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Officer's Call

Sesquicentennial Series Article #9

Lee Takes Command: Virginia April 1861

By W. Allen Mock, Virginia Society Commander

Shortly after his resignation from the United States Army and at the request of Governor Letcher of Virginia, Col. Robert E. Lee bid his family farewell and on the morning of 22 April departed Arlington for Richmond. His journey would take him by rail through the crossroads whose names would soon be embedded in the memories of generations of Americans, Mannasas, Bristoe Station, Warrenton, Brandy Station, Mechanicsville to name but a few. The stage had been set that would forever link Lee, Virginia, and the Confederate States of America.

The state convention of Virginia had passed on 19 April an ordinance that called for the appointment of a "commander of the military and naval forces of Virginia". The command would have the rank of Major General and carry with it direct responsibility for organization and operations of troops. This was to be under the governors constitutional control. Judge John J. Allen, Col. Francis H. Smith and Capt. Matthew F. Maury had been appointed by the governor to form an advisory council for the purpose of recommending an appropriate officer. This council, which had designated themselves the Council of Three, recommended Col. Robert E. Lee for the job.

Lee arrived in Richmond and, after securing a room at the Spotswood Hotel, proceeded to the capitol to meet Governor Letcher. The Governor's offer was accepted and before the convention adjourned the night session they approved the choice unanimously.

On 23 April Lee set up office in a nearby government building and issued General Order Number 1, which announced that he had taken command. Shortly before noon Lee was escorted to the capitol by four members of the convention. The convention President, John Janey welcomed Major General Lee and spoke to the historic significance of the occasion,.. "charged with the solemn duty of protecting the rights, the honor and the interests of the people of the Commonwealth....we stand animated by one impulse, governed by one desire and one determination, and that is that *she shall be defended*; and that no spot of her soil be polluted by the foot of an invader."

Janey reminded the gathering that in George Washington's last will and testament he had given his swords to his nephews "with the injunction that they should never be drawn from their scabbards, except in self-defense, or in the defense of the rights and liberties of their country, and if drawn for the later purpose, they should fall with them in their hands rather than relinquish them". "...Yesterday, your Mother Virginia, placed her sword in your hand upon the implied condition that we know you will keep to the letter and in spirit, that you will draw it only in her defense, and that you will fall with it in your hand rather than the object for which it was placed there shall fail."

Lee's response was humble and very brief, the devotion he had for his native state and his devotion to the Almighty God had guided him to this point and he vowed his service to his state "in whose behalf alone will I ever again draw my sword."

(Continued on Page 4)



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The MOS&B *Officer's Call*, a leader among heritage magazines, 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.

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Commander General's Message

New Members

Do you recall your excitement and feeling of pride and honor upon learning of your acceptance into the membership of our unique organization? As I review each new member application that is received, I often encounter the powerful words and hopes of those applicants seeking membership. It is refreshing to read the comments and converse with these new members who represent the best of our generation, just as our ancestors did. Compare these responses of today to that of Tennessee's Governor Isham G. Harris on April 17, 1861.

"Commander, first of all I would like to state how very proud I am to have been inducted into the Military Order of the Stars and Bars."

"With a CSA Colonel, a CSA Major, and a CSA assistant surgeon among my so many great grandfathers and the eve of the commencement of the War Between the States, it (membership) is the least that I can do."

The Response of a True Southern Patriot. Nashville Union and American – April 18, 1861

Governor Harris received a dispatch, as before announced, from the Secretary of War, at Washington, as follows:

*To His Excellency, Isham G. Harris, Governor of Tennessee:
Call made on you by to-night's mail for two regiments of militia for immediate service.*

Simon Cameron, Secretary of War

Governor Harris, soon after his arrival in the city yesterday evening, responded in the following noble manner, by telegraph:

**Executive Department.
Nashville, Tenn., April 17, 1861**

Hon. Simon Cameron, Secretary of War, Washington, D. C.:

Sir: Your dispatch of the 15th inst., informing me that Tennessee is called upon for two regiments of militia for immediate service, is received.

Tennessee will NOT furnish a single man for purposes of coercion but 50,000, if necessary for the defense of our rights, and those of our Southern brothers.

Isham G. Harris, Governor of Tennessee.

Always surround yourself with people courageous enough to speak truthfully about what is best for the Order and its mission. We have much to learn from our new members. Words can inspire. Words can destroy. Choose yours well.

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

Max Lee Waldrop, Jr.
Commander General

(From Page 1 - Lee Takes Command: Virginia April 1861)

The city of Richmond was alive with excitement, so many events that would seal her fate had occurred within a few short weeks. The Vice President of the Confederacy, Alexander Stephens was in town to negotiate the immediate military alliance with the Commonwealth. This necessity would involve control of military operations in Virginia by Confederate authorities. There was some concern on Stephen's part that since the Confederacy had no military rank at the time greater than that of a brigadier general that there may be a hesitation on Lee's part to take orders from a subordinate. Lee assured him of his thorough conviction to the alliance and stated his wish that nothing in "his official rank or personal position interfere in the slightest degree."

The task at hand was one that played well to Lee's organizational strength's. Troops were mobilized for Virginia's defense as some critics in the press called for Lee to take more offensive action. The river garrisons were strengthened and Federal resources from Norfolk and Harpers Ferry now aligned with the cause of southern independence.

Lee's loyal service to Virginia and to the new Confederacy had begun, much had to be accomplished in a very short amount of time. Lee's foremost biographer, Douglas S. Freeman noted that "The seven weeks that followed the appointment of Lee to the command of the Virginia forces are the least known of his military career, but certainly among the most interesting."

On April 23, 2011 The Museum of the Confederacy is sponsoring a special event at the Old House Chamber, Virginia State Capitol. The noted historian Dr. Gary Gallagher will speak on Robert E. Lee's decision to resign from the U.S. Army and the historical impact of his presence in the Confederacy's high command. The event is free but seating will be limited. For more information visit www.moc.org or contact Eric App at 804-649-1861 ext 35 or eapp@moc.org.

Dr. Douglas Southall Freeman, R.E. Lee, 4 vols., (New York: Charles Scribner's & Sons, 1934) 1:461-471.

THE SOUTHERN FLORENCE NIGHTINGALE

Juliet Opie Hopkins, Nurse

Battle of Seven Pines, Virginia

June 1, 1862

Except for those who search for heroic individuals in the Civil War and their stories, the account given below is little known and the true Southern hero cited is seldom remembered. Her actions during the War were truly "beyond the call of duty".

The announcement of her passing almost went unnoticed. "Death of a Well Known Southern Lady" it read, a one-column headline buried in the 10 March 1890 edition of *The Washington Post*. Yet, when more complete arrangements appeared in the next day's paper, some citizens of the nation's capital realized that a truly unusual lady had departed the scene. Pallbearers, it was announced, would be the Senators and Representatives from the State of Alabama assisted by officers of the United States Army. And on order of Gen. John Schofield, commander of the Army, burial would be in Arlington Cemetery with full military honors. Such a distinction might have aroused more than a few curious inquiries. Had not this "Southern Lady" been involved in the late rebellion and had established and managed several military hospitals for Confederate soldiers? But burial with full military honors? What woman, especially one who had so ardently supported the defeated Confederacy, could possibly warrant that? The answer lay in the fact that she would be buried in the plot of her son-in-law, the late Gen. Romeyn B. Ayers, who had died 15 months earlier and was a close friend of Gen. Schofield.

A native of Richmond, Virginia, Juliet had married Commander Alexander Gordon of the United States Navy. But his untimely death in 1854 had left her a 36-year-old widow with children. In time, she married Judge Arthur Hopkins of Alabama, a prominent jurist some 24 years her senior. With him, she made her home in Mobile and it was there, with the coming of the war that she received her greatest challenge. Early in the war, she had volunteered for service in the military hospitals. As her fellow citizens across Alabama urged their General Assembly to

provide for the welfare of their soldiers in the field, she toiled diligently at the front. With little regard for a personal life, she devoted endless hours to the sick and wounded bringing to them the compassion and same dogged perseverance that had always served her so well. In recognition of her service, Governor John Gill Shorter appointed her superintendent of all Alabama's hospitals in Virginia.

