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February 2012

Officer's Call



Sesquicentennial Series Article #18 Commanding with Forrest : A Brief Sketch of COL William A. Johnson 4th Alabama, Forrest Cavalry Corps

Written by COL J. A. Barton Campbell, FA, USAR (Ret),
with the Honorable Richard B. Campbell, Judge,
Commonwealth of Virginia, MOS&B VA Society members.

In our living room hangs a portrait of William A. Johnson, my great-grandfather, in his Confederate uniform. It is done from a photograph of him as a major; the same photograph can be seen in most of the biographies of Nathan Bedford Forrest.

I grew up, not only with the written history of great-grandfather Johnson, but with the stories that my grandfather, one of his eleven children, told me over many years. William Johnson was born in Lauderdale County, Alabama, in 1827, but moved to Colbert County as an adult. There he first worked on, then became the owner of a small fleet of boats operating on the Tennessee River. On February 5th, 1862, he and two other captains burned their boats at Florence, AL, rather than see them fall into the hands of the Yankees. They were cut loose to drift down river in the vain hope they would “fire” some of the federal gunboats coming up the river. William proceeded to northern Mississippi, near Corinth, where he tendered his services as a scout to General Sterling Price, and was made a lieutenant. He saw action shortly thereafter at the Battle of Shiloh.

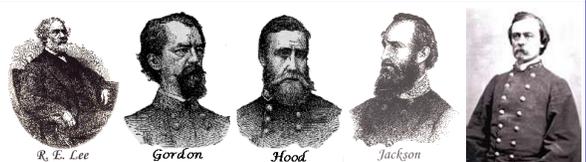
In October of that same year, the 4th Alabama Cavalry Regiment was formed in Tuscumbia, Johnson's home town, by Colonel Philip Dale Roddey. William was appointed major in the command structure. The officer appointed lieutenant colonel of the regiment declined, and William A. Johnson filled the position; he was subsequently promoted to the rank in early 1863. {There were two Alabama Cavalry Regiments designated the “4th”, and were first distinguished as “Roddey's” and “Russell's”; the few veterans' reminiscences that appear in the Alabama Department of Archives and History by members of the unit consistently refer to it as “Johnson's Fourth”.}

The regiment participated in the famous pursuit of Streight in the latter's raid from Tennessee thru north Alabama. During this operation at the Battle of Day's Gap on April 30th, Lieut. Colonel Johnson personally engaged in hand-to-hand combat with a Federal officer named Cameron, both using pistols and sabers, and eventually killing him. In this same pursuit, Colonel Johnson's brother, Major Richard Johnson, was killed leading an advance party, when they were ambushed by the Federal rear guard.

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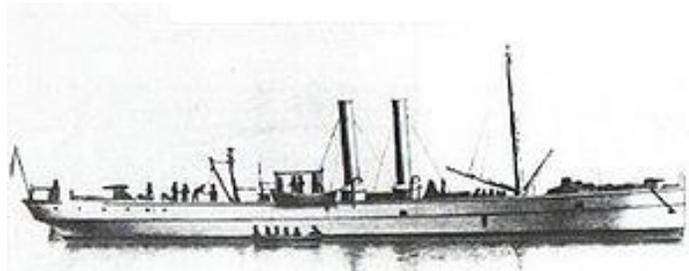
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Commander General's Message

Looking Out for One Another



As I reflected on various issues and situations during my commute to work this morning, the thought patterns wrapped themselves around the issue of how important the work of the Order is in preserving a significant period in American history. The Order has been in existence for almost 75 years now and we have a lot more in common with our earliest members who have preceded us in crossing over the river. The earliest generations of our membership rolls were veterans in their own right as they fought in the Spanish American War, World War I, and certainly World War II followed by Korea.

We all share a connection with our founders that transcend the DNA pools as we also are dedicated to the core values of loyalty, integrity, honor, and service. One of our members that embraces these core values and daily exhibits them is Compatriot Ed Bearss. For those of you who have met Ed, walked the battlefield with him, listened to his masterful art of "telling the story", relived the past with him, and read his prolific historical works and articles, you understand and appreciate the gift of memory and time that he has given to countless audiences and participants in American history. He is a military hero and a man of valor in his own right, but truly he is a hero of the Order in the preservation of historical truth. He exemplifies the connection to our founders as he inspires those around him to become actively involved in our history and to understand the sacrifice and courage that is required of us to preserve our Heritage.

