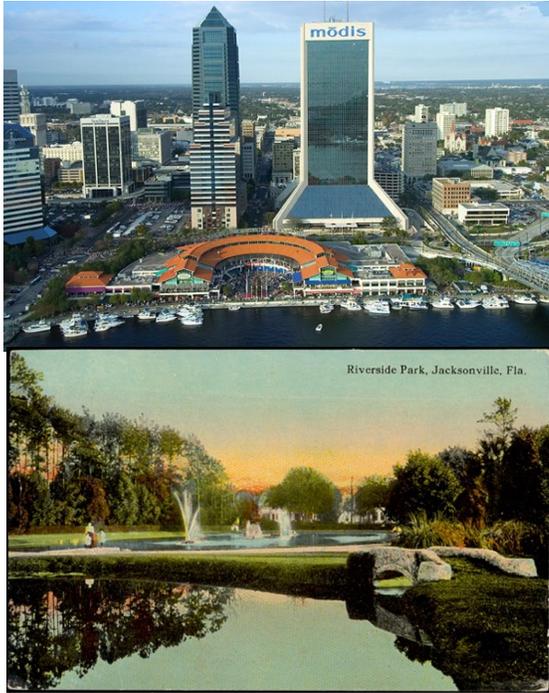
On Sunday October 10th several members of the St. John Richardson Liddell Chapter #271 cleaned the grave of Lt. John M. Stribling of the Confederate States Navy. Lt. Stribling died of Yellow Fever while serving aboard the CSN Florida. The Florida had the distinction of being the only Confederate raider to drop its anchor in a Confederate Port when it did so in 1862.

While there, the men of the Liddell Chapter also cleaned the grave of Seaman James Duncan who died as a result of gunfire from a Union Blockade Ship while the Florida entered Mobile Bay. Seaman Duncan, being the good and loyal seaman, is spending eternity standing watch with his officer.

While there we also cleaned the grave of Sgt. Julius Ceaser Finklea of the Confederate Army. He is resting about 3 rows over from the Naval Contingent.

All three are resting in a very beautiful cemetery in Montrose, Baldwin County, Alabama. When interred in 1862 Lt. Stribling and Seaman Duncan's graves commanded a splendid view of Mobile Bay with the Florida directly in front of them at the Quarantine Anchorage.

(Submitted by Bert Blackmon-Commander, St. John Richardson Liddell Chapter #271)



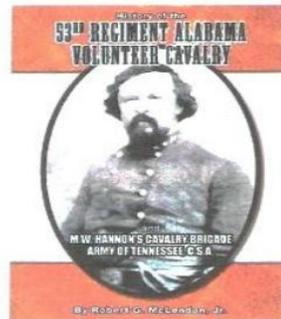
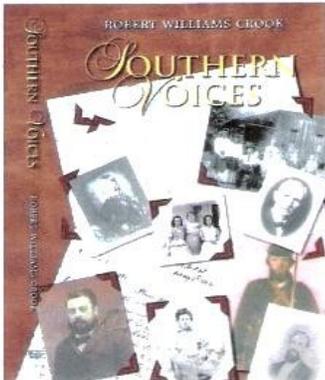
Annual MOS&B Convention Jacksonville, Florida in 2011

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 or call us at (877) 790-6672.

(Submitted by Ben Willingham)

Have you shopped at the MOS&B Store lately?

Check out the new items as well as these specialty items!



Pocket ID Badge
Slips into your jacket or shirt pocket. Personalize with your name and MOS&B title or just with your name.

www.mosbihq.org

A Reminder

The close out sale on the MOS&B jackets is still on going.

Sale price is \$50.00 each with free shipping which means a savings of \$20.00 off the original price.