In addition to her gallant service to the sick and wounded, she gave of her considerable fortune to help run the hospitals. Few knew of the many times that she paid the bills. Informed estimates ultimately put her contributions between \$200,000 and \$500,000 dollars. It was said that she sold her extensive holdings in Alabama, Virginia, and New York and gave it all to the Confederacy. No one knew for sure, except the considerable fortune of the Alabama judge and his wife had disappeared by the end of the war. Her husband was 65 years old when the war began, but failing health took its toll. When he died in 1865, his wife knew that her husband, like her beloved Confederacy, had also withered away.

Perhaps the brief account below of some of what took place at Seven Pines best describes the service of Juliet Hopkins. The rain had continued all night, soaking the two armies which had arrayed themselves for battle east of Richmond. Yet the next morning, on the last day of May, 1862, Gen. Joseph Johnston's orders for a three-pronged assault on the Union advanced positions at Seven Pines remained in effect. Four brigades of Maj. Gen. D. H. Hill's division moved into position on the Williamsburg Stage Road, the center prong of the attack. On the right of the road, Brig. Gen Robert Rodes placed his Alabamians and Mississippians. Brig. Gen Gabriel Rains' brigade arrived in support just to the rear. Across the road, Brig. Gen. Samuel Garland's and Col. George B. Anderson's brigades took up corresponding positions. The day promised to be a desperate one. Three of Rodes' regiments were from Alabama. The 5th and 12th he placed in the main assault line. The 6th, under Col. John B. Gordon, he sent ahead as skirmishers. To the rear, the 13th and 26th Alabama Regiments of Rains' brigade readied themselves to support the advance. These were Alabama boys, all about to drive the foe from the field! And, somewhere along the Williamsburg Stage Road, in the rear of these brigades, Juliet Hopkins, nurse, moved toward the scene of the approaching battle. At age 44, she was old enough to be the mother of most of the young men in the ranks, men who in most cases had never been under fire. Her only concern was that if they needed her, she must be there for them, her beloved "Alabama boys".

History records that a brutal, bloody battle raged at Seven Pines. For Juliet Hopkins and a handful of others of her gender, the dangers of conflict were all too real. Wounded men cried for help and through her they found it. Minie balls whined from the brush. Artillery shells screamed through the timber and exploded with deadly randomness. Those hit while crossing the marshes risked drowning if not propped against a stump or laid across a log. There was much to do. Indeed, Juliet Hopkins knew that battles maimed and destroyed indiscriminately; what she perhaps did not anticipate was the enormity of it all. Of that day, Gen. Robert Rodes noted with "pride and pleasure" that his men went forth into battle with "gallantry and steadiness" and took the enemy entrenchments. Yet their valiant success came at a fearful cost; 241 dead, 853 wounded, and 5 missing---50% of his attacking force. In Gordon's 6th Alabama, the casualties approached 60 percent. Indeed, John Gordon, his regiment shattered, recorded that "history does not record an instance of greater courage and more steadiness of nerve---it is impossible---to mention the many instances of individual heroism exhibited during the day". Certainly!! But, there was one extraordinary example of individual heroism that proved unique in this day's fight. In an age when exposure to combat was unthinkable for women, Mrs. Hopkins disregarded all deference to her gender, shunned all concerns for her own safety, and accompanied her Alabama boys into their baptism of fire, far exceeding the noble duties with which she had been charged. Juliet Opie Hopkins, battlefield nurse, had also been numbered among the wounded at Seven Pines. For, while assisting a mortally injured officer to a stretcher, she was herself twice wounded, one bullet shattering a bone in her left leg. She would walk with a limp for the rest of her life.

While attending her funeral, two old men who stood with heads uncovered beside her casket at Arlington Cemetery kept their own counsel. In silence, Gen. Joe Wheeler and Gen. Joe Johnston watched as all that was mortal of this noble woman was committed to the sacred soil of Arlington. It was their final tribute to a woman of extraordinary courage. In the City of Mobile Museum, Mobile, Alabama, is her Confederate Medal of Honor, the first awarded to a woman.

(Taken from "Valor in Gray" by Clemmer)

- Submitted by Sam Gambrell, Jr., Adjutant, Gorgas Chapter #299



Confederate Cemetery, Johnson's Island, Ohio

The Chaplain's Corner: Easter's Promise of an Exchange- St. Paul to the Church at Corinth

By Chaplain General Dr. John Wesley Brinsfield

I Corinthians 15: 51-54: *“Behold, I show you a mystery; We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed. In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump: for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed. For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality... then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written, Death is swallowed up in victory.”* (KJV)

Easter is a victorious season. The good news of the Resurrection of Christ is told again to millions of Christians around the world even as the earth itself blossoms with new life. In the passage from I Corinthians, chapter 15, St. Paul tries to explain to the church how we must follow Jesus' path to everlasting life. Just as He had to leave His earthly body and be clothed in a spiritual body (John 20:17), so we too must be changed—or as our ancestors put it, exchanged.

The Rev. Dr. William W. Bennett, (1821-1887), was the Post Chaplain in Richmond during the War Between the States. He was responsible for providing chaplain support to all of the Confederate hospitals in Richmond and to the Camps of Instruction as well. Dr. Bennett wrote an account of the faith that Confederate soldiers, even as prisoners of war, had in Jesus' promise of eternal life to all who believed:

“In this connection we give a view of what was called by our suffering prisoners at Johnson's Island [Ohio] “an exchange.” Asa Hartz, a Confederate officer confined there, in a letter to a friend gives this touching picture:

“We vary our monotony with an occasional exchange. May I tell you what I mean by that? Well, it is a simple ceremony. God help us! The ‘exchanged’ is placed on a small wagon drawn by one horse, his friends form a line in the rear, and the procession moves; then passing through the gate, it winds its way slowly round the prison-walls to a little grove north of the enclosure; the ‘exchanged’ is taken out of the wagon and lowered into the earth—a prayer—an exhortation—a spade—a headboard—a mound of fresh sod—and friends return to prison again—that's all of it. Our friend is ‘exchanged;’ a grave attests the fact to mortal eyes, and one of God's angels has recorded the ‘exchange’ in the book above. Time and the elements will soon smooth down the little hillock which marks his lonely bed, but invisible friends will hover around it till the dawn of that great day when all the armies shall be marshaled into line again—when the wars of time shall cease and the great eternity of peace shall commence.” (1)

While we might find the term “exchange” a bit unusual, it was a statement of faith by the Confederate prisoners of war—a statement of faith and hope by brave men a long way from home. I hope in this Easter season you may find a strengthening of your faith as well, for it is by faith in Christ that we become heirs of His promise of eternal life.

1. William W. Bennett, *A Narrative of the Great Revival Which Prevailed in the Southern Armies During the Late Civil War Between the States of the Federal Union* (Harrison, Virginia: Sprinkle Publications, 1976), pp.403-404.

CALENDAR

Chapters, Societies and Departments can have their special events publicized on the [new website](http://www.militaryorderofthestarsandbars.org/) calendar at: <http://www.militaryorderofthestarsandbars.org/>. Please submit the name of the event, its location, date, time, contact person, and any special instructions to the Adjutant General Toni Turk at: trturk@frontiernet.net.

Book Review Column:

The Letters of John and Susan Morgan A Story of Everyday Life, Love and Loss in the Civil War Years

by Harry L. McNeer

Illustrated, 96 pp., 2008. Publisher is Create Space, Amazon, \$12.99

Reviewer: Deputy Adjutant General William L. Caynor Sr.

The true sacrifices for the Confederate Cause can only be found through the writings of the field soldier and his families. "The Letters of John and Susan Morgan," exemplify this sacrifice with the struggle for sense of duty to the Confederacy and yet a sense of duty towards ones family. Sergeant Major John Morgan served with Chapman's Battery of Virginia Artillery in the 1861-62 campaign to protect western Virginia from the Yankee invaders.