This past weekend on my return trip home, I stopped in Kennesaw, GA to view for the first time, the famous locomotive of the Great Locomotive Chase – the General. As a boy, I read with fascination the great story of the chase and have always remembered it especially with the help of Fess Parker and Walt Disney. What made the visit to the Southern Museum of Civil War and Locomotive History was what I witnessed while there. As I entered the theater to watch the information show, an old man was wheeled into the theater from the other side. We watched the movie and then proceeded to go see the General. Before I could enter the exhibit the middle aged man escorting and helping with the wheel chair for the older man, was taking pictures of the old man sitting in front of the "cow catcher". At the same time, he was carrying on a one way conversation with his senior about the WBTS, the year of the locomotive chase, the age of the 90 year old man Well, you get the picture! Both of these men were students of the WBTS and the younger man was taking his time and making the effort to continue to involve his family member in the events of 150 years ago. He also spent several minutes educating the Gift Shop employee on the true causes of the WBTS with clarity and well stated facts....

Both of these men along with Ed Bearss belong to the unique class of living history students who are demonstrating the ideals of the Military Order of the Stars and Bars and looking out for each other. I am fully confident and assured that we have many members who are doing the very same thing on a daily basis in their communities and region. We have many authors, teachers, re-enactors, and historians who have joined our ranks. Because of the exceptional quality that our members exhibit and represent, we are successfully achieving the objectives of our founders.

I salute each of you who are making a difference in the world of political correctness. I tip my kepi to the Georgia Civil War Commission who have accomplished so much in advertising to all those who travel I-75 about the opportunities that are available to learn about the WBTS events.

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

Max Lee Waldrop, Jr.
Commander General



(- From Page 1: Sesquicentennial Article #18 -)

In August, Roddey was promoted to brigadier general, and Johnson was given command of the Fourth and promoted to full colonel. He led the unit in the Chickamauga campaign. In January, Roddey divided his command into two brigades, and Colonel Johnson was given command of the Second Brigade. Colonel Josiah Patterson commanded the First. {My grandfather always maintained that he was recommended for promotion to BG, but it never was processed in Richmond; a letter from Colonel Patterson to my great-grandmother in 1903 asserts this.}

In the opening moves of the Battle for Brice's Cross Roads, Colonel Johnson and the brigade were located at Cherokee, AL. {Location of my great-grandmother's uncle's home, Barton Hall, which passed out of the family many years ago}. General N. B. Forrest sent Johnson word to move his command rapidly to the vicinity of Baldwyn, MS. The brigade at that time consisted of the 4th under command of Lieut. Colonel Windes, Moreland's AL Cav Reg't, Williams AL Cav Bn, and Warren's AL Cav Bn. Due to the forced march, and the toll on mounts, the brigade arrived on the field with approximately 500 effectives. It is not my purpose here to recount the battle; I would refer you to the most seminal work on the action by Edwin Bearss, "*Forrest at Brice's Cross Roads*", which also covers the Tupelo campaign. Suffice it to say that Colonel Johnson commanded the far right flank in this amazing victory by Forrest.

The regiment participated in Forrest's operations throughout the fall of 1864, and moved into Tennessee as part of Hood's march on Nashville. In September, at a relatively small skirmish near Athens, TN, near Sulfur Creek Trestle, Johnson was badly wounded in the leg, which crippled him for the rest of his life. Forrest sent him home, but he rejoined the command late that year to participate in the retreat of the Army of TN. He continued with Forrest until the latter's surrender at Selma, AL - I have a copy of his parole papers.

There are a couple of interesting anecdotes concerning the colonel that are worth including. When my mother was in attendance at Mary Baldwin College, well before WWII, she wrote a paper describing the wedding of William A. Johnson and Kate Barton in 1863. North Alabama being "contested territory", the officers of the Fourth stationed the troopers in a picket line several miles out in a circle around the house to safeguard the ceremony while the wedding took place!

In a letter that I have in my possession, one of the colonel's troopers wrote my grandfather in 1909, providing colorful details of his service with my great-grandfather. He wrote at some length regarding a skirmish that occurred with Yankees at "Barton Station", which is between Cherokee and Tuscumbia, AL (still there, very small). His account recites the charge of the Fourth on a Federal gun section, which fired but shot high, and the subsequent capture of the piece. Also described is some close action fighting where shotguns were used to deadly effect!

