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Officer's Call

Sesquicentennial Series Article #11

By J. A. Barton Campbell

When I was at Princeton University (graduated class of 1962), there was even then a strong representation in the student body of undergrads from the South. I remember clearly the War Between the States memorial in the historic Nassau Hall that contained the names of both Confederate and Union soldiers, graduates who had died 1861-65. I will refer back to that again later in this article.

Recently, there was published in the Princeton Alumni Weekly an article about the Confederate alumni from Princeton; the records are incomplete, but the number that served is estimated to exceed that of those that were in the Federal armies! I contacted the publisher, and was graciously allowed to excerpt from this splendid article by W. Barksdale Maynard, '88. My sincere thanks are extended to both the magazine and him in allowing me to share the following synopsis with you.

New Jersey had a decided conservative leaning, and in the 1860 presidential election, was the only free state not to vote for Lincoln. Indeed, John C. Breckinridge, late major general of Kentucky troops, polled well in the town of Princeton. He had actually studied law in Nassau Hall (the original Princeton building, and still serving the campus). He had strong Princeton connections; he was the great-grandson of John Witherspoon, and grandson of Samuel Stanhope Smith, both presidents of the college.

The graduating class of 1861 smoked a "pipe of peace" at the large cannon on the campus, and said sad farewells, as the southern students, if not already gone, soon departed. (As a graduating senior, my class smoked clay pipes around the same cannon!). Records indicate that 155 Princeton Tigers enlisted for the north; all indications are that this number was exceeded by those that became Rebel soldiers – research by the magazine had turned up at least 200!

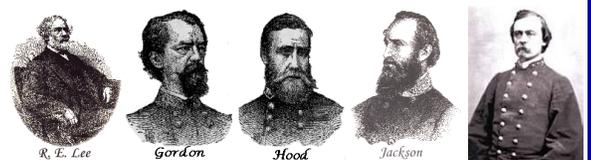
James Chestnut {1835 -in the remainder of the article, the number after a name will indicate the year of graduation}, of South Carolina resigned from the U. S. Senate, and then helped to draft the Confederate Constitution. MOS & B readers will recognize him best as the husband of the famed diarist of the war, Mary Boykin Chestnut. Alexander Boteler (1835), member of the Confederate Congress, played a role in the design of the First National Flag, and also the Great Seal of the Confederacy. His grandfather was Charles Wilson Peale, the famous painter, who painted "Washington at the Battle of Princeton". Alexander Boteler also served as a volunteer aide on the staff of Stonewall Jackson for a time.

Accounts associated with Princeton Confederates are spread throughout the war years. Beach Reading (1863) went into battle for the first time in the Peninsular Campaign, and was killed at the age of 19, fighting with Barksdale's Mississippi brigade. William McCaslan (1854) led a portion of the Florida troops in Pickett's charge – as he rode back to Confederate lines, he discussed with a fellow officer the chances of surviving future battles.

(Continued on Page 4)



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Table of Contents

Page	Topic
1	Sesquicentennial Series Article # 11
3	Commander General's Message
5	Chaplain's Corner: The Fighting Parsons
6	Conversation with James Cowan Havron
8	Proclamation by the City of Bay Minnette, AL
9	MOS&B Color Guard
9	Samuel Cooper Chapter Tours NRA Museum
10	TX Society Convention
11	VA Society May 2011 Report
12	Confederate Memorial Service in Greensboro, NC
13-15	Annual Convention Details & Registration Form
16	Alabama Society Gorgas Chapter Report
17	Capt. James Wright Chapter #6
17	Confederate Memorial Service at the Old Marshall Cemetery
18	Int'l Dispatch: Mystery Cannon Still Draws Fire
19	The Churchill Island Cannon: History
23	Some Thoughts on the Order & Defending Our Heritage
25	Newly Formed Color Guard @ the Confederate Memorial Service in Reidsville, NC
26	William Ralph Green (1927-2011)

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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

Freedom

As I write this message on Memorial Day, I have just hoisted my flags from half-mast to full mast at the noon hour. This year I flew the POW/MIA flag for the first time, although I have lived with their memory since 1967 when my father was in South Vietnam. As a high school student, I wore the bracelet of a USAF Major missing in action from that year. At the cemetery that I manage there is one CSA veteran and many veterans from our country's other wars - WWI to the present. In church on the previous day, the veterans are asked to stand and be acknowledged. It seems that I have always been counted in the "younger generation" as I stood with those exceptional WWII, Korean, and Vietnam veterans. As the decades have flown by, that is now no longer true. Today, our country and its youthful soldiers have participated and sacrificed for more than ten years in the war on terror that now occupies three fronts.

Veterans have stood in the past and are standing today for freedom. Our ancestors, in whose names we have joined in fraternal membership, also rose to defend their freedoms for their generation. Might I dare ask - is our concept of freedom the same as it was for our ancestors? Today, is freedom the same as liberty? Have these two words become diluted over the past 150 years for this country?

I quote President Ronald Reagan from his Remarks at the Memorial Day Ceremonies at Arlington National Cemetery on May 31, 1982:

Words are even more feeble on this Memorial Day, for the sight before us is that of a strong and good nation that stands in silence and remembers those who were loved and who, in return, loved their countrymen enough to die for them. Yet, we must try to honor them – not for their sakes alone, but for our own. And if words cannot repay the debt we owe these men, surely with our actions we must strive to keep faith with them and with the vision that led them to battle and to final sacrifice.

Our membership in the Order is important. The support of the purposes for which the Order exists is critical. These purposes are written with clarity in our Constitution and cannot be confused or diluted. If we are to persevere in the task to which we took the Oath of Allegiance upon joining, then we must ensure that we are recruiting members who are in the generations that are behind us. We have to be serious and concerned about recruitment and the quality of those whom we encourage to join. When the member joins the Order, he must answer the call to action that is greater than simply framing the membership certificate and hanging it on the wall like a trophy.

Our members do remember and honor their ancestors. We do have individuals, chapters, and state societies that are actively honoring their ancestors by erecting monuments, giving speeches, and placing flags and wreaths on the graves of those fallen warriors. However, if we are not mindful of our obligations, then our Order will become similar to many cemeteries across this country where on Memorial Day the graves of the veterans are long forgotten by their descendants and flags flying at half-mast from dawn to noon are not to be found on the highways and streets of our communities and nation. The gift of remembrance that was given to us by others is ours to lose.

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

Max Lee Waldrop, Jr.

Commander General

(From Page 1 -Sesquicentennial Series Article #11)

Just then a cannonball took off his head {For an additional account of this, see last year's *Blue and Gray* magazine, Vol XXVII, Issue #4}. Basil Gildersleeve (1849) taught classics at the Univ. of Virginia in the winter, and rode with the cavalry in the summer, sustaining a wound in the thigh in the fall of 1864. Gildersleeve's freshman roommate, James Lee (1849) wrote a military manual *The Volunteer's Handbook*, published in Richmond in 1860. He was mortally wounded at First Manassas. During the Vicksburg campaign, William Chaney (1852) was a doctor at Rolling Fork. He got word that Yankee boats were coming up Deer Creek, and with two slaves, rowed downstream to warn the Confederates. Accompanied on his return, he found his plantation occupied by Federal troops. Positioning sharpshooters in the nearby trees, the Confederates opened fire at dawn, driving the Yankee troops back to their boats. For a period of time, Chaney served as an army surgeon.

One of the ranking alumni of Princeton was MG William Wirt Allen (1854). Leading his troops at the battle of Murfreesboro (where I had a great-grandfather wounded also), he was shot while waving his saber in a charge. Holding up his mangled hand, he exhorted his troops to "Avenge this!" He survived the war, and his bullet-torn uniform and a battle flag were placed in the cornerstone of the Confederate Memorial Monument in Montgomery, AL. Another general officer, Bradley Johnson (1849), one of Early's subordinates, helped lead the raid on Chambersburg, PA in 1896. Notable among senior officers in the Confederate army was BG James Jay Archer, who led a ferocious counterattack at Antietam. He was later captured at Gettysburg.

McHenry Howard (1858) was captured at Spotsylvania. Standing miserably in the rain, he heard a northern officer behind him exclaim, "Why, I was at Princeton College with that fellow". McHenry was too angry to turn around and see who it was. He was incarcerated at Old Capitol Prison in Washington, and regularly led prayers to include a request for blessing "the President of the Confederate States". Ironically, Howard was the grandson of Francis Scott Key!

