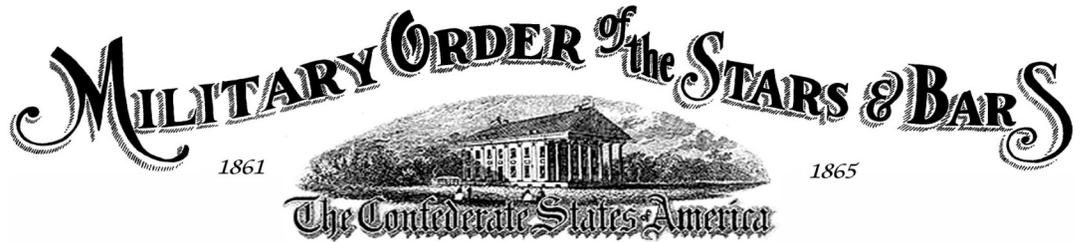




Volume 3, Number 10  
October 2011



## Officer's Call

### Sesquicentennial Series Article #15 Brigadier General Joseph Finegan

"**Finegan**, me bye, ye know ye are yur mither's darlin'." Thus is recorded just one example of the colorful dialect of this native Irishman, born November 17, 1814 at Clones, Ireland. Like thousands of other sons of Eire, he immigrated to the United States in the 1830s, settling in Florida near Jacksonville, where he quickly became a prominent member of the community, operating first a small plantation and later a sawmill. A few years later he removed to Fernandina and began a long and useful association with the influential politician David Yulee, later senator from Florida. Together they commenced construction of a railroad, and Finegan's own importance rose in tandem with Yulee's.

Thus when the state secession crisis loomed, Finegan served as a member of the 1861 state convention that on January 10 voted to withdraw from the Union. For reasons that are unclear, given Finegan's complete lack of military training or experience, Governor John Milton put him in charge of the state's efforts to get onto a war footing. This, plus the political necessities of appointing a sufficient number of brigadiers from Florida, induced President Davis to tender Finegan a commission on April 5, 1862, to take rank immediately. The Senate confirmed the appointment the same day, and Finegan himself accepted it on April 17, thereby becoming one of the senior officers to be appointed from his state.

On April 8, 1862, Finegan took command of the Department of Middle and Eastern Florida, which he held for the next two years. It was a backwater command, largely of importance only for protecting the long coastline, and raising troops, often for service elsewhere. Soon after Finegan took command, R. E. Lee complimented him on his zeal and productivity at organizing Floridians into companies. Lee was also encouraged by Finegan's very realistic and all too unusual attitude that only as many state troops as necessary should be kept in Florida, while the majority should go to the main army in Virginia. Finegan's suggestion may have been prompted by a desire that he himself should be reassigned to the main theater of operations, but Lee believed that he could not be spared from Florida.

Finegan would start to see action in his own front later in 1862, as Federal incursions into Florida brought the war to him. While keeping his headquarters at Tallahassee, he oversaw the defense of Tampa in the summer and in September took and occupied Saint John's Bluff. In March 1863 he captured Jacksonville and held it briefly. His great moment, however, came at the Battle of Olustee, when Federals under Truman Seymour made a landing at Jacksonville and moved inland. Finegan assembled hastily the troops of his department and on February 20, 1864, delivered a telling attack that halted the enemy advance and sent Seymour back in retreat.

It was possibly the success at Olustee, combined with the confidence that Lee had expressed earlier in Finegan that led the Virginia chieftain on May 16 to ask the War Department to have a brigade made up of available Florida troops and sent to him, with the Irishman in command. Gathering forces from all points to resist Grant's advance, Lee needed the man from Florida.

(Continued on Page 5)



Stuart



Hampton



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R. E. Lee



Gordon



Hood



Jackson



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70 years old & over	= \$300.00

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.

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

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# Commander General's Message

## Digital Conversion and Archiving of the Order's Records



The Order continues to evolve its membership benefits and services. One major aspect of our use of developing technology has been the conversion of the Order's records from paper to digital files. Since July 2009, I have personally been working on converting the records of the Order into digital format. To date, I have scanned 2,566 files contained in 455 folders and consuming 5.376 GB of virtual space. Even using a high speed production scanner, this is still a time consuming and very labor intensive process. There are many more months of work remaining to convert the last of our records. Why is this project important to the Order? Let me take a few minutes to explain.

**First** and most importantly, if our records were to be lost today because of fire, tornado, hurricane, or any other natural or man caused disasters, we do not have any complete backup or retrieval systems in place. This would result in a tragedy of immense magnitude.

**Second**, with the current Headquarters model of volunteer staff, our records - especially those of our active members, chapters, state societies, and national organization, are required to be relocated to the individual in each succeeding administration responsible for their safe-keeping and continuous updating. To effect this transition requires relocation funds for Headquarters, incurs the potential risk of loss in the physical transfer of the records, and certainly takes crucial time and effort to accomplish the task. Since our separation from Elm Springs, we have had to move our records from Columbia, TN to Daphne, AL, to White House, TN and after June 9, 2012 to the next location.