***There are only a few of these jackets remaining.
Order today!***



<u>Sizes</u>	<u>Item #</u>	<u>Sizes</u>	<u>Item #</u>
3XL	MC007	XL	MC009
2XL	MC008	L	MC010

The MOS&B 2011 Sesquicentennial Convention

Registration Form: Jacksonville, Florida

Name: _____ Member Number: _____

Address: _____

E-mail Address: _____ Telephone: _____

Spouse's name: _____ Others: _____

Member registration:	\$ 75	Total \$ <u>75</u>
Thursday: Dinner on the St. Johns excursion	\$ 45	Total \$ _____
Friday: Forrest Cavalry Breakfast (FCC)	\$ 25	Total \$ _____
MOS&B Luncheon	\$ 25	Total \$ _____
Historical presentation and museum	\$ 25	Total \$ _____
Commander General's Reception and Dinner	\$ 40	Total \$ _____
Saturday: Prayer Breakfast	\$ 25	Total \$ _____
Award's Luncheon	\$ 35	Total \$ _____
Gala Ball	\$ 55	Total \$ _____
Olustee Battlefield tour (bus)	\$ 30	Total \$ _____
Florida Historical presentation (conference room)	\$ 15	Total \$ _____
Additional Sesquicentennial Convention Medals	\$ 30	Total \$ _____
Additional copies of "Florida History"	\$ 15	Total \$ _____
Total for all events and extras:		Total \$ _____

Make your checks payable to MOS&B Florida Society and mail with reservation to:

Adjutant Raleigh Worsham
 6768 Hartsworth Drive
 Lakeland, FL 33813-0809

You may make reservations with the hotel at:

http://www.wyndham.com/groupevents2010/jaxht_mosbfl/main.wnt

Please address your questions to Convention@mosbfl.org or Adjutant@mosbfl.org

Note: The Registration Fee of \$ 75 includes one Sesquicentennial Convention Medal and one copy of "Florida History."

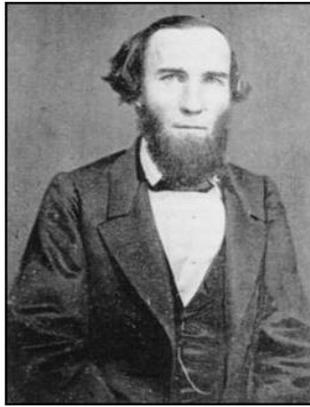
Required Convention Attire:

For Business Sessions, Luncheons, Reception: Jacket/Coat, Collared Shirt, Tie

For Banquet and Ball: Jacketed Formal, Tuxedo, US Military or Period attire



MG Jeremiah Clemens



BG Leroy Walker



BG William Forney



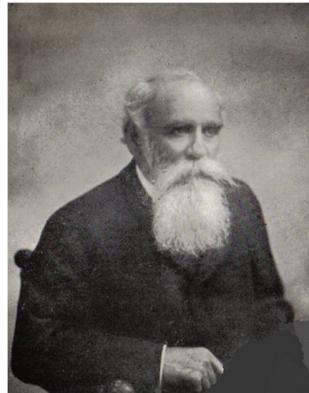
BG James Clanton



BG Cullen Battle



BG Jacob Sharp



COL Caleb Huse



BG John C. C. Sanders

ALABAMA SOCIETY

GORGAS CHAPTER #299

(Submitted by Dr. Sam Gambrell, Adjutant)

Confederate General Officer Alumni, The University of Alabama By Lieutenant Colonel Dan N. Clark, Ed.D., BG Josiah Gorgas Chapter, MOS&B

The University of Alabama was founded in 1831. Of over 7,000 military officers it produced over the decades, at least 58 have risen to general officer rank. The story of its alumni who served the Confederacy during the War Between the States (WBTS) follows. The information is sourced from the "University of Alabama Student Registry, 1831-1901" published in 1903 and other historical references. All photos are sourced from various Internet sites.

Most officers who received degrees from Alabama in its early years chose to serve in the US Army during times of conflict and then returned to civilian pursuits. Many accepted commissions in local militias or Alabama State Troops units. Others answered the call to arms during the Creek and Seminole Wars and a large number served in the Mexican War. All but one who rose to general officer rank during the WBTS graduated from Alabama before 1851.

Major General (MG) Jeremiah Clemens (Class of 1831) (photo 1) served as the commander of Alabama State Troops during 1861-62. Quickly growing disenchanted with service, he resigned his commission and left Alabama. He spent the rest of the war living in the North petitioning for reconciliation.

The Student Registry states MG Crawford M. Jackson (Class of 1832) served in the US Volunteers prior to the WBTS. A planter in Autauga County, he served in the Alabama Legislature for several terms and authored

several books about his county's history. While no evidence suggests he served in the Confederate Army, it is clear he remained active in local politics during the war.