Some twenty years after the war, the University advertised in the *Confederate Veteran* magazine for alumni to recount their service and memoirs. The response was mixed. After World War I, Memorial Atrium was created in Nassau Hall, and some seventy names were placed there in alphabetical order, without identification as to side. Current campus tour guides like to state as they point out the plaque that there is an even split, 35 each, but in actuality, there are 36 Confederate names to 34 Union.

As a final footnote, it is appropriate to note that Robert E. Lee's father, "Light Horse Harry" Lee, was Princeton class of 1773! Princeton, indeed contributed substantially to the Confederacy!

J. A. Barton Campbell
MOS & B Virginia Society, Princeton University '62

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.

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!

Chairman's Recognition Award

Sesquicentennial Committee Chairman Barton Campbell has announced a "Chairman's Recognition Award" that he will do each year of the sesquicentennial (during his tenure) for the Society with the most innovative project – that is the key word. All Societies are encouraged to "compete". Please advise Compatriot Campbell of your projects via his email, colbart@earthlink.net



Brigadier General Mark Lowrey (Baptist preacher and patriot).

The Chaplain's Corner: "Fighting Parsons"

Mark Perrin Lowrey was born in 1828, in McNairy County, Tennessee, to Adam and Marguerite (Doss) Lowrey. His parents had emigrated to America from England and Ireland. Lowrey received no formal education, but he subsequently befriended a school master who taught him to read. His father was killed in an accident in New Orleans when Lowrey was young. In 1843 he moved with his family to Mississippi, where he became a brick layer. During the Mexican War Lowrey enlisted as a private in the 2nd Mississippi Volunteers in 1847. Neither he or his regiment ever saw action in the conflict, and Lowrey was mustered out in July 1848.

After the war with Mexico ended, Lowrey married Sarah R. Holmes in 1849. Beginning in 1853 he became a Southern Baptist preacher, serving primarily around the village of Kossuth, Mississippi. After preaching for eight years, the American Civil War broke out and his congregation urged him to join the Confederacy. Initially Lowrey was commissioned as a captain in the Mississippi State Militia in 1861.

Civil War service

Lowrey was quickly promoted in the Confederate service in 1861 and became the colonel of the 4th Mississippi Militia. On December 6, 1861, Lowrey was appointed colonel of the 4th Mississippi Infantry, and on April 3, 1862, he became commander of the 32nd Mississippi Infantry. He fought in and was praised at the Battle of Shiloh, the Battle of Perryville, the Kentucky Campaign, and the Battle of Chickamauga. At the Battle of Perryville in October 1862 Lowrey was shot in the left arm but stayed on the battlefield. During the retreat, which began the next day, he had great difficulty keeping up with the army. He then obtained leave and traveled to his brother's house. After six weeks of recuperation Lowrey joined his forces and fought at the Battle of Murfreesboro on January 1, 1863.

Lowrey as a Confederate Army General

On October 4, 1863 at the age of 35, Mark Lowrey was promoted to a Brigadier General. It was because of his evangelistic ties and preaching that he came to be known as the "Preacher General". The Rev. J.J. Hutchinson recalled that during the revival at Dalton, Georgia in the Spring of 1864, General Lowrey "sat in the pulpit with me and closed the services of the hour with prayer. The general is a Baptist preacher, and, like the commander of the division [Gen.Cleburne], is a hero of many well-fought battlefields. He takes great interest in the soldiers' religious welfare, and often preaches to them, and feels that the ministry is still his high and holy calling."⁽¹⁾

One of the bloodiest days in General Lowrey's career came on 22 July 1864 at the Battle of Atlanta. At the center of Cleburne's division, Lowrey's brigade made repeated charges against Federal earthworks on the left flank of Leggett's Hill (where I-20 crosses Moreland Avenue). Cleburne's division had limited success, but they lost 1,388 soldiers, about twenty per cent of the total losses for the Confederate Army of Tennessee that day.⁽²⁾ Lowrey was undeterred and remained a fighting parson throughout the Atlanta and Nashville Campaigns. Indeed, in December 1864 during the Franklin-Nashville Campaign, an officer saw the flash of an enemy gun and yelled to Lowrey, who quickly lowered himself. The bullet stuck and killed a man behind him.

Years of bad health and other reasons caused Lowrey to resign his commission as a brigadier general on March 14, 1865, almost one month before the Confederate forces surrendered at Appomattox Courthouse. Maj. Gen. Patrick Cleburne, Lowrey's divisional commander during the Franklin-Nashville Campaign, pronounced Lowrey "the bravest man in the Confederate Army."

Postbellum career and death

After the war Lowrey moved back to Mississippi and focused on his studies. Then in 1873 he founded the Blue Mountain Female Institute which later became known as the Blue Mountain College. Lowrey would also serve as president of the Mississippi Baptist Convention from 1868 to 1877.

Lowrey then persuaded a friend, Colonel William C. Falkner, to route his railroad near the college. Since he was a major shareholder of Falkner's Railroad, the plan was soon carried out. The school became quite a success and three generations of Lowreys became presidents of the school –General Lowrey himself, two of his sons and a grandson. Following several years of teaching at the Blue Mountain College, Lowrey became very sick, and in 1882 his doctors alerted him that his heart was very weak. Then on February 27, 1885, while buying a train ticket in Middleton, Tennessee, he fell to the floor dead.

Possible family wealth

Lowrey family lore states that sometime after Mark and Sarah were married, an English grandfather of Lowrey's mother, Margaret (Doss) Lowrey, died leaving a six million dollar fortune to his descendants. Before the arrangements could be made for the family to get the money, the Civil War began and the descendants became pre-occupied with other matters. At the war's end General Lowrey once again tried to claim his share of the English estate left behind by his ancestor, but it was discovered that the papers pertaining to the money and estate were lost or destroyed. General Lowrey contented himself with the riches of a devoted family, a distinguished career of patriotism, preaching and teaching, and a reputation for devotion to God and his country which stood the test of time.

1. J. William Jones, *Christ in the Camp*, p. 555.

2. Blue and Gray Magazine, *History and Tour Guide of the Atlanta Campaign*, p. 227.



Conversations with James Cowan Havron, Esq.

~~The MOS&B's Senior Member~~

By Jerry G. Hughes, Sr., Commander, Tennessee Society, and
Richard H. Knight, Jr., Commander, Chapter 14, Tennessee Society

[Note: Mr. Havron died on April 10, 2011, at the age of 102. Commander Knight attended funeral services held in Nashville, Tennessee]

On August 9, 2008, four members of the Tennessee Society had the privilege of visiting Mr. James Cowan Havron, the day after his 100th birthday. They were Sidney Johnson (Former Commander, Tennessee Society, MOS&B), Richard H. Knight, Jr. (Commander, Col. William Shy/Brig. Gen. Benton Smith Chapter #14, Tennessee Society, MOS&B), Wm. Bryan Roehrig, III (Former Treasurer General, MOS&B), and Jerry G. Hughes, Sr. (Commander, Tennessee Society, MOS&B). Mr. Cowan's son, James Tyre Cowan, also attended. Dick Knight returned with Max Waldrop (Commander General, MOS&B) on March 19, 2010.

Mr. Havron is the only surviving grandchild of Maj. James Benjamin Cowan, M.D., Chief Surgeon, Forrest's Command.

For someone born on "Eight-Eight-Eight" (8/8/08), Mr. Havron is an active man. With the assistance of a walker, Mr. Havron gets around very well and, as the Society's delegation was soon to discover, Mr. Havron's ability to remember the smallest detail is remarkable. And that has not changed in the nineteen months between the two visits.

Without any prompting, Mr. Havron entertained his visitors with numerous stories of his life and family. For example, his older brother was an infantry officer in World War I and was seriously wounded at Cantigny, one of the six engagements in which the American Expeditionary Force played a central role. Like any "kid" brother, Mr. Havron thought his brother won the war and that "Pershing fellow" helped a little.

Early Life. Mr. Havron was born in Tullahoma. He said that Dr. Cowan delivered all of his grandchildren and that, according to the family, Dr. Cowan held him when he was christened. Unfortunately, Dr. Cowan died when Mr. Havron was 1-year-old, so Mr. Havron has no memory of his grandfather.

As a boy, Mr. Havron and his mother, Minnie (who lived to be 99), would occasionally take the train to Nashville. They would arrive at Union Station, use the trolley to cross a very wide Broadway, and stay at the old Maxwell House. Mr. Havron remembered meeting Sam Cunningham, Editor of *The Confederate Veteran*, and hearing his mother and Mr. Cunningham re-fight the War. After a full day of visiting with people, Mr. Havron and his mother would take the train back to Tullahoma. Mr. Havron said that his mother did not think a Republican could get "into Heaven," a common sentiment in those days.