The letters are written in the Victorian style and are most intriguing, giving details of movements and troop strengths. However, most importantly as I began to read through the book I had great interest in the particulars that evolved into sadness for Sergeant Major Morgan's ultimate sacrifice in the defense of his country, which was followed by the death of Susan, dying of a broken heart at the tender age of twenty-five. The causality list of this tragic war far exceeded any numbers found in text books as the love-ones on the home front also felt loss and gave concession for the cause.

Those interested in the early western Virginia campaign and the southern soldier's inner thoughts of separation from the ones they loved and their dedication to duty, would enjoy this volume.

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We saved the historic house General James Longstreet used as his headquarters during the winter of 1863 – 64 from demolition and are developing it into a museum, (See www.longstreetmuseum.com), and historic Bethesda Church which was used as a hospital by both armies, and battlefield preservation.

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Adjutant General Toni Turk's Report

New Members:

The following 30 new members were welcomed into the Order in the last quarter of 2010:

| | |
|-------------------------------|--------------------|
| L David Barnette | Trenton, TN |
| Kirk M Barrett | Spanish Fort, AL |
| Paul Michael Biggers | Watauga, TX |
| Andy Edwin Blalock | Savannah, GA |
| Timothy N. B. Boddy | Sausalito, CA |
| Robert Mitchell Bush | Savannah, GA |
| Ronald James Burton | Conway, AR |
| Carter B. S. Furr | Norfolk, VA |
| Daniel Tyree Gregory | Atlanta, GA |
| Dr. Daniel Tyree Gregory, Jr. | Hampstead, NC |
| Daniel Tyree Gregory, III | Raleigh, NC |
| Benson Richard Hatch, Jr. | Grand Prairie, TX |
| Michael Milton Hatch | Grand Prairie, TX |
| Orville Kelley Hinson | Fort Worth, TX |
| Dr. Harold V Johnson, III | Fort Worth, TX |
| Scott Patrick Kent | Warner Robbins, GA |
| Robin Spencer Lattimore | Rutherfordton, NC |
| Price Lovell Legg | Lillian, AL |
| Paul Bryan Martin | Grand Prairie, TX |
| Samuel Lance Massey | Conway, AR |
| Brandon Lee McGregor | Salado, TX |
| Jerry Wayne Mitchell | Ocala, FL |
| David Warren Myers | Gulf Shores, AL |
| John Philip Myers | Indianapolis, IN |
| James Robert Smith | Winterville, GA |
| Larry Wayne Smith | Eugene, MO |
| John Howard Stokes | Meridian, MS |
| James Anthony Swords | Williamsburg, VA |
| James Douglas Thornton | Shawnee, KS |
| Paul Cameron Whaley | Rome, GA |

The following 27 new members were welcomed into the Order in the first quarter of 2011:

| | |
|------------------------------|---------------------|
| Stephen Hood Baxter | Suffolk, VA |
| Dennis David Brand | Whitehouse, TX |
| Wesley Monroe Bush | Savannah, GA |
| Lawrence King Casey, Jr. | Beaumont, TX |
| Joe Hudson Cobb | College Station, TX |
| Robert Lindsey Duncan | Austin, TX |
| Benjamin Early Hale | Berryville, AR |
| George Harris, II | Wilmington, NC |
| Howard Kenneth Hartley, Jr. | Suffolk, VA |
| Don Wilson Hoover | Columbus, MS |
| Gerald Wayne Irion | Kerrville, TX |
| Robert Edward Ives | Virginia Beach, VA |
| Charles Edward Luna, Sr. | Athens, TX |
| Allan Townsend Lunsford, Jr. | Jeffersonton, VA |

| | |
|-------------------------|------------------|
| Edward Eugene Lusk, Jr. | Marietta, GA |
| James Edward Lusk | Marietta, GA |
| Wesley Marlin Massey | Fort Worth, TX |
| Floyd L. Perry | Batavia, OH |
| Sigmund Joseph Reckline | Baroda, MI |
| Brandon Paul Rhodes | Savannah, GA |
| Kenneth Duane Roach | Windsor, CT |
| Duane Allen Sikes | Jacksonville, FL |
| Joseph Francis Sims | Charleston, SC |
| Clayton Addison Smith | Midland, TX |
| Ford Hardin Smith | Lubbock, TX |
| Roy Alan Stimits | Hampstead, NC |
| Jack Benny Wood | Gainesville, FL |

Deceased Members:

The following 5 members passed to the other side in the last quarter of 2010:

| | |
|-------------------------|------------------|
| Robert Grubb | Purcellville, VA |
| John Marvin Hutcheson | Troy, AL |
| Randall Brackin Jones | Ennis, TX |
| Russell Raymond Lenzini | Columbia, MO |
| Arch P. Shelton | Petoskey, MI |

The following 11 members passed to the other side in the first quarter of 2011:

| | |
|-------------------------------|---|
| Frank Woodruff Buckles | Charles Town, WV – LAST SURVIVING WWI VETERAN |
| Robert Lacey Crook | Jackson, MS |
| Homer Daniel Dudley | Midlothian, TX |
| Robert Noram Hale, Sr. | Athens, GA |
| Joseph Bland Love, III | Jacksonville, FL |
| William Otis MacMahon, III | Birmingham, AL |
| John Thomas Mason | Covington, TN |
| Kenneth Ray Patterson | Eden, NC |
| William Baxter Perkinson, Sr. | Matoaca, VA |
| Nelson Lee Phillips | Pelion, SC |
| Arnold W. Zimmerman | St. Louis, MO |

Teacher of the Year – The Randall Brackin Jones 2011 History Teacher of the Year Award will be presented at the upcoming Jacksonville Convention. If you want to nominate a secondary or college teacher to receive this award, contact me for a nomination form: trturk@frontiernet.net.

Collaterals – Check out the Collaterals database linked at: <http://www.militaryorderofthestarsandbars.org/programs-services/collaterals/>. This is a project recognizing our collateral relationships to Generals Lee, Jackson, Forrest & Stuart and Pres. Davis. Consider making your connections and add a supplemental relationship to your membership and to the online database.

2011 Dues – There are 1438 members current with their 2011 dues. There are 260 members from 2010 that still need to renew for the current year. A special collection effort is being made by the Deputy Adjutant General Bill Caynor. *There will be a proposal at the upcoming Convention to remove non-current dues members to an inactive status with a special review process for readmission to the Order. All non-current members are encouraged to re-affiliate before July.*

The Department of the Army Northern Virginia - 2010 in Review

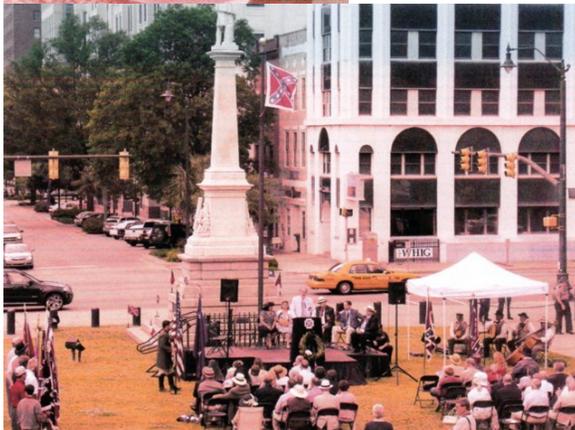
As we progress into the Spring of 2011 and begin participating in sesquicentennial celebrations, let's pause a moment and recall some of the activities of the department during the previous twelve months.



At left, Maryland Society Commander Ray Rooks provides welcoming remarks at the annual Baltimore Lee-Jackson Day ceremonies. His remarks were well received by all those in attendance.



W. Allen Mock, Commander of the Virginia Society of the MOS&B, participated in the annual Jefferson Davis memorial services held at Hollywood Cemetery in Richmond, Virginia in June.