A lawyer before the WBTS, Leroy P. Walker (Class of 1835) was appointed as the initial Confederate Secretary of War and issued the orders to fire on Fort Sumter in 1861. He then accepted a commission as a Brigadier General (BG). Seeing no combat, he soon resigned and returned home to Huntsville, Alabama where he died in 1884.

BG Isaac Dansby (Class of 1836) is listed in the Student Registry as having served with the Texas State Troops prior to the WBTS. No evidence suggests that he served in the Confederate Army and no photo of him is available. However, with hostile Indians on the Texas frontier during the WBTS, it is possible he continued serving there or died prior to the war.

BG Hugh P. Watson (Class of 1836) is listed in the Student Registry as having served with the Alabama State Troops during 1861-65. While not listed in Confederate general officer records and no photo is available, Alabama State Defense Force records reflect that he commanded the Alabama State Reserves throughout the war.

BG William H. Forney (Class of 1844) served as a lieutenant in the 1st Alabama Infantry Regiment at Vera Cruz with General Winfield Scott during the Mexican War. He later practiced law, was a trustee of The University of Alabama, and served in the US Congress during 1859-60. He resigned the latter office to join the 10th Alabama Infantry Regiment and eventually commanded it as a BG. He surrendered with his unit at Appomattox and served eight terms in the US House of Representatives.

BG James H. Clanton (Class of 1845) served in the US Army during Mexican War and later practiced law before serving in the Alabama legislature. During the WBTS he served as a cavalry officer before eventually promotion to general. Severely wounded and captured near Tallahassee in early 1865, he was paroled at war's end. He returned to Montgomery to resume his law practice and was active in state politics. He was killed in a private feud with a political rival in 1871.

The Student Registry states that BG William Safford (Class of 1848) served in the Confederate Army. While not listed in Confederate general officer records and no photo is available, it is possible he commanded state troops or militia (Alabama or other state) during the war. The BG designation may also have been honorary.

BG Cullen A. Battle (Class of 1850) commanded the 3d Alabama Infantry. Wounded in the Battle of Cedar Creek, he never returned to duty. After the war he was the mayor of New Bern, North Carolina and a newspaper editor until his death in 1905. He also wrote the history of the Third Alabama Infantry.

Enlisting as a private in 1861, BG Jacob H. Sharp (Class of 1851) rose through the ranks to command a Mississippi brigade in 1864. He served in every major battle with the Army of Tennessee until its surrender in 1865 and miraculously was never wounded in battle. After the war he was a lawyer and newspaper editor in Columbus, Mississippi and also served in the state legislature.

By the late 1850s lax student discipline had reached a crescendo. Desiring to restore order to the campus, President Landon Garland established the Alabama Corps of Cadets (ACC) in 1860. The storm clouds of war were already on the horizon and the service of these young men would prove vital to the Confederate cause. Ironically the first Commandant of Cadets was Colonel Caleb Huse, a West Point alumnus from a prominent New England family.

Tasked to train officers for the Confederacy, The University of Alabama quickly became known as the West Point of the South. Over 875 alumni and former students answered the call to battle during the war and over a quarter of them perished during it. On 3 April 1865, 300 young members of the Alabama Corps of Cadets (ACC) engaged 1500 Union cavalry under the command BG John Croxton in downtown Tuscaloosa. Sensing a futile slaughter against such odds, President Garland ordered the ACC to withdraw east of town. The next morning the Union cavalry burned most university buildings.

The United Daughters of the Confederacy commissioned the Confederate Memorial on the University Quad-rangle in 1910. A large granite stone originally gracing the center of the former Rotunda location, it lists the total numbers who served by rank on a bronze plate. It was moved to its present location in 1939 during the construction of the Amelia Gayle Gorgas Library.

The most famous of all Alabama cadets was BG John Caldwell Calhoun Sanders, (class of 1861), of the 11th Alabama Infantry Regiment. Leading his men through battles at Fredericksburg, Chancellorsville, Gettysburg, Wilderness, and Spotsylvania, he was wounded three times and recognized for his gallantry and leadership skills. As such he became one of the "Boy Generals of the Confederacy" and was promoted to BG at age 24. He was killed on 21 August 1864 during an engagement at Weldon Railroad near Petersburg, Virginia. Today the BG John C.C. Sanders Lecture Series honors this officer and the ACC's heritage by presenting lectures by notable WBTS scholars.