The Havron Family moved to Nashville in 1919, when Mr. Havron was 11 years-old. Mr. Havron's mother was active in the UDC, and the two of them would occasionally visit the Confederate Soldiers' Home at the Hermitage. Mr. Havron remembered that a Confederate veteran once offered him a piece of candy, but his mother would not allow him to accept it. It was unwrapped, and the aging veteran had produced it from a pocket that also contained who knows what.

Later Years. Mr. Havron was elected to the Tennessee Legislature in 1935, at the age of 26. Today, he is the Tennessee Legislature's oldest living former member.

In 1942, Mr. Havron went on active duty with the U.S. Army (Ordinance Branch), and was stationed in Alaska for the duration of the War. Although he was not on the battlefield, Mr. Havron recalled in vivid detail the Japanese invasion of the Aleutian Islands and its aftermath. He also described the "friendly fire" tragedy on Sitka Island. Mr. Havron also recalled the construction of the Alaska – Canadian ("ALCAN") Highway. Mr. Havron was promoted to the rank of lieutenant colonel after the War and remained on active duty until 1947.

Mr. Havron practiced law for more than 50 years, and enjoyed a distinguished career. He has been a member of the Tennessee Bar Association for 75 years. Mr. Havron is also a member of the United States Supreme Court Bar Association and is a 33rd Degree Mason (Scottish Rite).

Mr. Havron married, and he has a large family whose members are loyal and dedicated to him. Cousin "Bedford." Dr. Cowan's first cousin, Mary Ann Montgomery, married Nathan Bedford Forrest. When Gen. Forrest asked for permission to marry Miss Mobley, her guardian objected that Forrest "cussed and swore" and was a "worldly man," and that Miss Montgomery was a "good, innocent Christian girl." Gen. Forrest replied, "I know, that is why I want to marry her."

Mr. Havron's mother always referred to the General as "Cousin Bedford." Mr. Havron also remembered meeting Forrest's daughter on a trip to Memphis. He said she was so regal looking in her long fancy dress that when she offered her hand he bowed!

Mr. Havron also remembers his cousin, Mary Forest Bradley, the daughter of the General's only son, Capt. William Montgomery Forrest. Mrs. Bradley was eight when her famous grandfather died, but she had vivid recollections of the General. Mrs. Bradley was President of the Nathan Bedford Forrest Chapter of the UDC (Memphis) for forty years.

Mr. Havron recalled hearing that, when John A. Wyeth wrote his biographical book on Gen. Forrest (1899), he sent an autographed copy to Dr. Cowan. Dr. Cowan read the book and penciled-in numerous corrections! (Dr. Cowan's copy of the book is still in the family.)

Mr. Havron also confirmed that Dr. Cowan was with Gen. Forrest when the General told Braxton Bragg that he (Forrest) would never again serve under Bragg, and that Bragg would be well-advised not to cross him (Forrest) again.

When asked about Fort Pillow, Mr. Havron stated that he had never heard of the engagement until another legislator, in protesting the placement of a bust of Forrest in the State Capitol, referred to Forrest as the "founder" of the Ku Klux Klan and the person responsible for the "massacre" Fort Pillow. These allegations prompted Mr. Havron to study all of the documentation available at that time (early 1930s), including the entire Congressional investigation and its findings and voluminous military correspondence. Mr. Havron concluded that the Fort Pillow allegations were the product of a well orchestrated conspiracy to blame high Union casualties on the fact that many of the Fort's defenders were United States Colored Troops. In reality, the high casualties were the product of poor leadership. The casualties could have been avoided if the Union officers had appreciated the tactical situation and surrendered the Fort long before they did.

Mr. Havron also confirmed that his exhaustive research indicated that, when Forrest was invited to join the Klan, Forrest arrived very late at Nashville's Maxwell House, where the meeting was held. In his absence, Forrest had been elected leader and, without having the opportunity to reply, he was rushed to the Old Sulfur Dell where he was initiated in the organization. Mr. Havron reported that the records are very clear that the Klan was organized to

address the problem of rampant lawlessness at a time when citizens were denied their Constitutional right to bear arms. Once Reconstruction ended, Forrest disbanded the Klan. Mr. Havron said that any serious study of the Klan would show that Forrest had no connection with the Klan of *his* time and what followed years later.

Mr. Cowan is a Life Member of the MOS&B. On a second visit to his home, Dick Knight and Max Waldrop confirmed that Mr. Havron's membership certificate was handsomely framed and exhibited in his living room.

The MOS&B and its members look forward to more visits with Jim Havron, a distinguished gentleman and the worthy legatee of a patriotic family.



Proclamation from the City of Bay Minette, AL

On Monday April 4, 2011, the City of Bay Minette issued a Proclamation proclaiming April to be Confederate History Month. The award was presented to Bert Blackmon, commander of the St. John Richardson Liddell Chapter by Mayor Jamie Tillery. This makes 3 City and one County Proclamation issued in Baldwin County. Next year we will try to expand that number. Looking on is City Councilman and Alabama Society 2nd Lt. Commander Danleigh Corbett, a member of the Liddell Chapter.

-Submitted by Bert Blackmon

Sesquicentennial Highlight Article Notice

Any Society is welcome to submit a "Sesquicentennial Highlight Article" for publication consideration in the *Officer's Call*. Sesquicentennial Committee Chairman Barton Campbell asks that you coordinate thru him, as he is "orchestrating" these topics for the MOS&B newsletter. He can be contacted at colbart@earthlink.net.

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To Arms! Join The MOS&B Color Guard

Commander General Max Waldrop has created the Military Order of the Stars and Bars Color Guard. All MOS&B Members are eligible to join the National MOS&B Color Guard as we assemble each year at National Conventions. The Color Guard will lead off the ceremonies by presenting the Colors and also present the Colors for the MOS&B Luncheon. The Color Guard will give spirit and historical presentation for the MOS&B Conventions.

To join: All members will need a Confederate Officer uniform to wear in the Color Guard. There will be no specific Officer uniform as members can wear any Officer uniform of their own choosing, including that of their own ancestor. All members shall also wear white dress gloves (they can be purchased at any formal wear store). The flags and flag carriers will be provided for members to use. I will also as Commander of the Color Guard train each member the Hardee's tactics that will be used. Together we will form the MOS&B Color Guard to provide historic presentation of the Confederate Officer Corps. Please contact Commander Ray Rooks to join by email at mrgnaphill@aol.com or by phone at 410-258-2223. Forward with the Colors!

Commander General Waldrop for the inaugural Convention of the Sesquicentennial creates "The Massing of the Colors." A member of each State will march forward with their State Flag to present and post for the duration of the MOS&B Convention. This new tradition at each Convention will bring true spirit to the MOS&B! Please bring to each year's Convention your Society State Flag to carry in the Massing of the Colors. Society Commanders please contact me for coordinating details.

Ray Rooks

Commander – Maryland Society

Commander – National Color Guard



The group at the end of the tour in the Robert E. Petersen Gallery. Left to right: McKim Symington, our tour guide and host, Jim Whitehead, Rick Abell, John Zeblean, John Lumsden, Bill Price, and J.J. Smith. Missing from the picture, Robin and Nick Ward, South Timble Lynn and Joanne Lynn the latter two being able to join the lunch group.

Samuel Cooper Chapter Tours the National Rifle Association National Firearms Museum

On Saturday, April 23, the Samuel Cooper Chapter was led on a tour of the National Firearms Museum by our fellow member McKim Symington. McKim is also a docent at the museum and his knowledge of what to focus on and the background information he provided made for a very entertaining and stimulating tour. The Museum has a fascinating collection of firearms, almost too much to take in on one visit.

Following the tour, the meeting recessed and was called to order ten minutes later in the nearby Blue Iguana restaurant. As with any group of MOS&B members, the comradeship and story telling only added a wonderful conclusion to the tour.



Griswold and Gunnison pistols were patterned after the Colt Model 1851 Navy revolver. Samuel Griswold, a transplanted Yankee, made more than 3,700 revolvers for the Confederacy. He initially produced infantry pikes, weapons which were obsolete long before the start of the war. He later received a contract to manufacture pistols, and his production was unrivaled by any other private Southern armasmaker. Griswold's factory was destroyed by Union troops in late 1864.



Texas Society Convention

By Dr. Gary M. Loudermilk, MOS&B Communications General

The Texas Society held its 2011 Convention in Brownwood Texas, April 29 and 30. Registration and the Commander's Reception were Friday evening and the regular annual meeting was Saturday morning.