My grandfather said that at the end of the war, great-grandfather Johnson had a pair of crutches, a wife, and a new baby, with one 50-cent piece in U.S. gold. Supposedly he walked down to the Tennessee River, and threw in the gold piece, saying he was starting life over again from scratch! Colonel Johnson started trading cotton, literally a few bales at a time, and Papa (my grandfather) said as a young boy he would ride to town in a buckboard with his father, who would proceed to the docks where the cotton was unloaded and point out with his cane the bales he wished to purchase. He proved to be an astute business man, and was quite successful in rebuilding his affairs. Our home place, built before the war, still stands in Tuscumbia, and is in excellent condition, having been refurbished and occupied by a first cousin of mine.

Colonel Johnson died in 1891, and is buried in the family plot in Alabama, along with his brother Dick, killed on Straight's raid, and with a marker for another brother who died as a POW at Rock Island, and is interred there. The *Florence Times* of June 6th, 1891, published a notice on his death, which reads in part - "there will be a meeting of the survivors of the Fourth Alabama Cavalry, CSA, at the court house Thursday morning June 11th, at 11:00, to pass suitable resolutions on the death of their gallant Colonel, W. A. Johnson, to which all ex-Confederate soldiers especially, and the public in general, are invited." On the 20th, copies of the resolutions were published in the paper. A lengthy obituary also appeared in the *Memphis Commercial Appeal*, reputedly written by General Stephen D. Lee. Forrest is once to have said of great-grandfather Johnson, "If I ordered him to go to Washington and take his regiment and brother's company, Hell could not stop him". Without doubt, this is a fitting epitaph to a fine Confederate soldier.

ROBERT E. LEE AND TRAVELLER

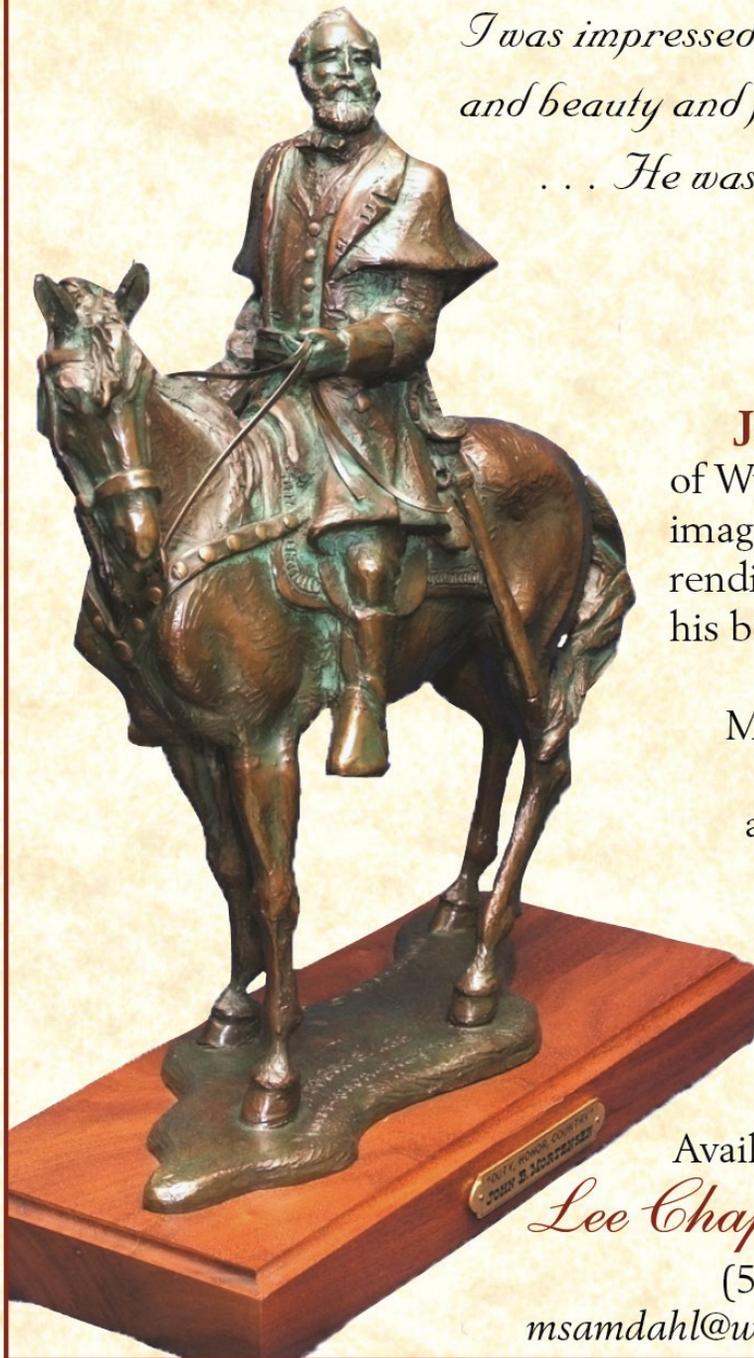
"Traveller moved as if proud of the burden he bore . . .