CG Waldrop & New Society Officers [1LtC Choate not present]
L to R: CG Waldrop, Treas. Heathman, Cdr. Hughes, 2LtC Sims

Forrest/Cheatham Tennessee Society Annual Convention Update

The Forrest/Cheatham Society of Tennessee, MOS&B, held its annual convention on October 30, 2010 at *The Hermitage*, home of President Andrew Jackson, Hermitage, Tennessee.

Special guest and principal speaker, Commander General Max L. Waldrop, Jr., presented goals and programs for the Order over the coming years. We share his enthusiasm for the future, with special regard to MOS&B participation during the Sesquicentennial Celebration of 2011–2015. The Forrest/Cheatham Society has been making tentative plans for Sesquicentennial recognition.

The Society accepted new rules, without objection, to comply with amendments to the MOS&B Bylaws ratified in Convention at Oklahoma City, May 2010. These rules, initiated by Society Commander Johnson, had previously been ratified by the Society Executive Council.

New Officers for the Society — Commander **Jerry G. Hughes, Sr.**, 1st Lieutenant Commander **J. Mark Choate**, and 2nd Lieutenant Commander **John S. Sims** — were elected and installed by Commander General Waldrop. Past Lieutenant Commander Heathman volunteered to continue as Treasurer and Past Commander Johnson volunteered to continue as Genealogist. Commander Hughes will appoint other Officers at his discretion.

The Tennessee Society is poised for furtherance of MOS&B objectives under the capable leadership of Commander General Waldrop and Society Commander Hughes.



Mississippi Society Annual Meeting Update

On October 30, 2010, the State Society of Mississippi held its annual meeting at Pine Hill Country Club in Ripley, Miss. All active chapters were represented. New bonds of friendship were made and old ones renewed. Society Officers were elected: Commander Christopher Cummins, Adjutant Alan Palmer, and Lt. Commander Ward Calhoun. Other Society level positions are pending. One former member was in attendance and renewed. Thanks to him (Compatriot Larry Hellums) for the attached photo! Plans have been laid down to renew the annual Mississippi Society MOSB Symposium that has not occurred the last few years. This will be done in the Spring of '11. Further details will be forthcoming in the Officer's Call regarding the symposium. Our Society is now in a re-building mode and anticipates a bright new birth and growth just like the phoenix! I strongly encourage all Mississippi Society members to become affiliated with one of our active chapters ASAP to get in and stay in the "loop." God bless.



Deo Vindice
Most Humbly Submitted,
MAJ Christopher Cummins, MD
Commander, Mississippi Society
Aide de Camp & Deputy Surgeon General, Confederation
Military Order of the Stars & Bars



Colonel
George Washington Rains,
Courtesy of the
Augusta Museum of History

Augusta Confederate Power Works Rededication Service

Early in the War Between the States, the South faced a critical shortage of gun powder and the means to manufacture it. Ordinance manual specified 200 rounds per man as a desirable standard. Since the Confederacy could not produce enough powder to meet this requirement with its present facilities, and with the North's shipping blockade prevented large scale importations, the South faced the Herculean task of developing, under wartime conditions, facilities to rectify this deficiency.

The man, who virtually alone, shouldered this burden was Colonel George W Rains, a West Point trained engineer who had operated ironworks in the North. Though he had only designed steam engines, Rains at once set about creating ammunition works from scratch from September 1861 to May 1862.

After months of scouting locations, planning the layout and designing the equipment, he began to erect the power works near the Savannah River just west of Augusta, GA. This spot, formerly the site of a U.S. arsenal, was far enough inland to be secure from enemy attack & near enough to forests to make vital raw material available.

Black powder is a mixture of charcoal, sulfur, and saltpeter (potassium nitrate) and these critical materials were available locally.

Working from his own design of the factory and equipment, Colonial Rains supervised in an incredible nine months, the erection of a two mile long factory complex consisting of 26 buildings next to the nearby Augusta Canal to transport material from one building to another.

The factory produced the finest gunpowder the 19th century had ever seen, as much as 5000 lbs of gunpowder a day, for a total of 2, 750,000 lbs of cannon and small-arms powder by the end of the war. Rail lines from the centrally located Augusta carried Rain's gunpowder to every distant parts of the Confederacy. After one fierce battle with the blockade fleet in Charleston, the Confederates had exhausted all their powder at Fort Sumter; the Augusta Powder Works was able to replace it with less than two days production.