South Carolina Society Commander Joe Payne represented the MOS&B at the UDC Memorial Program on May 8 in Columbia. He later addressed the crowd assembled at the Confederate Monument at the South Carolina Capitol.



Commander Rodney Williams, Confederate Officers of North Carolina Society, MOS&B, addresses family and friends of Jack Perdue at a ceremony on July 10 to unveil the headstone plaque placed on Compatriot Perdue's marker.

Submitted by Larry T. Brown, Commander, Department of the Army of Northern Virginia



James Cowan Havron (1908-2011)

James Cowan Havron passed away on April 10, 2011 at the age of 102 years. The son of Tyre A. & Minnie (Cowan) Havron, he was preceded in death by his wife, Jane (Bright) Havron and his son, James Tyre Havron, Sr. He is survived by one daughter, Margaret J. Havron; 6 grandchildren and 6 great-grandchildren. Mr. Havron was born August 8, 1908 in Tullahoma, TN and moved to Nashville as a boy. He began the practice of law in 1931 and retired in 1984. He served as representative from Davidson County in the House of the Tennessee General Assembly from 1935-1937, and may have been its oldest past member. He served the Army in Alaska during WWII and retired with the rank of Lt.-Col. He was a member of Westminster Presbyterian Church. He was a past master, Free and Accepted Masons, 33rd degree, a past master Trinity Consistory Scottish Rite, a member Order of the Mystic Shrine, and was recently recognized as a 75 year Master Mason. Mr. Havron was also a member of the MOS&B Chapter #14. He was proud of his Confederate heritage especially since he was the grandson of James Benjamin Cowan, M.D., the chief surgeon in Forrest's command. Visitation for Mr. Havron was held at the Westminster Presbyterian Church on April 14th with the funeral held on April 14th in the small chapel. Interment with military honors will be at Oakwood Cemetery, in Tullahoma, TN. Honorary Pallbearers will be the Murdoch MacLeod Sunday School Class, the Jere Baxter-Edgefield Lodge, and the Saturday Morning Coffee Club. The family wishes to express their appreciation to the staff at Morningside at Belmont, and to the wonderful care given by his personal caregivers.

Hood's Texas Brigade

The original Texas Brigade was organized on October 22, 1861, primarily through the efforts of John Allen Wilcox, a member of the First Confederate Congress from Texas who remained as the brigade's political patron until his death in 1864. The brigade was initially and briefly under the command of Louis T. Wigfall until he took a seat in the Confederate Senate. Command was then given to John Bell Hood (hence the Texas Brigade was often known as "Hood's Brigade" or "Hood's Texas Brigade").

For much of the war, it was assigned to Longstreet's Corps, General Robert E. Lee's Army of Northern Virginia, and commanded for much of the war by Brig. Gen. Jerome B. Robertson. It initially comprised the 1st, 4th, and 5th Texas regiments, the 18th Georgia Infantry and (after the Battle of Seven Pines) Hampton's (South Carolina) Legion. After the general reorganization of Lee's army following the battle of Antietam in late 1862, the Georgians and South Carolinians were reassigned to brigades from their respective states and the 3rd Arkansas Infantry was added due to their being the only other trans-Mississippi regiment and single Arkansas regiment serving with Lee's army.

Hood's Texas Brigade Association, Re-Activated

Many MOS&B members in Texas (and elsewhere) belong to the "Hood's Texas Brigade Association, Re-Activated" (HTBAR). This association remembers and honors the Confederate Veterans who fought with these Texas, Georgia, South Carolina and Arkansas Units.

If you are interested in joining, please contact Martha Hartzog, Association President, at m.hartzog@mail.utexas.edu.

The goals of Hood's Texas Brigade Association, Re-Activated are to:

- Encourage and foster among the public an understanding of the history of Hood's Texas Brigade and its soldiers
- Advance historical appreciation for the part that the Brigade played in Texas and Confederate history
- Organize and sponsor educational activities such as seminars and symposiums about the Brigade

Publish information on Hood's Texas Brigade and its achievements

In addition, the Association encourages its membership to

- Mark the graves of their Brigade ancestors
- Prepare brief biographies of their Brigade ancestors
- Preserve their family archives pertaining to the War Between the States
- Participate on a local level with relevant history and historic preservation activities
- Share comradeship and fellowship

The Association meets once a year in the spring or early summer. Here, members have the opportunity to get together, share information about their ancestors and hear an interesting program pertaining to Hood's Texas Brigade and the wider War for Southern Independence.

That 1861-1865 War: What Would You Call It?

February 15th, 2011 4:26 pm ET

Gregg Clemmer – DC Civil War Heritage Examiner

Officially, we are on the cusp of commemorating the Civil War Sesquicentennial. One hundred fifty years have passed since that conflict began, yet as we've discussed [in recent Examiner.com posts](#), many Americans still cannot agree on the war's causes, purposes, and even long-term effects. Why, we can't even agree on what to call this mess.

Three years before it exploded, as we noted in an earlier post, New York Senator [William Henry Seward](#) warned of *The Irrepressible Conflict*. In the decades immediately after Appomattox, the government published the conflict's war records in a long series of volumes entitled *The Official Records of the War of the Rebellion*. About this same time Southerners began (and continue) to call it *The War Between the States*. Yet today, it is most recognized as *The Civil War*, or *The American Civil War*.

The list goes on and on. In fact, Professor Jay Hoar of the University of Maine, author of several works including *The South's Last Boys in Gray*, documents more than 200 *noms de guerre*, from *The American Iliad* and *The Brothers' War* to *The Ordeal of the Union* and *The War of the Mason-Dixon Line*.

What's going on here? Your Examiner grew up in Virginia's Shenandoah Valley where Stonewall Jackson marched into legend and Sheridan burned everything else. Out there, everyone knew what you were talking about when you simply referred to *The War*.

Nope, not WW2. *THE WAR!*

But intensity burns even hotter in Georgia where Sherman is known to this day as the "father of urban renewal." *The War?* Nope. Locals refer to what happened down in the Peach State as *IT*. And according to Prof. Hoar, in the deeper South, some folks know the period as simply ... *The Wauhwah*.

A number of prominent Americans have weighed in on this name game. Walt Whitman wrote of *This Strange Sad War*; Mark Twain referred to *The Great Trouble*. Frederick Douglass identified with *The Abolition War* while poet Sidney Lanier wrote of *The Blood Red Flower that Bloomed in 1861*.

Sir Winston Churchill referenced our troubles as *The Last War Between Gentlemen* and *The Last Civilized War* while Abe Lincoln once called it *This Mighty Scourge*.

Sectional interpretations, to this day, differ. From the South, we get *The War of Northern Aggression*, *The Yankee Invasion*, *The War for States' Rights*, *The War for Southern Independence*, and *Mr. Lincoln's War*. From the North ... *The Southern Rebellion*, *The Crisis of the Union*, *The War of the Southrons*, *The War to Free the Slaves*, and *Mr. Davis' War*.

As you read more and more, you may adopt your own favorite. Perhaps *Our Lachrymal Extravaganza* or *The Ce-Cesh War?*

Printed with Permission from Gregg Clemmer

Black-Eyed Peas in the War Between the States

Black-eyed peas are about as southern as one can get. It is a delectable and famous southern dish usually served with cornbread and chopped sweet onions. The old tradition about eating black-eyed peas on New Year's Day started in 1866 and was to bring good luck and prosperity. This is still celebrated in the south.

Black-eyed peas made an interesting contribution to the Southland during the War Between the States. There were actually two wars waged against the south. One war against the Confederate military that started in 1861 and ended in 1865 at Appomattox and the other against the southern civilian population that started during the military conflict and ended when the so called Reconstruction days concluded about 1877.

Black-eyed peas came to us smuggled aboard slave ships coming from Africa. It's worth noting that it is never mentioned that ships bringing slaves included ships owned by people from Massachusetts flying the American flag. Not one slave came here in a ship flying the Confederate flag.

In 1864 Union General William T. Sherman conducted his infamous March to the Sea. He ordered his troops to strip the land of all food, crops, and livestock and to destroy anything they couldn't carry away. The troops gleefully followed their leader's orders and also stole everything they could. The surviving Southerners were left with nothing.