This was an election year for the Society and the members unanimously selected Glenn Toal to lead the Society as Commander for the next two years. Commander Toal has served as Texas Society Adjutant for the last four years and has been one of the most active members at both the State and National level. One of our younger and very active members, Larry Wilhoite, was elected Society Lt. Commander.

The Friday evening reception was held at the Brownwood Hampton Inn, our host hotel, and the Saturday session was held at the Brownwood Coliseum Annex, an excellent meeting facility.

The business session involved discussions about the upcoming 2012 National Convention in San Antonio and the Society pledged \$1500 to assist Commander David Whitaker and his team in funding the Convention. Commander Whitaker provided a detailed report on the status of the plans for the convention and outlined the assignments that have been made for the various activities. Work on the 2012 convention will begin in earnest as soon as the Jacksonville Convention is concluded.

A highlight of the Convention was the presentation by State Representative Allen Fletcher of a Texas flag that had flown over the Capitol in Austin. The flag was presented to the North Carolina Society to be flown over a monument honoring 300 unknown Confederate dead, some of whom were from Texas units. Representative Fletcher is a member of Texas Chapter #5 and is a great asset to the Texas Society.

In other business, outgoing Texas Commander Gary L. Loudermilk presented gifts to key members of his staff in the form of souvenir lapel pins with the Texas State seal on them. Commander Whitaker reciprocated by presenting Commander Loudermilk with a Certificate of Appreciation from the Texas Chapter #5.

Other routine business items were discussed including the tentative time and location of the 2012 Texas Society Convention.

After the business session concluded, spouses and guests rejoined the meeting to hear our guest speaker, Dr. Richard McCaslin, professor and chair of the history department at the University of North Texas. Dr. McCaslin has written several Confederate themed books and is the recipient of the Jefferson Davis History Gold Medal from the UDC and the Douglas Southall Freeman History Award from the MOS&B.

Dr. McCaslin gave an outstanding talk based on his latest book about John "Rip" Ford, a legendary Texas Ranger and Confederate Officer.

At the conclusion of the meeting, members and guests were served a meal of traditional Bar-B-Que. with all the trimmings.

The final event of the Convention was a tour of the Douglas MacArthur Academy of Freedom Museum. In addition to memorabilia about the General, the museum has rooms featuring various stages of freedom in the world. There are replica rooms such as the Hall of Christian Civilization, Magna Carta Hall, Independence Hall, Mediterranean Hall and Egyptian Hall. Another Texas Society Convention was completed successfully and we look forward to many more.



Virginia Society May 2011 Report

The Virginia Society convened in Virginia Beach in Saturday, April 30th. Hosted by Chapter 281, Major Edgar Burroughs and Princess Anne Cavalry Chapter, Commander Edward Stack and Adjutant W. D. "Sandy" Andrews took up the challenge and arranged for a fine meeting space. The Virginia Beach Resort Hotel overlooks the Chesapeake Bay with a view of Cape Charles on the Eastern Shore off in the distance. One mile to the east lies the Lynnhaven Bay and River, known for centuries for their fine oysters. In 1963, the city of Virginia Beach annexed what had been Princess Anne County since the 17th century. While Virginia Beach is now a large city known for beaches and the Oceana Naval Air Station, much of the area towards the North Carolina line is rural with marshes, waterways, and some agriculture. During the War Between the States, the Princess Anne Cavalry consisted of Companies C, I, and K of the 15th Virginia Cavalry. One of the officers was Major Edgar Burroughs, namesake of Chapter 281. One of Major Burrough's descendants is Joseph Edwards "Joe" Burroughs, a current member who was present at the convention along with his wife Jacquelyn "Jack" Burroughs.

Members began arriving throughout the morning and visited with old friends. Past Society Commander Rick Abell and Adjutant Judson Smith of General Samuel Cooper Chapter 105 pulled in from Alexandria followed by Society Commander Allen Mock and George Pickett Chapter 115 Commander Conway Moncure Bagwell of Richmond. Shortly after, Charlie Embrey and Henry Heyer Knauf of General Magruder Chapter 258 arrived at a gallop from Spotsylvania County.

The Virginia Society was honored to have CG Max Waldrop in attendance. Max told the assembled about the volunteer headquarters operation and how this has resulted in the rebuilding of the Order's endowment. Other activities Max covered were the MOS&B scholarships and the Collaterals' Project.

Of the progress since the departure from Elm Springs, Max noted that " We have learned how to be a corporation".

After dinner, chapter reports, and awards, CG Waldrop inducted thirteen-year-old Ethan Edward Ives into the Order, while his father, Chapter 281 member Robert Edward Ives, held their family Bible.



After dinner speaker Anthony Radd spoke to the assembled on the matter of secession. An attorney in Norfolk, he has been studying and speaking to groups on the subject and recently had an op-ed piece in the Norfolk Virginian Pilot. Anthony made the case that Abraham Lincoln's effort to retrieve the seceded states by force led to both the departure of four more states and the total war that followed soon after.

Having concluded a successful convention, members bade each other farewell and set out for home.

- Submitted by: Lee Scouten, Virginia Society Adjutant



Confederate Memorial Service at Greenhill Cemetery in Greensboro, NC

On 5/10/2011, a Confederate Memorial Service sponsored by the Guilford Chapter 301 United Daughters of the Confederacy in Greensboro, NC was held on the burial mound of the 300 unknown Confederate Dead that died in Greensboro in 1865. These men were reburied here in 1888 in Green Hill Cemetery by Greensboro's former Confederate Veterans. Those who died here in 1865 were members of the Confederate "Army of Tennessee". A massing of the State Flags of the former Confederacy was done on the grounds to start the service and I am proud to say that "OFFICIAL FLAGS from the State Govt's of SC, AL, AR & TX were present for the service and will fly at the site along with the Military Order of the Stars & Bars. And I thank Guilford Chapter 301 for letting me help with the Confederate Memorial Service, and the management and staff of Forbis & Dick Funeral Home in Greensboro for providing tents, chairs, and manpower for the service. These Confederate Dead are unknown but not forgotten!

Units involved were Co. B of the 27th NC Troops, CSA (The Guilford Grays) and 2nd Co. G 40th NC Troops, CSA, "Orange Light Artillery"(Patterson's Battery) MOS&B Memorial Cannon Crew Groups involved with the service were the UDC, SCV, MOS&B, OCR, & Salisbury Prison Association. Also the DCV had members present as well. Thank you all for attending!

Rodney Williams, NC Society Commander, MOS&B



The MOS&B Sesquicentennial Convention

Jacksonville, Florida

July 14 - 16, 2011

Hotel Reservation Information

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.

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 rate, reference the Military Order of the Stars and Bars and not just MOS&B.

"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*

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Event Schedule

Seventy-fourth Sesquicentennial Convention

Wyndham Hotel, Jacksonville, FL

Thursday, 14 July 2011

- 3 to 5 PM Registration
- 2 PM Pre-Convention General Executive Council meeting
- 6:30 PM Board River Boat from hotel for St. Johns cruise and dinner

Friday, 15 July 2011

- 7 AM Forrest Calvary (FCC) Breakfast
- 7 to 9 AM Registration
- 9 to 9:30 AM Opening Ceremony
- 9:40 to 11:30 AM Business Meeting
- 12:15 to 2:30 PM MOS&B Awards Luncheon
- 2:30 to 4:30 PM Visit to the Museum of Southern History
- 6 PM Bus departure for the Florida Yacht Club
- 6:30 to 9:00 PM Commander General's Reception
- 9:00 PM Bus departs for hotel

Saturday, 16 July 2011

- 8 AM MOS&B Prayer Breakfast
- 9:30 AM Bus departure for the Olustee Battlefield
- 1 PM Luncheon
- 6:30 to 11 PM Gala Banquet with period music at hotel

Room locations will be clearly marked in the hotel.

The MOS&B 2011 Sesquicentennial Convention

Registration Form

Name: _____ Member Number: _____
 Address: _____
 E-mail Address: _____ Telephone: _____
 Spouse's name: _____ Others: _____

Member registration:	\$ 75	one	Total \$	75
Thursday: 14 July Dinner on the St. Johns excursion 1830	\$ 45	___	Total \$	_____
Friday: 15 July Forrest Cavalry (FCC) Breakfast 0700	\$ 25	___	Total \$	_____
MOS&B Awards Luncheon 1215	\$ 35	___	Total \$	_____
Historical presentation and museum 1430	\$ 25	___	Total \$	_____
Commander General's Reception 1830	\$ 40	___	Total \$	_____
Saturday: 16 July Prayer Breakfast 0800	\$ 25	___	Total \$	_____
Olustee Battlefield tour (bus) 0930	\$ 30	___	Total \$	_____
Luncheon 1300	\$ 25	___	Total \$	_____
Gala Banquet with period music 1830	\$ 55	___	Total \$	_____
Additional Sesquicentennial Convention Medals	\$ 30	___	Total \$	_____
Additional copies of "Florida in Turmoil" (FL history)	\$ 15	___	Total \$	_____
MOS&B "Blood Chit" Patch	\$ 20	___	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

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."