In addition to gunpowder, signal rockets, hand grenades, bronze field guns, pistols, gun carriages, and horse harnesses were shipped from this manufacturing complex. The most outstanding feature of the new powder works was the 176 foot tall chimney which overlooked the surrounding area.

After the war, the City of Augusta purchased the mill property on the condition that it tear down the old powder works. On a plea to the city council of Augusta from Colonel Rains the chimney was saved. *"Would it be asking too much form the City that the Obelisk be allowed to remain forever as a fitting monument to the dead heroes who sleep on the unnumbered battle-fields of the South?"*

The city sold all the property except the chimney and 10 feet on each side of its base. In 2003, the Brigadier General E. Porter Alexander SCV Camp # 158 formed the Confederate Powder Works Chimney Restoration Project to restore the chimney as a monument to the Confederate Soldiers as requested by Colonel Rains. They raised the \$192,000 required to restore the Chimney. It took 8 years and the help of the SCV Georgia Division, City of Augusta, SCV Camp # 158, SCV International Headquarters, David and Debra Denard, the Georgia Civil War Commission, and the Augusta/Richmond County Historical Society to raise the required sum.

In November 2009, the Confederate Powder Works Chimney Restoration Project began and thereby completed in March 2010 with the restoration work being carried out by International Chimney Corporation. On October 9, 2010 at 2:00 PM in Augusta, GA, the rededication service for the newly restored Confederate Powder Works Chimney commenced. With the very emotional entrance of 90 uniformed infantry with flags flying who marched on to the railroad embankment overlooking the ceremony, there were also 13 cannons manned by full crews lining and facing the Augusta canal.

The service was conducted by Lee Herron, Commander of the Brigadier General E. Porter Alexander SCV Camp #158. After the invocation and pledge to the flags, the introduction of special guest and project donors, the keynote speaker was introduced, Dr. Chip L. Bragg. After the keynote speaker was finished, the Artillery and Infantry fired three salutes.

Each person who participated in the honor guard and artillery received a small vial of fly ash that was reclaimed from the interior base of the chimney during the renovation that was the result of the last run of black powder in April 1865. This was a "once in a lifetime" event and left a lasting impression on the very large crowd that attended.

Deo Vindice

O. David Denard, AOT Commander
David L. Floyd, AOT Executive Council



The Confederate Powder Works in Augusta, Georgia

By Debra Denard Atlanta Chapter 18

The year is 1860 and the place Augusta, Georgia. Augusta's population is 12,493, one of only 102 cities in the United States with a population over 10,000. It is second largest city in Georgia. Since 1816 its prominence and prosperity were in part due to its improvements in transportation. Steamboats were here by 1816, the narrow "Petersburg" boats carried goods from the upper Savannah River to the commercial wharfs of Augusta, and in 1845 with the construction of the Augusta Canal she became the second largest inland cotton market in the world. The Georgia Railroad connected Augusta to Atlanta and the other Southern States thus providing access from inland Georgia to the Mississippi and Tennessee Rivers. These rail lines provided the Southern States with access to the Atlantic Ocean via the Savannah River. Augusta grew and became an industrial city. Little did she know that in 1861 she would be at the forefront of the defense of the newly formed Confederate States of America.