**Third**, in 2005 the General Executive Council approved the physical location of the Order's Archives in Oklahoma City, OK. More specifically, in the Confederate Room located on the third floor of the Oklahoma History Center. This building is a modern facility that has been designed to withstand weather related and other disasters. The interior of the building is climate and dust controlled which makes for a perfect and permanent storage facility for our records that are not required for daily operational use. Over the past three years, a large portion of our records have been shifted to this location and have been managed by our Archivist General Philip Isett. Two pictures of the interior of our Archives Room taken in April 2009 are below:



Max Waldrop & Jeff Massey



Max Waldrop & Pat Sorhvide

**Fourth**, the GEC on July 14, 2011 and the General Membership on July 15, 2011 at the National Convention in Jacksonville, FL approved the concept of a third party to scan our records at no cost to the Order. Once records are submitted to the facility and processed, they will then be shipped to the Oklahoma History Center for permanent storage – and no longer subject to risks associated with transfers between succeeding administrations.

**Fifth**, our technology partner will be Family Search and their processing facility is located in Independence, MO. A distinct service offering is the "indexing" of our records; e.g., as names are recorded, they will research and associate all records where that individual's name appears. This will certainly enable us to do more effective research while completing expeditious searches within our records. This functionality does not exist today.

**Sixth**, the administrative leadership in the future will be able to transfer the Order's files via the use of USB Flash Drives. Backup data can be easily maintained on external hard drives located in multiple locations for redundancy. With encryption, the files could even be potentially stored on our website where we maintain 500 GB of available virtual space.

In the next month's issue of the Confederate War Journal and Officer's Call, you will find an insert that requests you to approve the digital conversion of your member file by our technology partner and return your decision immediately to Headquarters. We are highly focused on preserving the security of your private information. The benefits to you and the Order are extraordinary. I strongly encourage you to submit your written approval by one of the three methods found on the insert (returning the insert by USPS, emailing your decision, or filling out the form on the website).

Your leaders have taken the necessary actions in this project to help secure the continuity and longevity of the Order, facilitate on-line recruitment of new members, connect the relationships between members, and provide faster and better service for the members at a much lower cost. We need your support in this project.

Next year marks our 75th Anniversary and National Convention. It is my expectation that this project will be completed by that time. Quite frankly, it will never be "finished", as the Order continues to further improve its record keeping and expands the membership base over the next 75 years!

Gentlemen, YOU are the Order and our future is in YOUR hands!

***Max Lee Waldrop, Jr.***

Commander General

## Book Review Column

The Officer's Call offers a column pertaining to the review of Southern literature. This will give authors an opportunity to acquire some exposure and compatriots the chance to gain first hand knowledge of Confederate history and culture writings available in the marketplace.

Authors, please submit all book review requests to: Deputy Adjutant General William L. Caynor Sr., P.O. Box 775875, Steamboat Springs, CO 80477 (970)879-7850 caynorwrls@frii.com

## 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!

## 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.

(Continued from Page 1: Sesquicentennial Article #15)

"Marse Robert" was not to be disappointed. Finegan arrived in time to hold a critical point in the line at Cold Harbor on June 3. When the Federals briefly broke through, Finegan's brigade rushed into the gap, and quickly plugged it once more, winning compliments from many quarters. Thereafter he remained with the Army of Northern Virginia, his brigade soon being reassigned to Mahone's Division of the III Corps. Throughout the remainder of 1864 Finegan led the 2d, 5th, 8th, 9th, 10th, and 11th Florida in the trenches around Petersburg.

In January 1865 prominent Floridians petitioned the government to have him returned to their state. Finegan himself, weary after almost four years of continual service without a rest, also asked that he be reassigned, though as always he revealed a spirit of cooperation when he did not request that his brigade be sent with him, knowing that Lee needed it more. On March 20, 1865, he was reassigned to command in Florida. There in May he rendered his final services to the Confederacy when he assisted Secretary of War John C. Breckinridge and Secretary of State Judah P. Benjamin in successfully escaping through Florida to Cuba and the Bahamas, respectively.

Following the war, General Finegan lived in Jacksonville for a time, and then moved to Rutledge, working for a time as a cotton broker, as well as practicing law. He served a term in the state senate, 1865-66, and finally died on October 29, 1885, at Rutledge, and was buried in the Old City Cemetery at Jacksonville. He had shown himself to be one of that class of men who led by raw native good sense. His potential may never have been truly challenged in the Florida command or in his limited field experience in battle, but wherever he served he won the approval of those above and below him.

Source: Museum of Southern History, Jacksonville, FL

## **JACKSON'S TACTICS AT FREDERICKSBURG**

### **A New Look at the Gaps in the Line**

By C. L. Gray

In a heavily wooded area, Jackson's line at Hamilton Crossing extended less than two miles. On Prospect Hill, three brigades of A.P. Hill's Light Division made up the front line. General James Archer's brigade along with two regiments of General John Brockenbrough's brigade held the right. General James Lane's brigade held the center. Between Lane and Archer, there was a gap of 600 yards. On the left, and sharply refused, was General Dorsey Pender's brigade. Once again, there was a gap of 600 yards between Pender and Lane. Lane was well extended in front of the other two brigades. None of the brigades were in contact with each other.

Union General George Meade's division of Reynolds Corps drove through the gap between Archer and Lane, penetrating the line to a depth of 400 yards, only to be boxed off, compelled to withdraw, and narrowly escaping capture or annihilation.