Convention Attire:

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

For Gala Banquet: Jacketed Business, US Military or Period attire



1

ALABAMA SOCIETY GORGAS CHAPTER #299 REPORT

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

The General Josiah Gorgas Chapter #299 of the Military Order of the Stars and Bars met on April 2, 2011 at the General J. C. C. Sanders' Lecture Series in the Grand Gallery of the Museum of Natural History (Smith Hall) on the campus of the University of Alabama. Eleven Chapter members and two guests attended the lectures.

After the opening ceremony, a highlight of the meeting was the presentation of a certificate and an engraved 1860 Cavalry saber to University of Alabama Army ROTC Cadet Charles A. Armistead and to Air Force ROTC Cadet Curtis M. Harris in recognition of their being selected by their ROTC Detachment commanders as recipients of the General R. E. Lee Leadership Award. Cadet Armistead is 3rd of 26 in his ROTC class with a 3.0 QPA, has served as Platoon Sergeant and Company Commander, is Commander of the Ranger Challenge Team, and has served as President of Student Campus Ministries. Cadet Harris is 2nd of 14 in his ROTC class with a QPA of 3.29, has served as Vice Commander and Commander of the Air Force ROTC detachment, and was Top Gun and a Distinguished Graduate from field training. In Photo 1 are seen, left to right, Gorgas Chapter Commander Richard Rhone, Army ROTC Commander LTC James Shaver, Cadet Armistead, and Gorgas Chapter Adjutant Sam Gambrell, Jr. In Photo 2 are seen, left to right, Richard Rhone, Cadet Harris, and Sam Gambrell, Jr. This is the second year that University of Alabama Army and Air Force ROTC cadets have been honored as recipients of the General R. E. Lee Leadership Award.



2



3

Following the General R. E. Lee award presentations, three outstanding speakers lectured on topics as follows: Dr. Joseph G. Dawson, III, Professor of History, Texas A & M University, who spoke on "Jeb Stuart and Confederate Defeat in the Pennsylvania Campaign"; Dr. Steven E. Woodworth, Professor of History, Texas Christian University, who spoke on "Braxton Bragg and Confederate Defeat in the Heartland"; and Dr. Craig L. Symonds, Professor Emeritus, United States Naval Academy, who spoke on "Davis and Johnston at War". After the second lecture, Dr. Lee Albritton, a Professor at Shelton State Community College in Tuscaloosa, AL, delivered the annual memorial tribute to the 1865 Alabama Corps of Cadets in recognition of the role that they played in the defense of Tuscaloosa against the forces of Union General Croxton in April, 1865. Approximately 200 people (Photo 3) attended the lectures and enjoyed a delicious barbecue lunch at Noon. The lectures were completed at 2:00 PM.



4

Following the lecture presentations, a meeting of the Alabama Society, MOS&B was held at 2:00 PM in the auditorium of Smith Hall. Commander Bob McClendon (right) and Adjutant Bert Blackmon (left) presided, (Photo 4). The traditional MOS&B Rituals were delivered by several different members at the beginning of the meeting. Commander McClendon spoke about several issues affecting the Society and stated that, because of illness, the positions of Chief of Staff, web-site manager, and editor of the YELLOWHAMMER, need to be filled.

Adjutant Blackmon presented information about membership in the chapters of the Society and requested assistance in getting old members to rejoin. At present, four of the ten chapters in the Society are not active because of their reduced number active members. At the time of this meeting, there were 102 active members in the Society. Ten members and one guest of the Gorgas Chapter attended the Society meeting. The meeting was adjourned at 3:00 PM.



Picture above is the grave of Captain Giles Wright, 17 year old son of Captain James Tyrie Wright. Captain Giles Wright died at the age of 17 years old.

Captain James Tyrie Wright Chapter No. 6, Harrison, Arkansas (Chartered as the Abner-Cone-Langston- Shaver-Wright Chapter)

The Abner-Cone-Langston-Shaver-Wright chapter was formed in November 1984 from Confederate officer corps ancestors of charter members of the chapter. Abner, an ancestor of Steve Muller; Lieutenant Cone, an ancestor of E. Wayne Cone; Langston, an ancestor of Charles and Harold Hammett; Colonel Robert G. Shaver, a great-uncle of Ron Shaver; and Captain James Tyrie Wright, a great-great-great-grandfather of James Troy Massey, Sammy Joe Massey, Jeffery Wayne Massey and John David Massey.

The first elected officers were Commander James Troy Massey, 1st Lieutenant Commander Jeff Massey and Adjutant E. Wayne Cone.

In 1994 the name was changed to the Captain James Tyrie Wright Chapter of Company C, 11th Regiment, 8th Division, Missouri State Guard. Past Commanders of the chapter are James Troy Massey, John David Massey, Steve Muller, E. Wayne Cone, Charles Rea and Gordon Hale. Current officers for 2011 are: Commander Samuel A. Massey, 1st Lieutenant Charles Beaver and Adjutant J. Troy Massey.

The Wright chapter supports the Confederate Cemetery in Fayetteville as a Life Member. Projects include a one mile Adopt A Highway trash pickup on State Highway #7 in Harrison; membership in the Museum of the Confederacy and annual grave marking in April. They have donated to the Lee project at Washington and Lee University in Lexington, Virginia. Their programs include annual Lee-Jackson Dinner and annual Christmas Dinner. They also donate to the Arkansas Children's Hospital. Books have been donated to the Boone County Heritage Museum and all of their members are quite active in community activities.



Pictured above is Mayor Jim Smithson and Sam Massey standing at the gates leading into Marshall Cemetery located in Marshall, Arkansas

Confederate Memorial Service at The Old Marshall Cemetery

Over the Easter weekend at Marshall, Arkansas, the good Mayor Jim Smithson, continues to honor our Confederate past. Above are pictures of Giles Wright's grave which is located at the Marshall Cemetery referred to as the "Old Marshall Cemetery." This past weekend, Mayor Smithson, had two Confederate flags-the Bonnie Blue and the First National, placed at the entrance of the cemetery. There are four Confederates buried there. Hopefully the national MOS&B will recognize him as a non-member but I have passed on to him that I will assist in seeking out his Confederate ancestors who might be officers or government officials. In this politically incorrect environment, it is great to find a Mayor in small town America, to have enough gumption to honor the Confederacy.

- Submitted by J. Troy Massey, Past Commander General



“Churchill Island’s mystery cannon poses many questions”

men, Europeans or Savages”.

International Dispatches: MYSTERY CANNON STILL DRAWS FIRE

At the entry to Western Port Bay adjacent to Port Phillip Bay wherein lies the Port of Melbourne, in the State of Victoria in Australia lies a small island upon which the first European crops were planted in April 1801. These seeds consisted of wheat, corn, potatoes, peas, coffee berries, apples, peaches and nectarines, were given by an Devonshire farmer, John Churchill, for the “future benefit of our fellow men, be they Country-

The man behind this accomplishment was Lieutenant James Grant, commander of the brig *HMS Lady Nelson* who upon sowing his seeds, and together with crew erecting a small blockhouse wrote “I scarcely know a place I should sooner call mine than this little island.” He named the island *Churchill Island* after his farmer friend and departed to complete the survey of Western Port. He did not return but the *Lady Nelson* sailed back later that year under Lt Murray who found the wheat and corn grown 6 feet high and almost ripe.

Though the first crops were sown here, European settlers did not return to the island until the 1850s when John Rogers took a pastoral lease covering a number of islands. In 1866 he purchased Churchill Island but by 1872 he had mortgaged the property to J D McHaffie a Phillip Island farmer who subsequently sold it to Samuel Amess, one-time Mayor of Melbourne.

Amess constructed a homestead that is in existence today and outside this building sits a 6 pounder cannon.

Legend has it that Captain James Waddell of the *CSS Shenandoah*, which visited Melbourne for repairs in 1865 presented the cannon to Amess out of appreciation for hospitality. International Dispatches is proud to bring you the historians’ investigation of this weapon, which dispels the myth.