The horse was beautiful and majestic . . .

*I was impressed with the greatness
and beauty and power . . . of the man*

. . . He was every inch a king."

Written by a student at
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BASIC FACTS ABOUT THE ALAMO

By David G. Whitaker DCS, 2012 Convention Chairman

The siege of the Alamo lasted 13 days, from February 23rd to March 6th, 1836. The accepted number of Texians in the Alamo is 189 brave souls.

Mexican soldiers kept arriving every day of the siege, eventually reaching 4000, maybe more, on the day of the attack. All the Texians were either killed during the battle or were executed after they were captured at the end of the battle. No Texians were killed until March 6th. The Mexicans reported 1,544 as being killed with hundreds of others being wounded.

Santa Anna was a great admirer of Napoleon. He enjoyed being called "the Napoleon of the West." The uniforms worn by the Mexican Army were patterned after the Napoleonic French Army. The different colored uniforms were worn by the different battalions and regiments. Shoes and sandals were worn by the infantry. The Mexican Cavalrymen were armed with a lance, a sword, saddle pistols, a smoothbore carbine, and a lasso. The basic weapon for the infantry was the British-made "Brown Bess" musket. Most of the weapons were used in the Napoleonic Wars and were badly worn.

The Texians were commanded by Lt. Col. William Barrett Travis of South Carolina. Other leaders were Davy Crockett from Tennessee, Jim Bowie from Kentucky, and Captain Almeron Dickinson from Tennessee. His wife, Susanna, was the only Anglo to survive the entire siege and was released unharmed because Santa Anna wanted at least one survivor to spread the word about the defeat of the Alamo. A coward by the name of Louis Rose was allowed to slip over the wall the night before the final charge by the Mexican Army. He told the story about Lt. Col. Travis drawing a line in the sand.

On the day of the final charge President of Mexico, General Santa Anna (Antonio Lopez de Santa Anna) ordered his fourteen Army bands to play "Delguello", meaning "No Quarter", indicating that prisoners were not to be taken alive and if they were then they would be immediately executed. It is believed Davy Crockett met his death this way.

On March 5, day twelve of the siege, Santa Anna announced an assault for the following day. This sudden declaration stunned his officers. The enemy's walls were crumbling. No Texian relief column had appeared. When the provisions ran out, surrender would remain the rebels only option. There was simply no valid military justification for the costly attack on a stronghold bristling with cannons. But ignoring these reasonable objections, Santa Anna stubbornly insisted on storming the Alamo. Around 5:00 A.M. on Sunday, March 6, after his bands played "No Quarter" he hurled his columns at the battered walls from four directions. Texian gunners stood by their artillery. As assault troops advanced into range, canister ripped through their ranks. Staggered by the concentrated cannon and rifle fire, the Mexican soldiers halted, reformed, and drove forward. Soon they were past the defensive perimeter. Col. Travis, among the first to die, fell on the north bastion. Abandoning the walls, defenders withdrew to the dim rooms of the Long Barracks. There some of the bloodiest hand-to-hand fighting occurred. Bowie, too ravaged by illness to rise from his bed, found no pity. Mexican soldiers slaughtered him with their bayonets. The chapel fell last at dawn. The assault had lasted no more than ninety minutes. It was a very bloody battle.