Throughout the years, historians have sought to explain why Jackson committed such a terrible error as to leave these gaps between the brigades. One explanation offered is that Jackson's corps had arrived piecemeal from the Shenandoah Valley, which did not allow Jackson the necessary time to properly set his line. This explanation does not hold. Hill's Light Division arrived by 10:00 a.m. on December 12, the day before the battle. General William Taliaferro's division arrived two hours later. During the long night and early morning of December 13, Jubal Early's and D.H. Hill's divisions arrived. All of Jackson's men were on the field well in advance of the Federal attack at 10:00 a.m.

Another explanation advanced is that the gap between Lane and Archer was caused by an impassible marsh; therefore, there was no need for Jackson to close the gap. Unfortunately, due to the cold weather, the marsh froze, catching Jackson by surprise. Yet, the marsh is not impassible today and probably was not in 1862. Plus, it was just as cold when Jackson made his disposition as when Union troops penetrated his line. There had been cold weather with snow on the ground for several days, but it is questionable whether it was cold enough to freeze the marsh to any considerable depth (1). It is important to note that the interval between Lane and Pender was on dry ground.

Most historians are in agreement that Jackson knew of the gaps. Soldiers who fought at Fredericksburg have left eyewitness accounts of Jackson pausing behind the interval between Archer and Lane and predicting the enemy would attack there (2). Before the battle began, Jeb Stuart made it a point to warn Jackson about the gaps.

So the question becomes: If Jackson knew of the gaps, why did he not close them?

In an article written for *The Journal of the American Military Institute*, Branch Spadling lays out a convincing argument that Jackson's deployment on Prospect Hill was deliberate. In fact, Jackson's deployment was the predecessor of what is now known as the flexible defense.

"On a front of 3,300 yards, Jackson's first line was occupied by three brigades of A.P. Hill's Division: Lane in front, Archer and Pender on the flanks. A gap of 600 yards existed between each brigade. The aggregate strength of those front line units was approximately 7,900 men.

"On the wooded high ground behind each of the intervals was posted a brigade along a military road 400 to 600 yards in the rear. General Maxcy Gregg's brigade was covering the right interval and General Edward Thomas' brigade was covering the left. Behind Gregg, and supporting the right, was Early's entire division; and behind Thomas, was Taliaferro's division. In general reserve was the large division of D.H. Hill (10,161 aggregate). Thus, a thinly-manned front line (the garrison posted in three isolated units), was supported by deeply massed reserves, and concealed in a forest and on a height. The force occupying the front line totaled 7,900 men, while supports massed behind it totaled 31,000 men and made up a one mile depth of line. There were better than eleven men per yard of front.

"In an age of close-order deployment and mass-line defense, here was an alluring invitation to an attacking force – but the kind of invitation the spider extended to the fly. All that the attacker had to do was march straight for one of those two wide intervals, taking as they advanced a terrific cross fire of artillery and direct musketry, and the defensive line would be cracked. After they had penetrated to a suitable depth, Stonewall Jackson would do the rest with that dense reserve of 16 brigades masked in the thicket. He would box and butcher them. And that is precisely what happened to Meade's division. It was an invitation to a Cannae.

"All appointments were perfect, every detail arranged, even to the reception committee of one brigade posted behind each breach in the line, concealed in the forest and covering the military road.

"Witness the artillery disposition. Fourteen guns were placed in line with the right brigade. But note well that they were concealed in the woods as long as practicable and were not opened on Meade until his advance came within eight hundred yards. On the flank of this right brigade, 15 more guns were in position to cross fire with the 14 in line. On the left and front of the left brigade, 21 guns were placed (here was one more crossing). Meanwhile the fire of the infantry, disposed along a railroad fill and a supporting height, was reserved until the attacking force was within 200 yards. After a deep infiltration of this line, it was only by masterly handling of his men that Meade was able to get out with a 40 percent casualty return (3)."

A.P. Hill's official report supports Spalding's analysis. Hill writes that the enemy tried to penetrate through the gap between Archer and Lane, but Thomas responded to Lane's call for reinforcements and threw his brigade on the flank and, joining with Lane, drove the enemy back, with the enemy suffering tremendous casualties.

When the advancing columns of the enemy came to the military road, they were met by Gregg's South Carolinians. The only mishap that occurred during the battle was when Orr's Rifles were thrown into confusion, mistaking the advancing enemy for withdrawing Confederate troops. The soldiers did not fire. It was during this moment of confusion and indecision that Maxcy Gregg fell.

Colonel Hamilton assumed command and threw back the right wing of the regiment and opened a destructive fire. The 12th South Carolina faced about, and the 13th South Carolina and the 14th South Carolina, under the direction of Colonel Samuel McGowan, resisted any attempt of the enemy to sweep down Hill's rear. Hill reported that the combat was short, sharp, and decisive. When General Early came crashing through the woods at the double-quick, the enemy, completely broken, fled in confusion (4).

Jackson's original battle report takes the section about the soldiers of Orr's Rifles being caught by surprise directly from Hill's report. The only other statement Jackson's report makes about the gaps is to say that Hill left the breach between Archer and Lane. The report reads, "They (the enemy) continued, however, still to press forward, and before General A. P. Hill closed the interval which he had left between Archer and Lane, it was penetrated, and the enemy, pressing forward in overwhelming numbers through that interval, turned Lane's right and Archer's left (5)."

At first glance, it appears Jackson was making Hill responsible for the gaps. But a better explanation could be found in the fact that Jackson's reports were written to convey "the facts and nothing but the facts." If orders to leave the gaps were given to Pender, Lane, and Archer, that order would have come from Hill. The gap was penetrated and both Archer's and Lane's brigades were turned. This is not in dispute.