It is a good story though... Churchill Island is a fine tourist attraction, but to date there is no official retraction of the supposition that the cannon is of Confederate origin. I urge Members to read the following article and note that while the past can be difficult to clarify, there is evidence that Melbourne has an abiding fascination with the *CSS Shenandoah* and in fact, anything associated correctly or incorrectly with the Confederacy. For example in February 2011, the Williamstown Maritime Association held an exhibition entitled “Rebels Down Under” to celebrate the *Shenandoah’s* arrival to Williamstown in 1865. Sam Craghead, of the Museum of the Confederacy in Richmond, Virginia, USA, attended the exhibition.

And for any Members be traveling to Victoria for the Sesquicentennial, a visit to Churchill and (its larger neighbor) Phillip Island is highly recommended. Sincere thanks are due to the Friends of Churchill Island Society Inc for their kind permission to reprint the following article written by David Maunders.

Roger P Thornton, ADC International Dispatches, Military Order of the Stars and Bars.

THE CHURCHILL ISLAND CANNON: HISTORY AND MYSTERY.

David Maunders

The Myth

The cannon came from the CSS Shenandoah, a warship of the Confederates States in the American Civil War. During the ships' stay in Melbourne in 1865, the cannon was presented to Samuel Amess in gratitude for his role in the hospitality offered to the officers. After Amess built the house on Churchill Island, the cannon was located there.

This version of events was part of the Amess family history "handed down by word of mouth" (Ian Amess, letter to Robert Marmion, 15 March 1982, VCT Cannon File part 1). It was known to the private owners and to the Victorian Conservation Trust when it became responsible for Churchill Island in 1977. Shortly after the purchase of the island, the VCT arranged for the restoration of the cannon by the Flinders Naval Base, when it is assumed that the break in the barrel and its repair occurred (letters of 10, 20 October 1977, VCT Cannon File part 1). From this time until 1983, the VCT, largely through its Executive Director Colonel Ian Wilton and his Assistant Director, Ross Lawson, undertook extensive correspondence to identify the history of the cannon. They may have been spurred on by the American Civil War Round Table of Australia, whose members had undertaken extensive research into the *Shenandoah* and the cannon and concluded that the cannon could not possibly be from the *Shenandoah* (Letter of 17/8/1981, VCT Cannon File part 1). The VCT was reluctant to accept this. The ACWRTA accused the VCT of misleading the people of Victoria by claiming that the cannon came from the *Shenandoah* and of being more concerned with losing a tourist draw card and having to withdraw brochures than putting the record straight 4 February, 1982, VCT Cannon File part 1).

The Round Table's arguments were based on the following facts:

The Ordnance carried by the *Shenandoah* did not include 6 pounder cannon, the smallest being 12 pounder signal guns;^[1]

The guns were supplied from Britain and had British government Ordnance marks;

Detailed lists were kept of articles removed from whalers captured or sunk; only 3 ships had guns and these were sunk with the ships;

There is no record of a council reception or report of the presentation to Amess;

For a British subject to receive arms from a foreign power was illegal.

[1] Oct 1864: 2x 32 pound Whitforth muzzle loading rifles 4.7 inch; 2 small guns probably 8 pounders

[2] Correspondence from the Tennessee State Library (22 November 1982) identified:

Cornelius Hunt, *The Shenandoah or the Last Confederate Cruiser*, New York Carlton, 1867.

Stanley Horn, *Gallant Rebel, the fabulous cruise of the CSS Shenandoah*, New Brunswick, Rutgers University Press, 1947.

James Waddell, *CSS Shenandoah: the memoirs of Lt Commander James I. Waddell*, ed JD Horan, New York Crown Publishing, 1960.

Murray Morgan *Dixie Raider, the saga of the CSS Shenandoah*, New York, Dutton, 1948.

In Australia, well known author Cyril Pearl published *Rebel down under*, Heinemann, Melbourne, 1970.

The Round Table wrote to the premier, minister, leader of the opposition and the matter received attention in the press. These facts did not impress the VCT. Carroll Schulz, then head ranger of Churchill Island wrote to the Round Table that the Trust was still researching the origin of the cannon. "If the Trust accepted every claim such as that of your society, without question and without exhaustive research of its own, it would be lacking in its duty to the people of Victoria" (13 February 1982, VCT Cannon File part 1). The Trust did conduct exhaustive research but still did not put the record straight. Consequently, Churchill Island Guides, in many cases unwittingly, are still deceiving the people of Victoria and from further afield.

The History: The Shenandoah

The voyages of the Shenandoah were documented by the ship's log and from journals kept by a number of officers (Captain Waddell, Surgeons Lining and McNulty, Lieutenants Hunt, Chew and Whittle). A significant number of accounts drawing on these and other sources have been published in the USA and in Australia [2]. In addition, there are the ship's log and journals of officers Lining and Chew, with those of Hunt and Waddell which were published. More recently (2007), retired Melbourne solicitor Henry Gordon-Clark completed a doctoral thesis at Monash University, "*The last gun in defence of the South*": the story of the CSS Shenandoah and her cruise around the world in 1864-1865.

The *Shenandoah* was a steamer clipper (a fast sailing ship with a steam engine) built on the Clyde in Scotland in 1863 under the name of *Sea King*. She was purchased by the Confederate agent under an assumed name and left London in October 1864 with a registered destination of Bombay but actually for Madeira. There she came under the command of Captain James Waddell, a native of North Carolina and graduate of the United States Naval Academy who had left the US navy at the outbreak of the Civil war. In Madeira, she met the *Laurel*, which left Liverpool at the same time carrying guns, ammunition, stores and ship's officers. These were transferred and the *Shenandoah* headed south on October 20th but with a crew only between 42 and 47, approximately one third of the size of its normal complement. Her purpose was to strike at American whaling ships in the Behring Sea. Whale oil was used for lubrication in industry and whale bone had a variety of uses and it was considered that damage to the whale industry could be a blow to the US economy. On her way to Melbourne, the *Shenandoah* captured nine ships.

On January 25, 1865, the *Shenandoah* anchored off Sandridge (Port Melbourne). She came to Melbourne to refuel, take supplies and land prisoners. A storm had caused damage to the propeller shaft and the supply vessel *John Fraser* (owned in South Carolina) was expected with a cargo of coal from Liverpool. Neutral ports (such as Melbourne) were only allowed to provide supplies sufficient to carry the vessel to the nearest port of her home country and a ship of war was expected to stay no longer than 24 hours.

The arrival of the *Shenandoah* in Melbourne caused a sensation. Small boats surrounded the anchoring ship and over 7,000 people visited the ship the day after her arrival. This continued with a peak of 10,000 in one day with many refused through lack of space. Visitors seriously interfered with repairs so finally the captain refused to have any more. The *Argus* and *Age* newspapers covered the visit extensively with the *Argus* being sympathetic to the Confederate cause and the *Age* more opposed. Governor Darling gave permission for repairs to be made on the Government slip at Williamstown and the *Shenandoah* was towed there on 4 February leaving the officers to continue the round of social events. E Chambers & Co, responsible for the repairs, advertised in the *Age* that visitors would be charged six pence and proceeds would be distributed among benevolent institutions in Melbourne.

Hospitality was boundless. The railways provided free passes for the officers and invitations to dinners and balls poured in. Major entertainments included dinner at the Melbourne Club, attended by sixty Victorians including some judges and an invitation to Ballarat made by local expatriates. In Ballarat, the officers were shown the mines and attended a civic Ball meeting a large number of pretty women. In Melbourne, they paid visits to the parliament, Kew Insane Asylum and attended many private dinners.

Not all Melbournians were sympathetic to the Confederate cause and Lieutenant Hunt records a fight breaking out at Scott's Hotel but with no serious results. In addition, the US Consul William Blanchard demanded that the *Shenandoah* be seized as a pirate. When no action was taken, he pressed the Governor to arrest a cook named *Charley* who was a British citizen on the evidence of former pressed sailors from the *Shenandoah*. (The British Foreign Enlistment Act prohibited citizens from enlisting under foreign flags). Fifty policemen (Surgeon Lining records two hundred) were sent to Williamstown, surrounded the dock and arrested *Charley*. Work on repairs was stopped until

public meetings protested against the government action. The ship was finally refloated, took on provisions and sailed from Melbourne on 18 February. However, forty-two men stowed away and signed on as crew members. Advertisements had been placed in newspapers by a mysterious Mr Powell who evaded warrants for his arrest.