As many as seven defenders survived the battle, but Santa Anna ordered their summary execution. Many historians count Crockett as a member of that hapless contingent. By eight o'clock all 189 of the Alamo's defenders lay dead. There were several Tejanos among the Texians fighting at the Alamo. One was Galba Fuqua, probably the youngest fighter at 17 years old. Another was Gregorio Esparza who had a wife and three children with him. An interesting side note is that Esparza's brother, Enrique, was a sergeant in Santa Anna's Army. After the battle, Santa Anna summoned Enrique and sent him to separate Gregorio's body from the dead Texians. Gregorio's body was the only Texian whose body was not burned; he alone received a Christian burial.

Then Santa Anna and his Army headed east to find and defeat Sam Houston's army. He found him at San Jacinto and Santa Anna was defeated in 18 minutes which marks the beginning of the Republic of Texas.

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400 Unknown Soldiers and their Chaplain Confederate Cemetery at Resaca, Georgia

THE CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

A Study in Devotion at Resaca

Most of us are familiar with at least some of the commissioned chaplains who served in the various Confederate armies. Chaplain Robert Dabney on Stonewall Jackson's staff and Dr. Charles T. Quintard, Chaplain of the 1st Tennessee Infantry, CSA, come to mind. But there were a score of other clergymen, who were titled missionary chaplains, that also served. Missionary chaplains were not commissioned, but were appointed by their churches to do mis-

sionary evangelism among the soldiers.

Recently Ms. Hayden Bowen, Atlanta Chapter 18 of the United Daughters of the Confederacy, shared the heroic story of her great-great-great grandfather, Rev. James P. McMullen, a missionary chaplain from Alabama. We are grateful to her for her detailed research.

James Porter McMullen was born July 21, 1811 in the Abbeville District, South Carolina, the youngest son of Archibald and Mary (Dunlap) McMullen, members of the Associated Reformed Church. He did not profess Christ until the twenty-third year of his life. When he reached manhood, he moved to Alabama where his brother Robert B. McMullen, D.D., then resided. It was in 1833 at a Tuscaloosa Presbytery meeting in Eutaw, at the Mesopotamia Presbyterian Church, that he joined himself to the church, and shortly thereafter gave himself to the sacred ministry.

James attended the Manual Labor School at Marion, Alabama during the years 1834 and 1835 to begin his literary education. Thereafter he entered Franklin College [now the University of Georgia] in Athens, Georgia in 1836, graduating with honors in 1838. On November 4, 1838, James married Miss Martha Leonora Fulton at the Ebenezer Presbyterian Church in Clinton, Alabama.

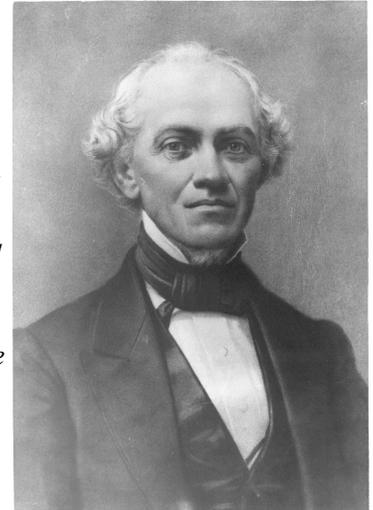
James was a member of this church until at least 1840. He studied theology privately under the direction of his brother, the Rev. Dr. Robert McMullen, until 1841. In April of 1841 he was licensed by the Tuscaloosa Presbytery and in December he was ordained and installed as pastor of the churches of Mt. Zion, Concord, and Carthage Presbyterian churches in eastern Greene County, now Hale County, Alabama.

Here he labored for thirteen years, and was much blessed in the successful result of his ministry. Upon his acceptance of the call to be the minister for the Pleasant Ridge Church, James P. McMullen also became pastor of the Bethesda Presbyterian Church in Pickens County. The Greene County Directory, 1856 indicates that Mr. McMullen additionally pastored the New Hope Church in Knoxville, some distance to the northeast.

Rev. McMullen, after being called as the first minister of the Pleasant Ridge Church in 1855, was moved by the spiritual wants of the soldiers in the army of the South, engaged as they believed in defending their national liberties. He left his church and home and friends for a time to work as a missionary chaplain in the field. He was appointed by the Executive Committee of Domestic Missions of the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church of the Confederate States. He then was called at age 53 to serve in the Army of Tennessee under the command of Joseph E. Johnston. He left Pleasant Ridge on January 24, 1864. He labored for three months to comfort the afflicted and to save souls with the 42nd Alabama Infantry.