The vandal invaders from the north wanted to punish the south and they committed numerous atrocities while doing so. As mention above one favorite method was causing starvation and this was accomplished in many ways, i.e., burning of crops and the killing of farm animals. Dropping dead animals down water wells and, during battles, actually dropping dead Confederate soldiers down water wells was among their favorite dirty tricks. However, the black-eyed crop was left intact and not as a good-will gesture but because they simply didn't think this was an eatable food. The Yankees thought that Black-eyed peas were cattle feed, calling them "Cowpeas" and since they were stealing or killing all the cattle they didn't waste their time on this pea plant. Little did they know how good a mess of Black-eyed peas tasted cooked with a chunk of salted fatback and eaten with onion and cornbread. I'm sure they often wondered what was being cooked that smelled so good as they were riding by on their donkeys. Dumb Yankees!

David G. Whitaker, DCS
Chief of Staff
Military Order of the Stars & Bars

Submittal Entries

MOS&B Officer's Call Magazine 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!

CIVIL WAR HISTORY

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YOUR PATRONAGE IS APPRECIATED!



Arlington Burial of the Last 'Doughboy' Frank Buckles

Material from Jim Garamone's article of this event,
American Forces Press Service

In Washington, DC on March 15, 2011, America paid its respects to its last World War I veteran, as former Army Cpl. Frank Buckles is buried at Arlington National Cemetery. Buckles, the last of the more than 5 million Americans who served during World War I and were known as "doughboys", died Feb. 22 at his home in West Virginia. He was 110.

He was placed in honor at Arlington's Memorial Amphitheater Chapel from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. on March 15th for the public to pay its last respects. The interment was at 4 p.m., and the corporal was buried near the site where General of the Armies John "Black Jack" Pershing, the commander of the American Expeditionary Force, is buried.

Buckles was born in Missouri in 1901. He enlisted in the Army in 1917, shortly after the United States declared war on Germany and its allies. He served as an ambulance driver on the Western Front.

In 1941, Buckles was in the Philippines, working in Manila, when Japan invaded the island nation. The Japanese captured him and confined him at the Los Banos prison with 2,200 other American civilians. U.S. forces liberated the camp in 1945.

President Barack Obama has ordered that U.S. flags be flown at half staff in Buckles' honor March 15. Two men in Great Britain are believed to be World War I's last living veterans. Both are 110 years old.



The MOS&B Sesquicentennial Convention

July 14-16, 2011 Jacksonville, Florida

Breaking News: The hotel rate we negotiated four years ago has now been reduced to \$99 for single or double occupancy! This is great news so come on down and join us.

As a member of the MOS&B, you should definitely plan on attending the 2011 Convention. This will be the event that will set a new standard for fun and fellowship within the Order. We start out on Thursday evening with a seated dinner cruise on the beautiful St. Johns River. Following the business session on Friday morning, we will have a historical presentation and visit to the Museum of Southern History. Friday evening will be the Commander's Reception at the Florida Yacht Club, a magnificent old club on the River with an unbelievable view of the river with the city in the background. There will be plenty of time and a facility to visit with old friends at the reception as well as in a special Hospitality Room at the hotel. Saturday begins with a Prayer Breakfast. In the afternoon you will have a choice of touring the Olustee Battlefield or other activities depending on your taste. Our hotel, the Wyndham Riverwalk, is located on the river and within walking distance to the dinner cruise landing or to the water taxi for a ride to the Jacksonville Landings, a shopping center with multiple restaurants. Saturday evening will host the Gala Ball at the hotel with period music, good food and fellowship.

You can make your reservations with the hotel on-line or by phone by using the instructions below but please send in your registration form without delay so we might get a good head count. The ability to provide quality events at a reasonable price is driven by the number of attendees so let us know you are coming so we can plan.

The MOS&B 2011 Sesquicentennial Convention

July 14, 2011 - July 16, 2011

Registration Form: Jacksonville, Florida

Name: _____ Member Number: _____

Address: _____

E-mail Address: _____ Telephone: _____

Spouse's name: _____ Others: _____

| | | |
|---|-------|-----------------------|
| Member registration: | \$ 75 | Total \$ <u>75.00</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

Reservations may also be made by telephone at (800) 996-3426 and requesting the Jacksonville Riverwalk. For our special \$99 rate, reference the Military Order of the Stars and Bars and not just MOS&B.

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



1

ALABAMA SOCIETY GORGAS CHAPTER #299 REPORT

(Submitted by Dr. Sam Gambrell, Jr, Adjutant)

February 15th Meeting, 2011

Dr. Linda Graham gave a most interesting and informative talk on Tintypes, Ambrotypes, and Daguerreotypes. She presented reproductions of twenty-two photographs of soldiers and other personnel of the Civil War period and read detailed descriptions of the photographs and the people represented in them. After the War, two brothers from Virginia developed an intense interest in such photographs and collected over six-hundred of them which they eventually donated to the Library of Congress. One particularly interesting photograph was of a Union soldier, George Weeks of the 8th Maine Infantry, who died at age thirty-one and who had written a detailed letter to his mother about his service in the War. All photographs which she showed had very elaborate frames around them and, in most cases, were photographs that were posed rather than taken in real-life situations.

2



FORREST MONUMENT DEDICATION

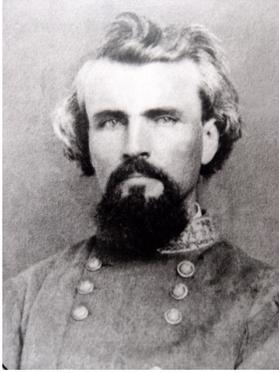
Due to the outstanding leadership of Commander Richard Rhone and Past Commander Walter Dockery and the effort of several other Chapter members, a beautiful monument honoring General Nathan Bedford Forrest was dedicated at 10:00 AM on March 12, 2011 at Gainesville, AL where he surrendered his troops in 1865 at the close of the War between the States. Engraved on the monument is General Forrest's complete Farewell Address to His Troops (printed herein). Approximately 150 people were present for the dedication which was followed later in the day by a re-enactment of the Battle of Cuba Station which included the 4th Alabama Cavalry, Selden's Battery, and several other Confederate units. Wreaths were laid by the Kate Cummings UDC Chapter at the old 1923 UDC monument and by the Amelia Gayle Gorgas UDC Chapter and the Gorgas MOS&B Chapter at the new Forrest monument. A guest singer, Glenda Phillips, and her guitar player, both in period attire, provided beautiful music for the dedication. Musket and cannon firing demonstrations accented and enhanced the dedication ceremony. A large number of various type Confederate Flags, being surrounded by Confederate re-enactors, many attendees dressed in period attire, and many lovely decorations provided by the various groups present, created a festive atmosphere which was a thrill to all present. Numerous members of the MOS&B, UDC, and SCV attended the dedication as well as members of the Gainesville Town Council and the Gainesville Preservation Society who spoke briefly and gave their welcome and greetings to the assembly. Photo 1 shows Gorgas Chapter members at the Forrest monument, L to R; Winfield Hughes, Frank Delbridge, Edwin Stringer, Commander Richard Rhone, Dan Clark, Past Commander Walter Dockery, 1st Lt. Commander John Coleman, and 2nd Lt. Commander James Dunn. Photo 2 shows the parade of re-enactors approaching the monument. Photo 3 shows the Confederate Honor Guard firing a salute at the dedication. Photo 4 shows Commander Rhone

3



4





Black and White Portrait of Major-General Nathan Bedford Forest

(left) and Past Commander Dockery at the monument. Photo 5 shows UDC members Gwen Dockery (left) and Anne Rhone at the monument. Photo 6 shows two commanders of re-enactor units at the monument. Beginning July 5, 2010, the Gorgas Chapter raised \$8,475 from 30 organizations and/or individuals for the purchase and installation of the monument.