The *Shenandoah* sailed on to the Behring Sea and captured nearly another thirty Union ships. She inflicted damage to US shipping of over \$US1.3 million (in contemporary values) but did not take one human life. She continued to do so for four months after the official end of the war and, on learning of the demise of the South, sailed to Liverpool where the crew disappeared. Captain Waddell stayed in England until 1875. The *Shenandoah* was sold to the Sultan of Zanzibar but was wrecked in 1879 (Stanley F Horn, *Gallant Rebel*, Rutgers University Press, 1947). Seven years after the end of the war, an international tribunal investigated claims that Britain had harboured Confederate raiders and awarded the United States \$US15.5 million (of which Noble estimates that 3.8 million related to the *Shenandoah*) (John Noble, *Port Phillip Panorama, a maritime history*, (Some Ships that Passed) Melbourne Hawthorn Press, 1976. VCT Cannon File part 2).

The Mystery: 1. How and why was Samuel Amess presented with the cannon?

If we overlook the overwhelming evidence that the Churchill Island cannon was not part of the armament of the *Shenandoah* or one of the captured ships, we are faced with the mysteries of why there is no record of the presentation, why it was given to Amess and how it was actually given into his charge.

Descendent Ian Amess argues "that there were no press reports of the presentation is not surprising considering the international situation of that time". Whilst that may be true, it is surprising that there is no record of Amess's hospitality in journals of the officers. Amess was not mayor at the time (he later served from 1869 to 1870) and does not seem to have been a prime mover of the Melbourne Club dinner. However, Cyril Pearl wrote (possibly following tradition) "one of Waddell's most enthusiastic hosts was Samuel Amess..." (*Rebel Down Under*, 1970). Many private individuals gave dinner invitations, so what was the hospitality that was so significant to warrant the gift of the cannon? Was he the mysterious Mr Powell, involved in the illegal recruitment of sailors? Given his background (builder and stonemason, gold miner, councilor) this seems unlikely, though this idea did occur to archaeologist William Wright (Letter of 22 October, 1982, VCT archive - Cannon Part 3).

Assuming that the cannon was given to Amess, how did it get into Amess's possession given the logistics of moving it and the security surrounding the illegal enlistment, including the surrounding of the vessel on the Williamstown slip? Wilson P Evans, Williamstown City Historian, wrote:

In 1950, I carried out research in Australia and overseas in an attempt to ascertain if Captain Waddell presented this gun to Samuel Amess during the stay of the raider in Port Phillip. I found no record that there was any transaction between Amess and the *Shenandoah* in respect to a gun or guns. The only time it would have been possible to lift the weapon out of the raider was when she was hove to outside Port Phillip Heads. I consider such a transfer unlikely since I hold the pilotage records of the *Shenandoah*. (Letter of 5 July, 1982. VCT archive - Cannon Part 3).

Moving a cannon around in the 1860s was not easily accomplished in a clandestine manner. Surprisingly, Wilson's research in 1950 did not move the then owner Dr Harry Jenkins from the *Shenandoah* origin as (an accepted fact of life" (Letter from ABD Evans 27 May 1982 VCT archive - Cannon Part 2).

The Mystery: 2. Why did Amess deceive people about the origin of the cannon?

If the cannon did not come from the *Shenandoah*, why did Amess say that it did? Presumably, it came into his possession illicitly. However, the story became a tradition, which many were reluctant to disbelieve. Ross Lawson wrote to American cannon expert Edwin Olmstead: "There were too many people who were alive and knew Samuel Amess who supported the story for it to be completely wrong" (Letter to Olmstead, 1 February 1983, VCT archive - Cannon Part 3). There is little doubt that Amess told the story but that is not the same thing.

That leads us to the major mystery of the origin of the cannon.

The Mystery: 3. What was the origin of the cannon?

The VCT tried hard to find out the origin of the cannon. Its officers approached every expert they could identify in Australia, the UK and the USA and commissioned their own local expert, Tony Dunlap, to report on the origins of the cannon. The cannon was weighed, measured and photographed. Identifying marks F RECK, 38, 860 were interpreted. F Reck was assumed by many to be the founder and an attempt to identify the foundry through historians of the Reck family in the USA proved fruitless. In addition 38, was accepted as the piece number (though some thought it might be 1838 as date of manufacture) and 860 thought to be the weight (more or less confirmed by weighing) but some thought it might be 1860.

Experts agreed on very little other than the piece was not of British manufacture. Let us consider the views of the major contributors.

The American Civil War Round Table researchers Duff and Marmion concluded that the cannon was one of the four six pounders left behind when the Westernport Settlement was abandoned in 1827 (sic) (Report of 17/ August 1981, VCT archive - Cannon Part 1). This was the establishment of Fort Dumaresq on the cliff at Rhyll, established from fear of the French and the Corinella settlement. This theory was rejected by Ray Fielding, Curator of Arms at the Melbourne Science Museum. He argued that firstly all guns were returned to Sydney when the settlement was abandoned in 1828 and secondly that six pounder cast iron guns in British service were six or eight feet long and weighed 17 or 22 hundredweight, larger than the Churchill Island cannon (letter of 18 March 1982, VCT archive - Cannon Part 1). This was also the conclusion of Dunlap in his report (Report, 1982, Appendix G).

Tony Dunlap. Dunlap, a local armament expert, was commissioned to investigate the origin of the cannon. His report (1982 in CI Archives), according to the VCT, was inconclusive (perhaps not reaching their hoped-for conclusions) and argued that the cannon was of Confederate origin. Fielding suggested that it was more reasonable to conclude that the cannon was produced in America in the mid 19th century. Confederate origin does not strengthen the Shenandoah connection as her arms were supplied from Britain.

Ray Fielding, Curator of Arms at the Melbourne Science Museum, concluded that the gun was "consistent with the type found on merchant vessels of the period, the breeching loop above the cascabel knob is an indication that it was made as a ship's gun".

Edwin Olmstead, an American expert on muzzleloaders, contributed several letters. They are long and confusing, though in one he states: "I have neither seen nor heard of any piece even remotely resembling that at Churchill Island..." At one point he suggested it might be a hoax. (Letter of 2 July 1982, VCT archive - Cannon Part 1).

William C Wright, Historical Archaeologist, Department of Archives and History, State of Mississippi. Wright argued that the tube was Prussian and the F Reck signified the reign of Frederick IV, 860 was the date of casting and that the "cheeks and trunnion caps are definitely of European origin" (Letter of 22 October, 1982, VCT archive - Cannon Part 3).

It seems likely that the gun came from a merchant ship. If there was a *Shenandoah* connection, it must have come from one of the ships captured before the cruiser arrived in Melbourne but nothing is recorded in the prize lists. Ross Lawson suggested that it might have come from Captain Corbett's supply ship (the *Laurel* or the *John Fraser*?) and as it was outdated, to be used for barter. (Letter of 26 April, VCT archive - Cannon Part 1)1982, To confuse matters more, Carroll Schulz said that he had been told that there were two cannon and that a larger one had been taken to Melbourne. When fired by Dr Jenkins, it "lobbed a ball on French Island" (letter Ian Wilton, 19 February 1982).

A Guide for the Guides. What shall we tell the visitors?

The story of the *Shenandoah* connection is a legend. There is general agreement that the gun did not form part of the ordnance of the *Shenandoah* and no record of it coming from one of the captured vessels. It is concerning that so much trouble has been given to perpetuation of the myth (since 1950 at least) in the face of so much contradictory evidence. Churchill Island is an accredited museum and both paid and voluntary staff have a responsibility to distinguish historical fact from tradition and myth. The role of guide is to enhance the experience for visitors and so there is no harm in recounting the story of Amess's gift as long as it is made clear that it is a tradition not supported by

historical evidence. Furthermore, considerably historical evidence (difficulty in getting the cannon ashore, lack of record in the prize list) argues against the *Shenandoah* connection. The origin of the cannon is not clear, though it seems to have been a maritime piece that was obsolete by the time Amess took over Churchill Island. Literature and displays should also indicate that the *Shenandoah* connection is a tradition not supported by fact.

The above summary shows some of the major outcomes the investigation conducted by Ian Wilton and Ross Lawson in the early 1980s. This was all conducted by letter (before the days of email and internet) and there are many other small contributions which do not affect the overall conclusion. I doubt if further investigation can turn up anything different but there is always the possibility of new information coming to light.

References

Documents cited are found in Churchill Island Archives:

Cannon Part 1

Cannon Part 2.

Cannon Part 3.

Other documents cited are:

Henry Gordon-Clark, (2007) "The last gun in defence of the South": the story of the CSS Shenandoah and her cruise around the world in 1864-1865. PhD Thesis, Monash University.