On Sunday morning, May 15, 1864, he preached to all the men in Bakers Brigade standing in line of battle. This was on the eve of the terrible battle of Resaca. Chaplain McMullen preached solemnly and impressively. Very soon thereafter, the battle began and raged with great fury.

Urged by a patriotism long cherished in his quiet home, but now rendered intense by the magnitude of the pending crisis, sublime in the forgetfulness of self, and sustained by a courage that thought not of danger, he rushed into the battle, cheering on the men in a most perilous and even desperate charge upon a strong battery of the enemy; and after seeing his eldest son, William, from Company B of the 36th Alabama, slain before his face, he fell, himself pierced by a fatal bullet. According to the after-action report of the 42nd Alabama, the particular action in which Rev. McMullen was killed occurred later in the day after the assault on the battery, when the brigade emerged from a wood and faced a Union force across an open field.



Rev. James P. McMullen
Missionary Chaplain, CSA

Col Thomas Lanier, commanding Bakers Brigade, said afterward that Mr. McMullen rushed ahead of the command waving his hat and cheering the regiment and was soon shot and instantly killed. Col Lanier, a ruling elder at the Bethesda Church, further stated that if Mr. McMullen had been officially identified with the Army he would have placed him under arrest and sent him to the rear.

That this is the instance in which Rev. McMullen was killed is corroborated by Col. E. A. Cannon, commanding the 13th New Jersey Infantry regiment, with which the 42nd Alabama was engaged in the action in question. Col. Cannon states that:

They (the 42nd Alabama) came on in good shape (order) until they emerged from a thicket on my right, and came under a heavy fire, which, for a moment, staggered them; they soon rallied and again came on, not, however, in good line. They had now come within a few paces of our line, and it seemed as though they could not be stopped. It was just at this time that I saw in front of the right of my regiment an aged man, calling on the troops to follow him, urging them on, etc. I could not, in the din of musketry, hear his words, but I could see his motions. Just at this time my attention was called in another direction, and about the same moment the Confederates gave way, and the fight was over. (It was about five o'clock on Sabbath evening.) . . . He was a brave man. Several of my men assured me that when they saw him, with hat off, urging the men forward, they did not have the heart to harm his gray head (he had a heavy head of long white hair). From a prisoner or wounded man of the regiment to which he belonged, we learned of the death of his son. They lay about twenty feet apart, and the father was about fifteen or twenty paces from our lines.

James P. McMullen was one of the few missionary chaplains killed in action during the War Between the States. He and his son are buried with the unknown Confederate dead on the battlefield of Resaca, Georgia. Recently, monuments to each have been placed at the gravesite.

A plaque from the Pleasant Ridge Presbyterian Church reads:

In Memoriam of Rev. J P McMullen
Beloved Pastor of
Pleasant Ridge Congregation
From Sept. 8, 1855
To May 15, 1864
Born in Abb. District S.C. July 21, 1811
Killed at Resaca, GA May 15, 1864

"He Fought The Good Fight, Finished The
Course and Now Wears the Crown"

The rest of the story is also interesting, because on the Union side at the Battle of Resaca, across from the attack by the Alabama troops, the body of Chaplain John Springer, age 27, a Methodist chaplain in the 3rd Wisconsin Infantry, was recovered after the fight. Resaca was one of the few battles in the War Between the States in which two clergymen were killed directly opposing one another.

Chaplain John Springer's name is on the U.S. Army Chaplaincy Memorial Wall at the Army Chaplain Center and School, Ft. Jackson, SC.

May they rest in the heavenly peace they could not find on earth.

John Brinsfield,
MOS&B Chaplain General

***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 75th 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 River-Walk (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.

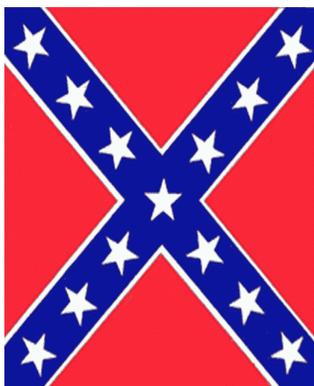
It is never too early to start making plans so mark your calendar accordingly. We encourage everyone to bring their families. Also there will be no formal bus tours. You will have time for touring, shopping, exploring or just relaxing in the afternoon. These kind of things is what San Antonio is famous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



THE STAINLESS BANNER

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75th Annual General Convention & Sesquicentennial Event of the Military Order of Stars & Bars