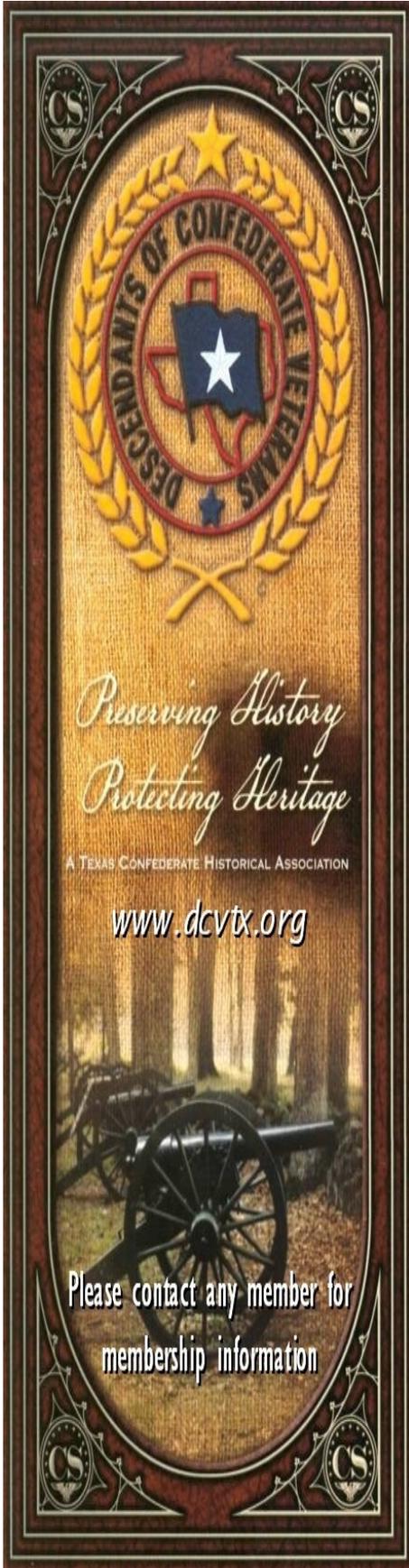
In February 1861 the newly formed Confederate Congress empowered President Jefferson Davis to make contracts for the purchase and manufacturing of heavy ordnance, small arms, and what they all needed-gunpowder. The first gunpowder the CSA had was that they had found in the state's arsenals. Much of the United States powder stored in these arsenals was old and not of good quality. The Confederate Government and the State governments soon purchased northern powder from the Hazard Powder Company of Connecticut and the DuPont Company of Delaware but those purchases were short lived. The Confederate Ordnance Bureau was established in April 1861 and Colonel Josiah Gorgas was chosen chief. The Bureau's chief task was next to impossible. One week after the fall of Fort Sumter, Gorgas reported there was a mere 491,111 pounds of gunpowder in the entire Confederacy.

Colonel Gorgas appointed West Point trained engineer and artillery man Colonel George Washington Rains the task of taking charge of the manufacture of gunpowder. The powder works needed to be erected as nearly central as possible. The works needed to be permanent and sufficient to supply the tons needed by the army, navy, and artillery in the field and in the forts. In July 1861 Rains made a rapid tour of the South for a suitable location. He decided on Augusta, Georgia.

The Augusta area was central in location to the limestone caves of Tennessee, Alabama, and Georgia. The much needed limestone needed to make saltpetre could be transported by rail or canal to Augusta. There was a ready supply of cheap Cottonwood trees for use in the manufacturing process as well as the area was secure. The area was industrial with the needed craftsman to maintain the machinery that would be used at the works. It had a ready labor force that was close enough to the facility but the distance to the homes and business's of Augusta was safe enough in case of an explosion. The temperature and climate of the area meant that works would be in production year round. September 13, 1861 saw the Confederate Powder Works building construction begin.

Rains had found an individual pamphlet by Major Bradley, the Superintendent of the Waltham Abbey Government Gunpowder Works in England. The gunpowder made here was reportedly the best and finest in the world. The pamphlet explained in great detail the entire process for the production of powder and descriptions of machinery used but no drawings. This meant that Rains had no blueprints for the building or for the machinery. There had never been a powder works built in the South before so he had to depend on his own rough drawings and his pamphlet until he found the young architect and civil engineer Charles Shaler Smith who began at once with drawings for the building. The finished drawings, of which 200 still exist, included the 176 foot tall obelisk chimney in the middle of the some 28 buildings covering a two mile area. The buildings were designed with thick brick sides, glass windows, and thin wood roofs so that in case of an explosion the force would go up and out thru the roof and windows therefore decreasing the chances of injuries to the workers and damage to the buildings and machinery. Rains consulted with Sergeant William Pendleton, a skilled machinist at the Richmond Tredegar Iron Works, for the extensive machinery. Pendleton was transferred to Augusta as Superintendent of the Works.

(Continued on Page 18)



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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:

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Submittal entries

MOS&B Officer's Call Newsletter welcomes submittals via e-mail to Editor@mosbfl.org on or before the 1st 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 chapter newsletters; as well as, the MOS&B State Society newsletters also be sent to the e-mail above. Thanks!