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Some Thoughts on the Order and Defending our Heritage

By Stephen Clay McGehee , MOS&B Webmaster General

Like most organizations, MOS&B has a constitution, bylaws, policies, and procedures that define how things should function. As we work to keep the Order running smoothly, it is all too easy to get so bogged down in the details that we can lose sight of why we are here in the first place. It is my hope that this will help remind us of why we are here. It is my firm belief that we are on the right course - we just need to make sure that we stay on course and not get distracted.

Some Personal Background

Since much of this is based on my own experience, perhaps a bit of background would be appropriate. I have been involved in political matters for quite a few years. For the past 16 years, I have made my living with political candidates and PACs as my customers. Before that, I have been a candidate, a campaign treasurer, speech-writer, Republican convention delegate, Republican newsletter editor, and an officer in the local Republican organization. My first experience in politics was as a volunteer in the Nixon re-election campaign as a member of the college Republicans.

Two Key Concepts

The mechanics of politics is all about learning how groups of people think and act and respond. As I studied the whole idea of leadership and how people are motivated and influenced, and how nations and cultures are changed, I made some major changes in the way I look at this. The key concept that I learned is that *Nothing changes until the culture changes*. For that reason, I have sharply cut back on my direct political activities (other than as a business), and focused heavily on finding ways to change the culture (primarily through that most powerful of culture-changers - Biblical Christianity). The second key concept that I learned is that the "big tent" strategy that the two major parties pursue only works when your sole objective is to gather the greatest number of supporters (voters). That strategy is a complete failure when the upholding of principles is important.

As an Order made up of men dedicated to preserving the memory and defending the honor and nobility of our Confederate ancestors, that is our *only* goal. We have no interest in "big tent" strategies designed to get people to "like" us. To use a common phrase, "Some will, some won't, so what." We have a job to do, and it does not include winning a popularity contest among what now passes for "American culture". Our strategy must be based entirely on upholding the honor of righteous principles.

- Those who oppose us can never be "converted" - not as long as we are doing what we need to do - defend the honor and dignity of the Confederate cause.
- Those who support us are looking for an organization of men who boldly stand for an honorable cause - and they view appeasement and "political correctness" with disgust and disdain - as well they should.

We must take a bold stand for the principles that our Confederate ancestors fought for. That does not mean that we deny or gloss over their mistakes. Our ancestors were fallible men just as we are, and we can truthfully admit that without shame - and without dwelling on it or making groveling apologies, as seems to be the trend in America today. We simply tell the truth. Taking a bold stand also does not mean an "in your face" attitude. Robert E. Lee was the epitome of the Southern gentleman, and that is the example we must follow.

When we are talking about defending the leaders of the Confederate cause, we run headlong into political correctness, a term for the Marxist system of marginalizing conservative principles - the principles for which our Confederate ancestors fought. Those who let themselves be influenced by political correctness are demonstrating that they care more about being liked by Leftists than about boldly proclaiming the truth. Our ancestors stood fast in the face of bullets and cannon shot; for us to shrink from the risk of being criticized and mocked by those who despise us anyway should be unthinkable.

Many will think in terms of political action of some sort to counter the attacks on our heritage. Political action for cultural issues occasionally has some benefit, but victories are rare and the results are usually counter-productive in the long run. We need to remember and work on the first key concept - *Nothing changes until the culture changes*. Until the culture changes, any political victories will be very short-lived.

We are an *Order*. Our model should be the Orders of our Western European ancestors - those fraternities of men who understood that they had a higher calling. They understood that inheriting the benefits of descending from men of noble character brought with it certain obligations - *noblesse oblige*. The dictionary defines *noblesse oblige* as "The obligation of honorable, generous, and responsible behavior associated with high rank or birth." As the sons of those who were the leaders of the Confederate cause, we certainly fit that definition.

What steps can we as individuals take?

- 1) To begin with, we must always act like gentlemen - Southern gentlemen. In a world defined by the crass and the crude, where good manners and polite and considerate behavior are considered an anomaly, the Southern gentleman stands apart from the crowd. Robert E. Lee set a fine example for all of us, and his impeccable behavior is as legendary as his military prowess.
- 2) We must never apologize for any actions of our ancestors. We have no right or authority to do so, and all actions must be considered in the context of the times.
- 3) Learn how to effectively counter the most common arguments of those who attack our heritage. Every successful political candidate has memorized a list of key issues along with a few key points ("sound bites") that get his position across in a clear and concise way that people will remember. We can do the same with issues concerning our heritage.
- 4) Whenever appropriate, display the symbols of the Confederacy in a tasteful and respectful manner. If others only see symbols of the Confederacy displayed in a crude manner by ill-mannered "rednecks", then that is what they will associate with Confederate principles. If, on the other hand, they see a Southern gentleman with a tasteful Confederate necktie or a MOS&B lapel pin, then there is a very positive association with the Confederacy.
- 5) If, for some reason, you cannot present a positive image, be sure to leave the Confederate symbols at home. There will always be those times when we are simply not very presentable. That is not the time to identify yourself with Confederate symbols.
- 6) When the honor of our Confederate ancestors is slandered, we must defend that honor by clearly speaking the truth, and doing so politely but firmly. Always keep in mind that when doing so, we speak as individual Southern gentlemen - *not* as official representatives of the MOS&B.

We are all ambassadors of The Old South. What we do and what we say, how we dress and how we act, all reflect on people's perceptions of The South and the Confederate cause. How we present ourselves in public will affect people's perceptions. Make sure that perception is a good one.

Newly Formed Color Guard at the Confederate Memorial Day Service In Reidsville, NC



Pictured herein is the newly formed NC Society MOSB JR Reserve Color Guard. They had their first event yesterday May, 15, 2011 at the UDC/MOSB Confederate Memorial Day Service in Reidsville, NC. The Color Guard will be made up of young men from the ages of 12-21 and serve the NC Society MOS&B. Their unit Commander must be a member of the MOS&B, and the Color Guard will be under the direction of the NC Society Commander and serve at Memorial Services, special events, conventions & parades. All of these young men are members of the US Navy JR ROTC. We are quite proud of them!

Members of the Garnett-Pettigrew Chapter #67 in Greensboro have formed a memorial cannon crew. The Crew official name is 2nd Co. G 40th Troops , Orange Light Artillery. The Unit re-named it Battery "Patterson's Battery" in early March 2011 in memory of founding crew member Kenneth Patterson. The unit fired the cannon at Confederate Memorial Day Services on May 10th & 15th. All members of the crew are MOS&B Members. Capt. Larry Brown, Ord Sgt. John Martin, 1st Sgt. Rodney Williams, Cpl. Dwain Roberts (not shown) Pvt. Calvin Jones and Pvt. R. Patrick Williams, II - who is also NC Society Color Sgt. and Cmdr of the Jr. Reserve Color Guard.

- Submitted by Rodney Williams, MOS&B NC Society Commander



Compatriot William Ralph Green (1927-2011)

Compatriot William Ralph Green was born July 21, 1927 in Dallas, TX and died May 25, 2011 at his home in Fairview, TX. Ralph is survived by his loving wife, June Green; daughter, Leslie Brennan and husband, Curt; sons, Ralph Green, Jr., Larry Green and wife, Sherry and Randy Green; grandchildren, Logan and Brooke Green; niece, Gayle Baur and husband, Uli; and beloved dog, Penny. Ralph was very proud to have graduated from North Dallas High School and later from Southern Methodist University. His devotion to his country was displayed through service in the US Air Force. His accomplishments were many but included more than 30 years with EDS. His interest and concerns for preserving Southern History was shared through and exemplified by service as Commander In Chief of the *Sons of Confederate Veterans*, a passion shared with so many and Adjutant of Dallas Chapter of the *Descendents of Confederate Veterans* and *Military Order of Stars and Bars*. Service will be held on Saturday, May 28, 2011 at 12:00PM at Restland Abbey Chapel. Donations may be made to Scottish Rite Hospital, 2222 Welborn St, Dallas, TX 75219.

A PRAYER FOR OUR ENEMIES.

Oh GOD, we beseech Thee, forgive and pardon our enemies, and give us that measure of Thy grace, that for their hatred we may love them; for their cursing we may bless them; for their injury we may do them good; and for their persecution we may pray for them. They have laid a net for our steps, and they have digged a pit before us; Lord, we desire not that they themselves should fall into the midst of these, but we beseech Thee keep us out of them, and deliver, establish, bless and prosper us for Thy mercy's sake in Jesus Christ our Saviour, to whom with Thee and the Holy Spirit, we desire to consecrate ourselves and our country, now and forever, imploring Thee to be our GOD, and to make us Thy people. Amen."

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