San Antonio, Texas : June 7 - 9, 2012

Name & Title: _____ Chapter: _____

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Registration (Until June 1, 2012) _____ @ \$75.00 \$ _____

Thursday, June 7, 2012:

Registration 1:00 - 5:00 PM; GEC Meeting 1:00 PM,
TX Society Meeting 4:30 PM; Barge Dinner at 7:00 PM _____ @ \$45.00 \$ _____

Friday, June 8, 2012:

Forrest Cavalry Breakfast 8:00 - 9:00 AM _____ @\$25.00 \$ _____
Registration 7:30 - 9:00 AM; Opening Ceremony 9:00 - 9:30 AM
Business Meeting #1 9:40 - 11:30 AM
Ladies are invited to go on the Menger Hotel Tour led by Ernest Malacara

Luncheon with Speaker on the Alamo _____ @ \$30.00 \$ _____

Commander General's Reception at 5:30 - 7:00 PM (Wine & Cheese Only)
Dinner on your own

Saturday, June 9, 2012:

Prayer Breakfast 8:00 - 9:00 AM _____ @ \$25.00 \$ _____
Business Meeting #2 (Election of Officers) 9:30 AM
Awards Luncheon at Noon _____ @ \$30.00 \$ _____

Fiesta Dinner and Speaker 6:30 - 9:00 PM _____ @ \$55.00 \$ _____

Total Enclosed: _____ \$ _____

Check or Paypal, Made Payable and Mail to: David Whitaker MOSB 2012,
20018 Black Canyon
Katy, TX 77450

Convention Hotel & Reservation: Menger Hotel: San Antonio, TX
204 Alamo Plaza, San Antonio, TX 78205 Phone (210) 223-4361 or (800) 394-1454

Must request MOS&B for Convention Room Rate of \$115.00



YOU ARE ALL GREEN ALIKE Battle Along Bull Run Creek

By C. L. Gray

In the aftermath of the Confederate victory at Fort Sumter, President Abraham Lincoln called for 75,000 volunteers to put down the rebellion in the Cotton States. The call electrified the South. Thousands of citizens, now soldiers, poured into state capitals ready to strike a blow for Southern independence.

Troops were hurried to northern Virginia to protect the state and Richmond, the new Confederate capital, from an invasion from Washington City. To command the growing army, the War Department dispatched the hero of Sumter – Pierre Gustave Toutant Beauregard.

Beauregard arrived at the Confederate front at Centreville, took a look around, and did not like what he saw. Searching for a new defensive position, he settled behind Bull Run Creek. The creek's five foot high banks were a natural fortification, and the stream was spanned by only one bridge (the Stone Bridge) on the Warrenton Turnpike. The creek did have its weaknesses: a series of fords that provided easy crossing.

Sudley Ford was two and a half miles north of the bridge. The roads to the ford did not appear on any map, which convinced Beauregard that the Federals would never find it. He left the ford unguarded. He also believed that the Federals would not march down the more obvious Warrenton Turnpike, but, just to be on the safe side, he assigned Colonel Nathan Evans and his small brigade of South Carolinians and Louisianans to guard the Stone Bridge.

Downstream and to the south of the bridge lay three more fords, but dense woods made any crossing there virtually impossible. As a security measure, Beauregard assigned Colonel Philip St. George Cocke to watch the fords.

A road branching off the Warrenton Turnpike led straight to Mitchell's Ford. Since this road was the most direct route from Centreville to Manassas Junction, Beauregard posted General Milledge L. Bohman's brigade at Mitchell's Ford, General James Longstreet's brigade at Blackburn's Ford, and General David R. Jones' brigade at McLean's Ford, a mile south of Longstreet. Colonel Jubal Early's brigade was posted in the rear as a reserve. A mile and a half away at Union Mills, General Richard Ewell guarded the ford and the Orange and Alexandria Railroad bridge. Beauregard's line ran five miles from the Stone Bridge to Union Mills, with five of his seven brigades posted on the right side of the line.

On To Richmond

Northern men responded as eagerly to the prospect of war as Southern men had. Washington City quickly overflowed with soldiers, who pitched their tents in parks and lawns and bivouacked in Federal buildings including the Executive Mansion.