Forrest's Farewell to His Troops

Gainesville, Ala., May 9, 1865



5



6

Forrest Monument Dedication Ceremony



By an agreement made between Lieutenant-General Taylor, commanding the Department of Alabama, Mississippi and East Louisiana, and Major-General Canby, commanding United States forces, the troops of this department have been surrendered. I do not think it proper or necessary at this time to refer to the causes which have reduced us to this extremity, nor is it now a matter of material consequence as to how such results were brought about. That we are beaten is a self-evident fact, and any other further resistance on our part would be justly regarded as the very height of folly and rashness. The armies of Generals Lee and Johnston have surrendered; you are the last of all troops of the Confederate States Army east of the Mississippi River to lay down your arms.

The cause for which you have so long and manfully struggled, and for which you have braved dangers, endured privations and sufferings, and made so many sacrifices, is today hopeless. The government which we sought to establish and perpetuate is at an end. Reason dictates and humanity demands that no more blood be shed. Fully realizing and feeling that such is the case, it is your duty and mine to lay down our arms, to submit to the 'powers that be,' and to aid in restoring peace and establishing law and order throughout the land.

The terms upon which we were surrendered are favorable, and should be satisfactory and acceptable to all. They Manifest a spirit of magnanimity and liberality on the part of the Federal authorities which should be met on our part by a faithful compliance with all the stipulations and conditions therein expressed. As your commander, I sincerely hope that every officer and soldier of my command will cheerfully obey the orders given, and carry out in good faith all the terms of the cartel. Those who neglect the terms and refuse to be paroled may assuredly expect when arrested to be sent North and imprisoned. Let those who are absent from their commands, from whatever cause, report at once to this place, or to Jackson, Miss., or, if too remote from either, to the nearest United States post or garrison, for parole.

Civil war, such as you have just passed through, naturally engenders feelings of animosity, hatred and revenge. It is our duty to divest ourselves of all bitter feelings, and, so far as it is in our power to do so, to cultivate friendly sentiments toward those with whom we have so long contested and heretofore so widely but honestly differed. Neighborhood feuds, personal animosities and private differences should be blotted out and when you return home a manly, straightforward course of conduct will secure the respect even of your enemies. Whatever your responsibilities may be to government, to society, or to individuals, meet them

Various Photos of the Forest Monument Dedication



like men. The attempt made to establish a separate and independent confederation has failed, but the consciousness of having done your duty faithfully and to the end will in some measure repay you for the hardships you have undergone. In bidding you farewell, rest assured that you carry with you my best wishes for your future welfare and happiness. Without in any way referring to the merits of the cause in which we have been engaged, your courage and determination, as exhibited on many hard fought fields, has elicited the respect and admiration of friend and foe.

And I now cheerfully and gratefully acknowledge my indebtedness to the officers and men of my command, whose zeal, fidelity and unflinching bravery have been the great source of my past success in arms. I have never on the field of battle sent you where I was unwilling to go myself, nor would I now advise you to a course which I felt myself unwilling to pursue. You have been good Soldiers; you can be good citizens. Obey the laws, preserve your honor, and the government to which you have surrendered can afford to be and will be magnanimous.

N. B. Forrest
Lieut. General

March 15th Meeting, 2011

Chapter member LTC USA (Ret.) Dan Clark, gave a most interesting and informative presentation entitled "Prelude to War". He reviewed the dates of secession for the Confederate states and discussed the reluctance of the border states (Missouri, Kentucky, Maryland, and Delaware) to join in secession. Missouri, Kentucky, and Maryland had many citizens who held split sympathies. Dan's presentation of important factors in both the north and south included reviews of the river systems, railroad systems, several very early battles, population densities including slaves (22m-north, 9m south), manufacturing capabilities (110K plants north-16K plants south), and numbers of warships (90 north-10 south). He concluded his presentation with an explanation of courses of action for the south which included attack, passive defense, and active defense and for the north which included the Anaconda Plan combined with attack using overwhelming forces. His excellent presentation provided a much better understanding of the very early days of the war and the reasons why things happened as they did.

"New" Book Review Column

The Officer's Call will now be offering a column pertaining to the review of Southern literature. This will give authors an opportunity to acquire some exposure and compatriots the chance to experience what is available in the marketplace regarding Confederate history and culture. Authors, please submit all book review requests to: *ADC William L. Caynor P.O. Box 775875 Steamboat Springs, CO 80477 (970)879-7850 caynorwrls@frii.com*



The Battle of Philippi (from *Harper's Weekly*, July 6,

in 1839, likewise in Clarksburg. According to an 1860 census of Harrison County, George W. Lurty, age 26, was an attorney; Robert D. Lurty, age 22, was a civil engineer; and Warren S. Lurty, age 21, was an attorney. All were listed as cousins of "Stonewall" Jackson.

A fourth brother, Jackson S. Lurty, affectionately known as "Stonewall" Jackson Lurty by family members, was my great-grandfather. Born in 1855, this youngest Lurty brother was 24 years the junior of his oldest brother George. This branch of the Lurty family resided in Clarksburg and is where my paternal grandmother, Mary Jane Lurty McNeer, was born and raised. My grandmother was the last of six children from the union of Jackson S. Lurty and Minnie Maxwell, and I remember as a child when Grandma Mary Jane would tell us stories of playing with one of Stonewall Jackson's swords.

I drew most of the information that follows from a variety of sources. From the Virginia Regimental Histories Series (published by H. E. Howard, Lynchburg, Virginia):

- * Graham's Petersburg, Jackson's Kanawha and Lurty's Roanoke Horse Artillery by R. H. Moore
- * 19th and 20th Virginia Cavalry by John M. Ashcraft
- * 31st Virginia Infantry by Richard L. Armstrong

I also had at my disposal copies of the *Virginia Compiled Confederate Service Records* which I was able to copy from microfilm concerning George, Robert and Warren Lurty.

George W. Lurty: First enlisted May 21, 1861 in Clarksburg in the 31st Virginia Infantry. George's military service record mentions the Battle of Philippi (June 3, 1861). The battle—really little more than a short skirmish—resulted in a rout of the Confederate forces, which fled to nearby Beverly. The battle report in his service record "credits" George for "running the fastest to Beverly." No further explanation is provided.

George served with the 31st Infantry until sometime early in 1863. Thereafter, he—like many other men in the 31st Infantry—transferred to the 19th Virginia Cavalry, under the command of the Lurtys' cousin, William L. "Mudwall" Jackson, and in which brother Warren S. Lurty was serving as an adjutant. (Also a cousin of "Stonewall" Jackson, and my g-g-g uncle, William L. was supposedly given the name of "Mudwall" by the Yankees because they claimed he wouldn't "stand and fight.") In October 1863, Warren Lurty formed his own horse artillery battery, and his brothers George and Robert went with him. There seems to be confusing, conflicting and sometimes incomplete information concerning George Lurty's military service. The *Virginia Compiled Confederate Service Records* have George listed as being a "prisoner in the hands of the enemy" in February 1864. There is no information as to which Union prison camp he was sent. Before his capture, he was listed as being attached to Col. Wm. Lowther Jackson's command.

Currently, little else is known about George Lurty. On October 25, 1852, Thomas J. Jackson – later to become known as "Stonewall," - wrote to his sister, Laura Arnold from Lexington, Virginia about a relative of his, George Lurty, saying, "*George Lurty has been here for about two weeks; he and Mr. Harrison propose taking a course of law lectures this winter under Judge Brockenbrough. George is a young man of very fine mind, and I hope that he will acquit himself with much credit this winter.*" An April 1, 1853 letter from Thomas J. Jackson, written

THE LURTY BOYS

by Harry McNeer

Brothers George W., Robert D. and Warren S. Lurty were my great-great uncles and three of the eight children born to Beverly Hooe Lurty and Catherine Williams. Catherine Williams was the daughter of Dr. Wm. Williams and Catherine or Katrana Jackson Williams. Catherine (Katrana) was the daughter of George Jackson, oldest son of John and Elizabeth Cummins Jackson. Very little is known about George W. or Robert D. Lurty either prior to or following the War Between the States. George was the oldest, born in 1831 in Clarksburg (Harrison County), (West) Virginia. Robert D. Lurty was born in 1837, and Warren S. Lurty was born

Hd. Qrs. Mill Point, Pocohontas Co. Va.
 Oct 4th 1863
 Hon. Jas. A. Seddon
 Secretary of War
 Sir,
 I forward to day
 the resignation of Lt. Warren S. Lurty Adjutant
 of the 19th Regt. Va Cav, and request its
 acceptance for reasons endorsed.
 I therefore respectfully recommend the
 appointment of John G. Gittings as
 Adjutant of the 19th Regt. Va Cavalry.
 Mr. G. is a graduate of the Va Military
 Institute, has been in service since the
 commencement of the war, is a brave
 and accomplished officer, and is
 now with my command.
 Very respectfully yours
 Wm. L. Jackson
 Col. Comdg, 19th Regt Va Cav.