At the time the battle was fought, Jackson and Hill were involved in a rancorous feud over Hill's failure to obey orders during the Maryland campaign, which resulted in Jackson placing Hill under arrest. The two men would spend the winter preparing for Hill's court-martial. A case can be made that if Hill had left the gaps or failed to close them at Jackson's orders, Jackson could have used this second failure to carry out orders to bolster his case against Hill. There is no evidence that he did so. Neither is there any record that Hill took umbrage at Jackson's report.

Only one explanation makes sense. The gaps were deliberate. The amassing of the three divisions behind Pender, Lane, and Archer was also deliberate. Jackson wanted the Union army to break through one or both of the gaps in order to trap and annihilate it. Perhaps the better question to ask is this: What is the likelihood that Jackson, one of the greatest generals of modern history, would arrange his troops in such a fashion and not know what he was doing? Knowing Jackson as we do, the answer is not very likely.

- 
1. Spalding, Branch, "Jackson's Tactics at Fredericksburg." *The Journal of the American Military Institute*, Volume 3, Issue 2. (1939)
  2. Ibid.
  3. Ibid.
  4. Hill, Ambrose Powell, Major General, *O.R. Series 1, Volume 31*.
  5. Jackson, Thomas J., Lieutenant General. *O.R. Series 1, Volume 31*.

## Hood's Texas Brigade History

By Dr. Gary M. Loudermilk, Communications General

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.

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## 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](mailto: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.



## Captain Waddell Chapter No. 32 Places Wreath at Oakwood Cemetery

**RALEIGH**—The annual observance of Confederate Memorial Day was held at Raleigh's Oakwood Cemetery on Saturday, May 7, 2011. Commander Frank Powell of the Captain James I. Waddell Chapter No. 32, Raleigh, NC placed a wreath at the Confederate Monument (see photo). Members of the Capt. Samuel A. Ashe Chapter 2572, UDC, a sponsoring organization, also provided refreshments in the historic House of Memory located within the grounds of Oakwood's Confederate Cemetery



## Letter of Gratitude from Jessica James: Author of the novel that won the John Esten Cooke Fiction Award

Dear Max,

Award and check arrived in good order today. It is absolutely beautiful! I am so thrilled to be recognized by this group and have the privilege to place this on my desk where I can see it each day and be reminded of the honor of writing about Southern heritage.

Please thank the committee and all those who made this possible.

Until Shiloh...  
Jessica

## BATTLE OF THE "BUCK NEKKIDS"

(By Dr. Sam Gambrell, Jr, Adjutant, Gorgas Chapter)

The following account of a little known and most unusual battle fought with very little warning reflects the short notice adaptability of the Confederate fighting man, a soldier without peer in the annals of warfare.

In July 1863, Federal commanders launched a series of raids in northeast North Carolina, burning bridges and stores in Warsaw, Greenville, Tarboro, and Rocky Mount. On July 26, two Federal regiments led by Colonel S. P. Spear disembarked at Winton and marched for the bridge over Potecasi Creek several miles away. They were opposed for a short time by militiamen from Murfreesboro, but the fighting was short.

The Federal movement toward the Wilmington and Weldon Railroad Bridge attracted the attention of Confederate leaders in Virginia. They sent Brigadier General Matt Ransom to deal with the attackers. Ransom was from the area, and the Federals were advancing in the direction of his own plantation. When Ransom arrived in North Carolina, he found only about two-hundred militiamen and two little cannons ready to oppose two battle-experienced Union regiments and their supporting cavalry, about 5000 men. Ransom ordered his men to dig in behind the pond at Boon's (Boone's) Mill, located today on Hwy 158 just west of the town of Jackson. Meanwhile, Ransom rode forward to see if there was anything else he could do to protect his exposed position.

Ransom was returning to his men when he heard "a great shout" behind him. It was the Federal cavalry. Ransom spurred his horse toward the mill pond and ordered his men to destroy the bridge over Potecasi Creek after him. The few who were clothed did. The rest of them were naked and skinny-dipping in the mill pond. Ransom ordered them to strap on their cartridge belts and start shooting. **The only battle in North Carolina fought by nudists was underway.**

Ransom resorted to some trickery to fool the advancing Federal regiments. As he leaped off his horse, he started shouting orders for specific regiments to move to different points on the battlefield. The Federals heard the orders and hesitated. What they did not know was that those Confederate regiments only existed in Ransom's imagination. The fighting went on for five hours until the Federals, perhaps demoralized at how well the outnumbered naked men could fight, retired. They never dislodged Ransom's little force, even though the Federals had nine cannons to the Confederates' two little guns. Since the Confederate position was protected by swamps on either side, the Federals could only attack straight down the road. The concentrated fire of two hundred muskets and two cannons on that narrow causeway kept the Federals from their objective. They withdrew to the cheers and jeers of the Confederates.

The Battle of Boon's Mill fought on July 28, 1863 was small by Civil War standards of men engaged, but huge in its outcome. If Ransom's men had retreated or been overrun, the way to the Wilmington and Weldon Railroad Bridge would have been open. The Federals might have burned or captured the bridge over the Roanoke Rapids. Lee's supply line, now needed even more since he was retreating from Gettysburg, would have been cut. Conceivably, if captured, the Wilmington and Weldon Railroad Bridge could have been used to send Union soldiers from New Bern deep into Virginia within a matter of days.