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(From Page 18: The Confederate Powder Works)

As the large buildings took shape on paper, the foresight of the men was transferred to the Augusta, Georgia soil and skyline. The designers went to great length to provide safety aspects to the works. The different processing areas were separated so that, in case of explosion, the whole works would not be down. There were trees left as barriers between the buildings and the city for this reason as well. In 1861 the Augusta Arsenal had but 39,000 pounds of gunpowder and little hopes of getting more. When the Confederate Powder Works was completed it produced 6,875 pounds of the finest gunpowder in its first month of operation, April 1862.

Rains knew that the best quality of gunpowder meant most control of timing to the cannons and less firing problems to all. The only way to get the best quality gunpowder was to start with the purest saltpetre. This was the most time consuming and labor intensive step in the gunpowder process. It took many men and hours for this process. Rains knew what he wanted and knew he needed large amounts, so he included the use of machinery. The machinery could be run easily by two or three men, which would speed the process, decrease the number of men who were at risk of harm if an explosion occurred, and he could produce more powder.

There were three accidents at the works. The first there was minor injury and he returned to work the next day. The second involved two powder makers, who through their own carelessness, destroyed the area roof, door, and windows and both returned to work the next day. The third occurred in temporary storage building which contained some three tons of gunpowder. This explosion killed the seven in the building and the guard who was outside. It seems that it was very difficult to keep the men from smoking, no matter the danger of explosion.

At its peak the works produced 190,152 pounds of powder in September 1863. But that does not tell the whole story. In all, from April 1862 until April of 1865, it produced a total of 3,168,451 pounds of the purest gunpowder ever made. The works continually tested their powder to make sure of the quality.

Just as Rains oversaw the details of the Powder Works, as Commandant of the Augusta Arsenal it received the same attention. Early the Arsenal was to be converted to one of construction and Captain W. G. Gill was placed in charge of this project. Several buildings were erected and the lighter work of the preparation of cartridges, fixed ammunition, grenades, and percussion caps was begun. By the late years of the war the joint projects of the Works and the Arsenal included casting, turning, boring and finishing 110 field pieces that were mostly 12 pound Napoleon cannons. They made over 30 million gun carriages, limbers, wagons, powder boxes, horse shoes, saddles, cartridge bags, projectiles, percussion caps and cartridges for small arms. They made complete Batteries and sent them to the Army of Tennessee. Many thousand of the hand grenades with General C. J. Raines sensitive tubes were manufactured at the Powder Works and Arsenal. The ladies of Augusta and Summerville answered the call of the AOT during the Battle of Atlanta by producing 75,000 cartridges per day.

President Jefferson Davis visited the Augusta Powder Works that was developed due only to his foresight and comprehension of the needs of the Confederate military. In *The Rise and Fall of the Confederate Government* Davis said "Had Admiral Semmes been supplied with such powder it is demonstrated, by the facts which have since been established, that the engagement between the *Alabama* and the *Kearsage* would have resulted in a victory for the former."

The Augusta Powder Works was confiscated and condemned by the Federal Government after the War Between the States. The city of Augusta purchased the property in 1872. They were to tear down the buildings but at the pleading of Colonel George Washington Rains they did not. Rains requested that the obelisk chimney "...remain a monument to the Confederacy should the Powder Works pass away". The city sold all but the chimney and 10 feet on each side of the base. On June 2, 1879 the City of Augusta gave custody of the chimney area to the Confederate Survivors Association of Augusta.

On October 8, 2010 the Confederate Powder Works Chimney in Augusta was rededicated. It took 8 years and close to \$200,000.00 to clean, repaint, and secure the chimney. The chimney obelisk built in September 1861 now stands as the tallest and oldest Confederate Monument in the South. It is also the only Confederate Monument ordered to be built by President Jefferson Davis, designed by Confederate Officers, and funded by the Confederate Government. My husband David and I had the privilege to attend and participate in the ceremonies. For him it was even more special, his great great great uncle was Captain Gill.

Suggested Reading:

Never for Want of Powder The Confederate Powder Works in Augusta, Georgia by C. L. Bragg, Charles D. Ross, Gordon A. Blaker, Stephanie A. T. Jacobe, and Theodore P. Savas

The History of the Confederate Powder Works by Col. George W. Rains