Civil War letter relating to three Jackson cousins (Warren S. Lurty, John G. Gittings and William L. Jackson).

Hd. Qrs, Mill Point, Pocohontas Co. Va.

Oct 4th 1863

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Secretary of War

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 been in service since the commencement of the war, is a brave
 and accomplished officer and is now with my command.

Very respectfully your
 Obdt Svt
 Wm. L. Jackson
 Col. Comdg, 19th Regt Va Cav

from his home in Lexington, Virginia to his sister Laura Arnold again mentions George Lurty and indicates that Jackson held the young man in some esteem: “Judge Brockenbrough's law school has closed its session and George Lurty has returned home; after having passed a profitable winter. If he will only make the best of his facilities, a brilliant career may be expected as his reward. He possesses talents of a high order.” Copies of these letters can be found in the book, Early Life and Letters of General Thomas J. Jackson, written by his nephew, Thomas Jackson Arnold.

Robert D. Lurty: Robert's service record is somewhat less confusing, though it does not seem to contain any information concerning his original enlistment data. The service record does note, however, that Robert was elected 1st Lieutenant in the 20th Virginia Cavalry on May 10, 1863. On October 10, 1863, he tendered his resignation from the 20th in order to accept an elected position of 1st Lieutenant in Warren Lurty's Horse Artillery unit. His letter of resignation, dated October 8, 1863 at Camp Miller, states: “Sir, I have been elected First Lieutenant in Lurty's Battery, attached to Col. Wm. L. Jackson's command. I respectfully offer my resignation as First Lieutenant, Company E, 20 Regiment of Virginia Cavalry and ask that it be accepted to bear the above date.”

Almost 13 months later, on October 29, 1864, Robert was “arrested” by the 8th Ohio Volunteer Cavalry in Beverly, West Virginia, while on a recruiting mission. He was sent to Camp Chase as a prisoner-of-war on November 3, 1864. Taking the oath of allegiance on May 11, 1865, he was released. The document in his service record describing Robert's release lists him as being formerly assigned to “Leddy's” Virginia Battery, CSA. I imagine that that the Union soldier who was transcribing the information given by Robert understood the pronunciation of “Lurty” to be “Leddy.” According to information compiled by Linda B. Meyers and available on the Jackson Brigade website, Robert married Barbara Ann Collins on September 28, 1872. He died on August 1, 1918; she on March 13, 1929. Both are buried in Machpelah Cemetery, Weston (Lewis County), West Virginia.

Warren S. Lurty: Warren, the third brother, seems to have had a somewhat more illustrious and documented military career and personal life than George and Robert. According to the *Virginia Compiled Confederate Service Records*, Warren was enlisted on May 1, 1861 by his cousin, Lt. Gen. T. J. Jackson for a period of three years.

By profession a lawyer, Warren initially served in Staunton's Battery of Virginia Artillery and then with the 19th Virginia Cavalry as an adjutant. The Roster of Confederate Soldiers, 1861-1865 also lists him as serving with Garber's Company of Virginia Light Artillery. The book on Lurty's Roanoke Horse Artillery (described earlier) also states that he was promoted to AAG in William L. Jackson's Brigade of Cavalry before he took over his own horse artillery battery on October 8, 1863. Less than a month after its formation, this battery took part in the Droop Mountain battle, attached to William L. “Mudwall” Jackson's Cavalry Brigade. More detailed information on the involvement of Lurty's Horse Artillery can be found in the book, Graham's Petersburg, Jackson's Kanawha and Lurty's Roanoke Horse Artillery in the Virginia Regimental Histories Series.

Lurty's unit was reorganized and reattached on a couple of occasions, until the battery (along with several other units) was involved in a severe fight near the Ninevah Church on the Winchester and Front Royal Pike. Here is

where Lurty's Battery took the most losses, and Warren Lurty himself was captured on November 12, 1864 and sent to the Union POW camp at Fort Delaware. He was released on oath on June 17, 1865.

Warren returned to Harrison County and later was appointed a United States District Attorney by President Grant from 1871 to 1882. Some years later, Warren heeded the call of the west and by 1890 was serving as a deputy marshal in Guthrie, Indian Territory. On May 14, 1890, he was appointed the first U.S. marshal over Oklahoma Territory. Warren made a tour of the territory, accompanied by younger brother Jackson, then resigned on August 22, 1890, apparently after he learned that he, as marshal, would have to live in Guthrie. After his brief stint as a marshal, Warren returned to Harrisonburg, Virginia, where he practiced law. He died February 2, 1906 and is buried in Woodbine Cemetery in Harrisonburg.

In 2004, Harrisonburg's Lurty-Alexander House was nominated for the National Register of Historic Places. Its date of construction estimated to have been about 1875, the house at 482 South Main Street is in the Italianate / Classical Revival style. Although the origin of the house seems to be in some dispute, two local historians theorize that it was built for Warren S. Lurty. Today, the building is the home of the local Elks Club.

The Great Camel Experiment

In 1851 Jefferson Davis, a U.S. Senator from Mississippi, suggested that the United States Army investigate the use of camels for military purposes. He felt the use of the dromedary could be put to good use in transporting goods to the west. Camels were supposedly tireless, sure-footed, able to handle hot climates, and could go for long periods without water or food and could easily carry a payload of 600 pounds. During times of no food they lived off the fat in their hump. Someone even suggested the camel would be good for chasing Indians and also might be able to have a gun of some sort mounted on the hump.

Gold had been discovered in California in 1848 and literally thousand of settlers were moving west. There were few roads and no railroads going to California so it was thought that the camel would be an ideal mode of hauling goods and returning with marketable items. Congress made available \$30,000 (1855 dollars) to test the value and efficiency of camels in the Southwest. Senator Jefferson Davis went on to be appointed the Secretary of War and this experiment became his responsibility.

The first order of business was to get camels. A ship named "*Supply*", commanded by Lt. David Dixon Porter, a U.S. naval officer and a number of others including a veterinarian were sent to North Africa to buy camels. They left New York on June 3, 1855 and arrived in Tunisia in August. They discovered that good camels were hard to find because of the Crimean war.

Finally in Egypt they found a number of camels. The two humped camel (Bactrian) is a bigger camel mostly used for carrying freight while the single humped (Arvana) camel was mostly used for riding. A number of each kind was purchased for about \$250 each. Another stop in Turkey was successful with the purchase of additional camels and the hiring of two Turks and Three Egyptians to return with them to Indianola, Texas. They arrived there after a rough voyage and two grueling months at sea on April 29, 1856. Thirty three adult camels and a calf, which was born on the trip, was off-loaded and fenced in a prickly-pear cactus enclosure which was used as fencing because of the lack of good wood fencing material. The camels immediately started eating the fence, thorns and all. Two weeks later they began the journey to Camp Verde.