Thanks to the "Buck Nekkids" fighting under General Ransom, the bridge over the Roanoke River remained open for most of the rest of the war. Had that bridge been captured in July 1863, General Lee might have been forced to surrender at least a year earlier because his supply lines would have been strained.

## 2012 MOS&B Scholarship Guidelines

### To MOS&B Chapters and Societies,

As you know, The Military Order of Stars and Bars has established a college scholarship program for genealogically proven: (1) descendants of Confederate Officers; (2) descendants of the Confederate Executive or Legislative branches of government; and (3) descendants of members of the Confederate States' legislatures, judiciary, and executive branches of government.

**It is time to start considering candidates for the 2012 awards. All Chapters and Societies are encouraged to submit applications of worthy individuals for these scholarships. There are certainly many possible candidates among our active membership, active membership's children, grandchildren and friends.**

The MOS&B Scholarship Program annually awards the merit based scholarships to worthy individuals who meet eligibility requirements and have been judged on information submitted by the applicant.

The General Executive Council has determined that each Department scholarship awarded will be in the amount of one thousand dollars (\$1,000). The number of scholarships awarded each year will be determined by the GEC. In 2011 six outstanding and deserving young people with Confederate heritage received the Award.

Please carefully read all the necessary information on the MOS&B national website.

<http://www.militaryorderofthestarsandbars.org/programs-services/service-programs/scholarship-program/>

**Five** copies of the requested material should be packaged together and mailed to:

### MOS&B Scholarship Committee

c/o Gary M. Loudermilk  
2801 14<sup>th</sup> Street  
Brownwood Texas 76801

Applications must be postmarked no later than **March 1<sup>ST</sup>** to be eligible.

If you have questions, please contact Committee Chairman Gary M. Loudermilk at the above address or email: [gmlhdl@harrisbb.com](mailto:gmlhdl@harrisbb.com)

*Max L. Waldrop, Jr.*

Commander General

*Gary M. Loudermilk*

Scholarship Chairman

## Request for E-Mail and Mailing Changes

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



### *Military Order of the Stars & Bars 75th Annual General Convention San Antonio, Texas June 7-9, 2012*



The Texas Society and the Texas Chapter #5 (Houston) are honored to be the host for the 75<sup>th</sup> Annual General Convention in San Antonio, Texas. San Antonio is considered one of the top vacation spots in the South. Our hotel is the Old Menger Hotel, built in 1858, probably the oldest hotel west of the Mississippi and is located not only in the middle of all the good shops and restaurants of San Antonio but also next door to the famous Alamo. A step away from the Menger is the famous RiverWalk (the river that flows through downtown San Antonio). Everyone must take one of the famous boat rides.

The Convention Committee has decided to provide as much free time as possible to those attending because to get the real feel of San Antonio you must leave the hotel and get down on the RiverWalk where the shops and cafes are. Also since June has some uncomfortable weather we are encouraging casual wear as much as possible.

It is never too early to start making plans so mark your calendar accordingly. We encourage everyone to bring their families. Also there will be no formal bus tours. You will have time for touring, shopping, exploring or just relaxing in the afternoon. These kind of things is what San Antonio is famous for. You will enjoy this.

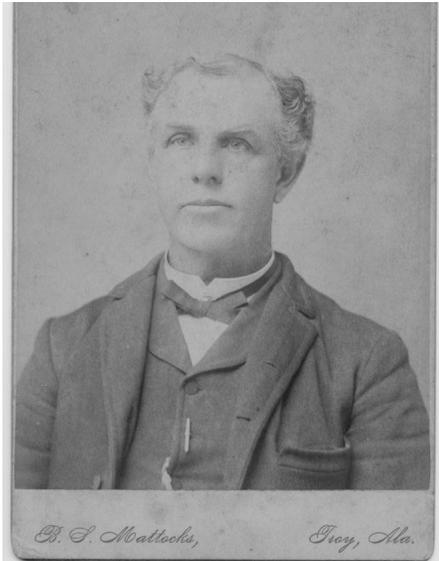
A little bit of history regarding your host city which is a Mecca for history buffs: When the area was first explored by the Spaniards in the late 1600s, a small Indian community was established on the San Pedro Springs area. The Spaniards named this the San Antonio River because it was discovered on the feast day of St Anthony. The actual founding of the city came in 1718 by Father Antonio Olivares, when he established Mission San Antonio de Valero. Soon five Spanish missions, chartered by Canary Islanders were built along the river. The Spanish Governor's Palace was completed on Military Plaza in 1749, and San Fernando de Bexar Church was built by 1758. In 1773 San Antonio de Bexar became the capital of Spanish Texas. By 1778, the settlement's population of more than 2000 was mostly poor Indians and Mexican settlers and was described as "miserable" by visitors. More of the history of this great City will be presented in later publications.

Mark your calendars.

The Texas Society & the Texas Chapter #5

David G. Whitaker DCS, Chairman





## Chaplain's Corner

By Chaplain John Killian

To this day, the Southern region of these United States is known as the Bible Belt. This region's attitudes toward religion and morality were marked during the time of the War Between the States and the days thereafter. This influence was, in large part, due to returning Confederate soldiers who had participated in the great revivals during the War.

One example of such piety and devotion was Captain/Chaplain Stephen A. Pilley, for whom the Troy, Alabama MOS&B Chapter is named. Stephen A. Pilley was born in Monroe County, Alabama on October 5, 1837 into the home of Rev. Stephen Fatherly Pilley, a Methodist minister. As a young man, Pilley began to preach the Gospel of Christ. In 1859, Pilley became an ordained Methodist minister.

When hostilities broke, Brother Pilley enlisted in Co. K, 22nd Alabama Infantry, a unit raised primarily from South Montgomery and Pike Counties, Alabama. Initially serving as a Sergeant, this unit fought bravely at the Battle of Shiloh, losing one-third of the regiment and all of the officers either killed or wounded. At that point, Pilley commanded the company during the battle until he was captured.

After exchange, Brother Pilley was named Chaplain of the 53rd Alabama Cavalry and held the rank of Captain. Captain/Chaplain Pilley held this rank until the end of the War. In the years following the War, Brother Pilley was a faithful man of God, serving as a Methodist minister, including accepting a charge as Pastor of the First Methodist Church in Troy, Alabama. Also, after returning home to Pike County, Pilley served as Postmaster of Troy, Alabama.

But why do I wish to single out Rev. Stephen A. Pilley as an influence for godliness? I believe that several aspects of Pilley's life present instructional principles on why the South became the Bible Belt.

First of all, Stephen Pilley wisely reconciled his Confederate involvement with his faith. In 21st Century America, we are constantly derided as less-than-Christian for our reverence of our Confederate ancestors. As an already-ordained minister, Stephen Pilley enlisted in Confederate service and fought bravely. Even after his exchange, Stephen Pilley served Alabama as a Confederate soldier. Brother Pilley was a faithful participant in the Confederate Veterans Reunions in Troy.

Pilley understood that you cannot separate the secular from the sacred. Like Stonewall Jackson, Stephen Pilley recognized that one must reconcile all of one's actions with our Christian faith. Pilley was a faithful minister and a loyal Confederate, seeing no contradiction in the two causes. Stephen Pilley was faithful to biblical mandates as a loyal citizen of his state.

Secondly, Stephen Pilley was a Gospel-centered Christian. Lt. Colonel John F. Gaines, of the 53rd Alabama Cavalry, reported of Chaplain Pilley "a number of conversions have resulted from his ministrations. A Christian Association has been formed and nightly prayer meetings are held in the different companies when in camp, and thus are kept alive and perpetuated the refining influences of Christianity." Even amidst battle, when many discussions could revolve around military life, the reasons for the War, or other earthly concerns, Brother Pilley kept reminding the soldiers of the need to prepare for eternity.

Thirdly, the life that Stephen Pilley lived as a minister was the life he lived as a soldier. And that same life was lived on in the years following the War. Stephen Pilley knew that circumstances of the War and Reconstruction did not change his living. Brother Pilley knew that the worst of times needed his best and his life was consecrated to the Lord.

The blessing of looking back to that time period is that the South was filled with Stephen Pilleys who preached the Gospel and walked with God in service to others. Chaplain General Brinsfield reports that the Methodist Episcopal Church, South Bishops approved 318 Methodist ministers to "serve in the CS Army." Fully half of the Baptist ministers in Alabama volunteered to served in the Confederate Army. While the names of such men are often forgotten, their influence remains in the thinking and in the convictions of Southern people.

I am just glad that the Military Order of the Stars and Bars Chapter in Troy chose to remember the honor of a man of God, Pastor Stephen A. Pilley. Brother Pilley is also remembered as an ancestor of our Chaplain General John Brinsfield.

\* Article written based on information provided by Alabama Society Commander Robert Garrett McLendon of Troy, Alabama and a member of the Captain Stephen A. Pilley Chapter Military Order of the Stars and Bars.



Pictured herein is Munsey A. Moore

## National Confederate Heritage Award Recognition

(Jacksonville, FL) - Two area men were recently recognized by Military Order of the Stars and Bars Commander General Max Waldrop for their Confederate heritage preservation work. Munsey A. Moore of Chase City and Col Greg Eanes, USAF (Ret) of Crewe, members of the Chase City based Col Thomas H. Williamson Chapter of the MOS&B, were recipients of the Lt. Charles Read Meritorious Service Award presented during the recent National convention in Jacksonville, Florida.

The two men were recognized for development of a 'Chapter Action Plan' for identifying Confederate officers from one's local area, getting biographical data and collecting family photographs for retention by MOS&B, the Museum of the Confederacy and regional archives. The plan, designed in part to support Civil War Sesquicentennial efforts, include step by step instructions to guide local chapters on one way to preserve local Confederate history.

Waldrop called the plan "an excellent contribution to the Order" thanking the men for "what you are doing with fulfilling our mission". Virginia MOS&B Commander Allen Mock said the plan "has tremendous potential and should be promoted at every level of our organization."

Eanes noted, "Civil War history is also the family history of many people in Southside Virginia. While the general public may read the names in unit histories or wartime reports, we have very few photographs of the junior and mid-level officers who actually led the men into battle. Our goal is to collect and digitize photos of these men, regardless of the time the photo was made."



Picture herein is Col. Greg Eanes with his family



Pictured herein is the MOS&B sign proudly displayed in front of the Western Sizzlin Restaurant in Harrison, Arkansas where the Capt. James Tyrie Wright MOSB Chapter #6 meets every month. This is an excellent way to recruit for new members and to help your chapter grow! Congratulations to this chapter for all the fine work they are doing.