Camp Verde was selected as the home base for the camel experiment. This little town is about 60 miles west of San Antonio and is on the edge of what was then known as Indian Territory, an area mostly desert because of its dryness and lack of watering holes. Several successful experiments were made to test the camel's ability in the pursuit of Comanche Indians and the transportation of cargo. One experiment was to survey a road from El Paso to Ft. Yuma on the Colorado River in western Arizona. This was done with a second shipload of this ugly beast. The camels exceeded expectations except for the fact that the soldiers hated them. They hated them because they would bite you, spit on you, they stank, were ornery, mean, and they scared horses and mules. They had bad tempers, would take revenge, and made riders seasick. The drovers hated them and the Indians ate them. One soldier cut his camel's throat and dumped it off a cliff. This place in Texas is still called "Camel's Leap." Everyone hated the camels except the Comanche Indians who liked to eat them. But regardless of all these things the Army ordered more camels and eventually wanted 1000 more but then the War Between The States started.

When the vandal invaders from the north attacked the Sovereign Confederate States of America, the Confederate Soldiers ran the Yankees out of Texas and inherited the Camel experiment.

Now comes Captain Bethel Coopwood, a veteran of the Mexican War and a lawyer. He was with Brigadier General Henry Sibley on his ill-fated adventure to capture New Mexico and eventually the gold in California for the South. Coopwood commanded Coopwood's Spy Company, a group of very rough, hard nosed, hard drinking individuals who were really scouts that could fight Indians, and live off the land. A year or so after the New Mexico Campaign failed Coopwood's Company captured 14 camels and this animal apparently peaked his interest in using Camels as a freight company going into Mexico. After the war Coopwood obtained 66 more of the camels at Camp Verde and went into business. What he learned is that his drovers hated them because they would bite you, spit on you, they stank, were ornery, mean, and they scared horses and mules. They had bad tempers, would take revenge. They made riders seasick and the Indians liked to eat them. He could not keep drovers employed. Coopwood's business wasn't a success.

The first transcontinental railroad to California was completed in 1869. This put an end to the Great Camel Experiment. The camels eventually were turned loose to roam free until the Indians caught and ate them. Tales of seeing the camels at sundown went on for years. One story had a dead man strapped on a big red camel that wandered through west Texas for years. The skull finally fell off. When the camel died sure enough the skeleton of a man without a skull was found still strapped on.

In conclusion: It was the nature of the beast that led to their demise.

David G. Whitaker, DCS
Chief of Staff, Military Order of the Stars & Bars

Notes:

Capt. Coopwood is the Great Great Grandfather of my 1st cousin – DGW
I rode my first camel in Tunisia in the early '80s. All they say about them is true – DGW

“Hang ‘em high, Luke” *The Great Hanging at Gainesville , Texas*

Sam Houston was not the only one that wanted Texas to stay in the Union . Many people in at least four counties just to the north and east of Dallas , Texas , voted against seceding. This of course did not sit well with the rest of the state. The end results were that forty men got themselves charged with being Yankee abolitionists and were “Hung by the neck until dead”- as the old saying goes.

This episode in Texas history is called the “Great Hanging at Gainesville ” and happened in October of 1862. The counties where abolitionist sentiment was the highest were Cooke, Grayson, Wise, and Denton counties.

Gold was discovered in California in the 1850s and many adventurers were not content with a slow-go wagon train and opted for a much faster way to get to the west coast. The Overland mail route for stagecoach travel was established and its route came from St. Louis through Gainesville , Texas , and on to the west. However, many people came to Texas for the cheap land and many of those that came by stagecoach were from Kansas and were abolitionist. Needless to say the slaveholders in the north Texas area had no use for abolitionist. During the summer of 1860 a problem arose between the two factions that resulted in several slaves and a northern Methodist preacher being lynched. Seven months later these counties then voted against secession and this pitted the slaveholders against the nonslaveholders in that region. Rumors of the abolitionist's alliances with Kansas Jayhawkers and the Indians along the Red River stoked the flames of this impending confrontation. Then a petition started by E. Junius Foster, editor of a newspaper in Sherman , Texas , to make North Texas a free state brought emotions to a fevered pitch and the fight was on.

Actual blows didn't happen until the Conscription Act of April 1862. Large slaveholders were exempt from the draft and this prompted 30 men to sign a petition protesting this exemption. This petition was sent to the CSA Congress in Richmond , Virginia . The Commander of the militia district around Gainesville in Cooke County caught and exiled the instigator of this petition. This caused an organization called the Union League to be formed by the other signers of the petition. Most of the members of the Union League supposedly joined to resist the draft and provide common defense against roving Indians and renegades. Rumors were circulated that over 1700 men had plans to storm the militia arsenals at Gainesville and Sherman and take matters of their protection from Indians away from the Confederates and placed into their own hands.

In September of 1862 the Texas State Troops led by Colonial James G. Bourland were ordered to arrest all able-bodied men who did not comply with the Conscription proclamation. More than 150 men on October 1st were arrested and brought to Gainesville. Colonial William C. Young of the 11th Texas Cavalry assisted Colonial Bourland in establishing a citizen's court of twelve jurors. It is worth noting that Bourland and Young together owned at least 25% of the slaves in Cooke County and seven of the jurors were slaveholders. A bad turn of events for the prisoners was a decision made to convict on a majority vote. None of the prisoners owned slaves and all were charged with insurrection or treason.

The Union League leadership was eliminated when the first seven influential Unionist were convicted and hung. However, an angry mob took matters into its own hands and hung fourteen more.

The following week Colonial William C. Young was assassinated. This caused the decision to release the other prisoners to be reversed and a number of them were tried again resulting in nineteen more being convicted and hung. These executions were supervised by Col. Young's son, Captain Jim Young. The Texas state government condoned the affair and praised the men for their actions.

The unrest did not stop with the hangings in North Texas but the failure of the Union League indicated the futility of further attempts from the Unionist.

Captain Jim Young shot and killed E. Junius Foster for applauding the death of his father. He then tracked down and caught the man he believed to be his father's assassin and returned him to the Young homestead in Cooke County. The assassin was turned over to the family slaves who promptly hung him.

Many of the Union League members and their families fled back north with these words upon their lips, "Don't Mess With Texas."

David G. Whitaker, DCS
 Chief of Staff
 Military Order of the Stars & Bars



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**Gulf Shore, AL
 Proclamation
 of Confederate
 History and
 Heritage Month**

2nd Lt. Commander
 DeWitte T. Cross, Jr. of
 the St. John Richardson
 Liddell Chapter holds
 the Proclamation signed

by the Mayor of Gulf Shores, Alabama proclaiming April as Confederate History and Heritage Month. Compatriot Cross is photographed in his home next to the portrait of his Ancestor Colonel Horace King. 2nd Lt. Commander Cross and Adjutant David W. Myers also delivered a proclamation to the Summerdale, AL Mayors Office for signature. Commander Bert D. Blackmon, III has again secured the proclamations for Baldwin County and Bay Minette, Alabama.

- Submitted by David W. Myers, Adjutant, St. John Richardson Liddell Chapter # 271

Veterans Report Toni Turk – Adjutant General

To date 178 compatriots have self-reported their military service. This is just over 12% of the current membership of the Order. Forty-two of these are retired from the military. We have ten members currently serving. The following is a breakdown of the numbers that have rendered service in our nation's "hot" wars:

WWII - 15 Korea - 20 Vietnam - 64 Desert Storm - 22 Afghanistan - 10 Iraq - 11

In addition to the above, our members have participated in a number of "hot" spots, e.g.: Bay of Pigs, Bosnia, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Grenada, Iranian Hostages, Kosovo, Lebanon, Libya, North Korea, Philippines, Somalia, & Suez Canal

All veterans who served from 1947-1991 are considered Cold War veterans. An additional 54 veterans gave service during the Cold War period without actually serving in a "hot" war. These include those that were Korea & Vietnam era veterans. Additionally, some of these served during periods of great military stress such as the Berlin Wall & Cuban Missile crises.

Members that have not self-reported their military service may do so by email to trturk@frontiernet.net or by mail to The Military Order of the Stars and Bars, P.O. Box 1700, White House, TN 37188-1700. We are interested in learning the names of any conflicts served in, dates of service, branch of service, highest rank attained, any combat awards received and whether currently serving.

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