## Respond To Your Country's Call 75th MOS&B Anniversary Book Project

Is soliciting your assistance for information pertaining to your Confederate Ancestor. The anniversary book will devote one chapter to our ancestors, so if you would like to submit a story or biography of your Confederate Ancestor in 350 words or less we will attempt to include it in the book depending on the quantity of submissions and available space. This is a great opportunity to recognize your Southern Heritage.

Please submit all confederate stories & biographies to: Deputy Adjutant General William L. Caynor, Sr., P.O. Box 775875 Springboat, CO 80477, e-mail: caynorwrls@frii.com

## GORGAS CHAPTER #299 REPORT

By Dr. Sam Gambrell, Adjutant

### MOS&B RECOGNIZED WORLDWIDE

Chapter member Percival Beacroft is the owner of President Jefferson Davis' home, Rosemont, which he restored to its present condition and is widely recognized for his outstanding production of the DVD, "Jefferson Davis: An American President". As a recipient of the Henry Timrod Southern Culture Award given by the MOS&B, Percival was congratulated by an individual in Switzerland. Percival's letter to Walter Dockery and the interesting letter that he received from Konrad M. Schott are provided here as an example of how the good work of the Military Order of the Stars and Bars is recognized worldwide.

*August 6, 2011*

*Dear Walter,*

*About 6 months ago a very refined lady from Switzerland toured Rosemont and it was my pleasure to meet her during her visit. She was, I believe, a docent in a Swiss museum and worked with an auction house or antique shop.*

*During my visit with her she repeatedly spoke of her husband and how she wished he had been on this trip with her. He obviously loved history.*

*Upon her return I received a note of thanks from she and her husband. The enclosed is the second letter from her husband. I thought that you would like it.*

*Regards,*

*Perc.*

*Konrad M. Schott  
Lerchenstrasse 37  
4059 Basel  
Switzerland  
May 14, 2011*

*Dear Percival,*

*Thank you for your note. No, I do not attempt to bother you on a continuous basis with correspondence from far away Switzerland. The reason for writing this time is simply to congratulate you-somewhat belated, it appears-for receiving the Henry Timrod Southern Culture Award last year. I found reference to the award in the Internet and suppose it was granted to you for your efforts in the context of the Jefferson Davis Papers collection at Rice University?*

*Internet is a wonderful institution. I also spotted fascinating data regarding The Military Order of Stars and Bars. It is good to see how this and other organizations are striving to keep alive the history of the Confederate States and preserve the memory of thousands of brave southern soldiers. If the MOS&B statutes would allow it, I would apply for membership at once; as things stand, I guess I will just continue flying the Stars and Bars at the flag pole in the yard at the occasion of Lee's, Jackson's, Stuart's, Forrest's and other CSA generals' birthdays.*

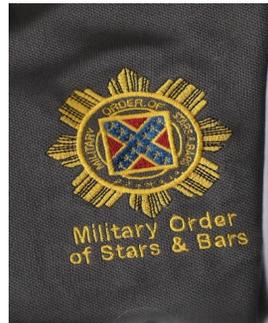
*I hope the high waters bypassed the plantation and left Rosemont unharmed-I visited Beauvoir in Biloxi a year after Katrina and the sight was right awful.*

*For a free South,  
Regards,  
Konrad*

### August Meeting

Adjutant Dr. Sam Gambrell, Jr, spoke on the subject "Standoff and Delay at Averasboro, March 15-16, 1865". Averasboro was the next to last major battle in the Southern Theater of the Civil War. Upon leaving South Carolina and crossing the Great Pee Dee River at Cheraw, SC, General Sherman's left wing under General H. W. Slocum with his 30,000 men advanced on the small town of Averasboro, NC where they were met by a small Confederate force under General William J. Hardee. Hardee had aligned his forces in three defensive lines in depth in an effort to slow down Slocum's troops. This was the first serious fight the Union soldiers had faced since leaving Georgia. At the outset of the battle, Lt. Gen. Wade Hampton's cavalry surprised the cavalry of BG Judson Kilpatrick which was screening the advance of Sherman's left wing. However, this brief, bloody battle did little to slow the Union forces. After attempts to stop the Union force at the first and second defensive lines, General Hardee's troops retreated to the third defensive line where an effort was made to stop the Union forces at a deep ravine which extended from the Confederate right to the banks of the Cape Fear River. The ravine was 40 feet deep with steep sides and essentially proved to be an effective trap for Union soldiers as they tried to advance through and past it. Forces under General Joe Wheeler stopped the Federals for a while in a bloody and protracted fight at the ravine which resulted in Union losses of 98 men. In all phases of the battle at the three defensive lines, Union losses were 650 and Confederate losses were 800. Overall, approximately 25,000 Union soldiers and 8,000 Confederate soldiers were involved in the fighting. Having succeeded in his mission of delaying and disrupting the advance of General Sherman's left wing, after the fighting on March 16<sup>th</sup> General Hardee withdrew his men under cover of darkness to the town of Bentonville, NC where they joined with other men under General Joe Johnston to fight the Battle of Bentonville which started on March 19<sup>th</sup>. The delay at Averasboro gave General Johnston more time to consolidate some of the scattered Confederate units for the fight to come at Bentonville. Bentonville was the last major battle of the Civil War after which General Johnston surrendered to General Sherman at the Bennett House near Durham, NC.

### BE SURE AND CHECK OUT THE MOS&B STORE WEB SITE



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## Conserving a Unique Confederate Battle Flag

By Catherine Wright, Museum of the Confederacy Curator

On April 16, 1861 – just one day before delegates at the Virginia Convention in Richmond voted to secede from the Union – the *Richmond Daily Dispatch* reported seeing at the Main St. establishment of George Ruskell “an exceedingly neat flag of rich blue silk, which he had manufactured to the order of the ladies of Caroline county, for presentation to the Caroline Greys.” The ladies paid nearly \$100 for their flag (the equivalent of approximately \$2,500 in today’s currency).

The Caroline Greys flag featured a “Virginia coat of arms”, or state seal, on its obverse. While state seals were standard fare on many early war flags, this version is much more active than is usually depicted: Virtus looms over the fallen tyrant, her sword poised menacingly above her head, as if in mid swing.

The reverse of the flag portrays a scene that is believed to be entirely unique among Civil War-era flags, Union or Confederate. It features, as the *Dispatch* described, “a representation of the company on parade,” with 34 enlisted men, one company commander, and two red-coated musicians all facing out. They are surmounted by the motto, “God Protect the Right,” and a pink-robed angel reclining on fleecy clouds. A Virginia State flag can be seen hoisted on a staff behind the company, with the visible portion – Virtus with her arm raised overhead –

suggesting that it is intended to depict the very flag it is painted upon.

The Caroline Greys drilled at Ruther Glen, a Caroline County community about twenty miles south of Fredericksburg. The *Richmond Daily Dispatch* noted that the “magnificent” flag was presented to the company on April 27, 1861. They carried it to Fredericksburg, where the company was mustered into service as Co. E, 30<sup>th</sup> Regiment Virginia Volunteers, and the flag adopted by the regiment.

After the Seven Days Battles in 1862, the flag was deposited at the elegant new Spotswood Hotel in Richmond. While the Caroline Greys continued to fight in battles ranging from Sharpsburg to Gettysburg to Cold Harbor to Appomattox, the flag remained with a trusted Richmond friend. The flag was not flown again until May 29, 1890, when surviving company members carried the flag at the unveiling of the Robert E. Lee Monument in Richmond.

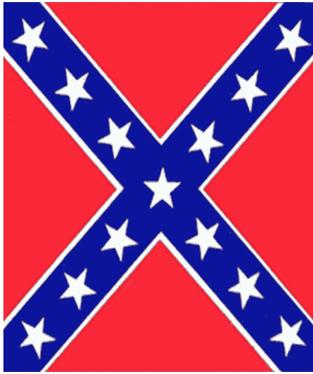
Just a few years later, the flag was among the very first artifacts presented to the Confederate Memorial Literary Society (the parent organization of the Museum). Once they began exhibiting artifacts in the White House of the Confederacy in 1896, it was probably displayed almost constantly — and it paid a price. By the time the new Museum facility opened in 1976, the flag was literally falling to pieces. The delicate oil-on-silk paintings that had once been considered newsworthy had become stiffened strips of fabric, or had broken off altogether. The once-breathtaking painted scenes were now unrecognizable.

The Museum established the Flag Conservation Program in 1993 for the purpose of rescuing flags such as this. Conserved flags are not only physically stabilized, but are also prepared for exhibition. With each flag costing thousands of dollars to conserve, and with literally hundreds of flags in need, the program aimed to pair a flag with an individual or organization dedicated to raising funds for its conservation.

The Caroline Greys flag was on the Museum’s list of “Top Twelve Flags In Need of Conservation” ever since the list was created. The estimated conservation cost: about \$20,000. Once a generous donor decided to sponsor this flag in summer 2009, the Museum contracted with Textile Preservation Associates in Ranson, West Virginia, to treat the flag. The textile conservators thoroughly documented the flag, then commenced cleaning, flattening, and stabilizing it. The most challenging aspect of this multi-layer silk flag was that the oil-painted portion had split into pieces, so the conservator first had to sort out the obverse and reverse fragments, then arrange them back together like a jigsaw puzzle. It was only then that the unique artistry of this flag began to emerge.

Painting conservators at Art Care Associates in rederick, Maryland, further cleaned the painted portion of the flag. They began mending the fragments using Stabiltex, a synthetic silk that enables the pieces to be secured without sewing directly to the original flag. Three large areas of loss required in-painting (recreating the missing design in watercolor on heavy Japanese paper, which is then attached to Stabiltex). The textile conservators completed treatment by framing the flag behind UV-filtering Plexiglas.

The newly-conserved flag will be part of the permanent exhibit at the Museum’s new site in Appomattox. As are all fragile silk flags, it will be rested periodically and available for exhibit to other museums.



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## Missouri Secession Day Dinner & Symposium

Hosted by the Missouri Society, MOS&B

October 29th, 2011, 5:30 PM

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**For tickets contact Larry Yeatman at  
[larryyeatman@msn.com](mailto:larryyeatman@msn.com) by Oct. 17**

A special room rate of \$69 has been arranged, say you are with  
the Secession Day Dinner.

## JOIN THE MOS&B Color Guard

**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). I will have flags and flag carriers 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](mailto: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 you Society State Flag to carry in the Massing of the Colors. Society Commanders please contact Commander Waldrop to participate.

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