Before leaving home, most of the soldiers had signed 90 day enlistment papers, and as spring turned into summer, pressure mounted on General Irvin McDowell to get on with task of taking Richmond. Whereas Lincoln, the War Department, and, especially, newspapers editors saw a mighty army ready to go forth and conquer, McDowell did not. He knew he commanded green troops, whose enthusiasm and eagerness did not equal skill or discipline.

Since there was a real danger that the army would be mustered out and sent home before the men engaged the enemy, Lieutenant General Winfield Scott dismissed McDowell's pleas for more time. "You are green, it is true," Scott told McDowell. "But they are green also; you are all green alike." (1) With no choice but to obey the order, McDowell assembled his troops.

On a hot and steamy July afternoon, McDowell began his march to Richmond. The soldiers quickly confirmed his fears. The men dragged their feet, broke ranks to stop for water, hurried to streams to wash the dust from their faces or to forage for livestock. They ignored their officers' shouts to remain in line. The pace slowed to a crawl. When the men finally went into camp, they were only six miles from their starting point.

The Battle Commences

Sunday morning, July 21st, dawned with all the promise of a hot and humid summer day. Evans, playing prevent defense at the Stone Bridge, watched Daniel Tyler's division march down the Warrenton Turnpike. When Tyler did not appear to be interested in crossing the creek, a suspicious Evans sent a detachment of cavalry galloping to Sudley Ford to make sure the Federals were not trying to roll up the unprotected left flank. He need not have bothered. Floating high above the battlefield in an observation balloon, Colonel Porter Alexander saw two Union divisions approaching the ford. He hurried a message to Evans warning him that his flank had been turned. The only thing standing between the Confederate army and certain defeat was the gallant stand Evans was now making on Matthew House Hill.

Beauregard sent two brigades under the commands of Bernard Bee and Francis Bartow to Evans' aid. Both brigades had recently arrived from the Shenandoah Valley and more troops were disembarking the railcars at Manassas Junction. General Joseph Johnston also arrived on the field along with his troops. He was senior to Beauregard and, rightfully, became commander of the entire force assembled along the creek. But Johnston was unfamiliar with the terrain and the deployment of troops. He decided it was best for Beauregard to retain command.

Bee, Bartow, and Evans were putting up a spirited defense at Young's Branch and holding back the Union divisions, but all that changed when Tyler's men poured across the Stone Bridge. The Confederates could no longer hold and began to fall back in disarray.

Then salvation! The First Virginia, under the command of Thomas Jackson, a professor at the Virginia Military Institute, appeared on Henry House Hill. But if the beleaguered Confederates in the valley were waiting for Jackson to march his men down the hill, they were waiting in vain. Jackson had an eye for good ground and it was not at Young's Branch.

"There stands Jackson like a stone wall!" Bee's immortal words rallied his shattered troops, who retreated up the hill and fell back behind the Virginians.

Historians have filled many pages dissecting the reasons why Jackson did not march to Bee's aid. In his report on the battle, Jackson stated that he made his stand on Henry House Hill because "it was the first favorable position for meeting the enemy." (2) Bee understood this. When he first marched to Evans' aid, he had chosen Henry House Hill as the ideal place to dig in and meet the approaching Union wave from Sudley Ford, but he allowed Evans to talk him down off the heights and into the valley where the Confederates met with slaughter. Bee was actually returning to the high ground of Henry House Hill when he met Jackson.

Now, Jackson was a patient man, and the waves of blue uniformed soldiers crashing toward him did not force him to act prematurely. He withheld his fire until the 11th New York Fire Zouaves were in front of the Union cannon. The New Yorkers dropped to the ground. Some of Zouaves returned fire, but others broke and ran.

Colonel Alfred Cumming, commanding the 33rd Virginia, disobeyed Jackson's order to hold his position and chased the Zouaves as they fled. Cumming's men were dressed in blue uniforms, which caused confusion among the Union officers. No one could be sure whether the approaching blue coats were friend or foe. Orders to fire were swiftly countermanded. The Zouaves proved to be less than helpful. They raced through the battery and kept on running. Seventy yards away, the Virginians opened fire and removed all doubt of who they were. Infantry assigned to protect the battery broke and fled down the hill behind the routed Zouaves. Cumming continued his advance. The Union cannon were quickly abandoned to the Confederates.

It was time to press the attack with the bayonet. Jackson wheeled his guns to the rear by his right and left to clear the way. "Reserve your fire 'til they come within fifty yards," Jackson urged his men. "Then fire and give them the bayonet; and, when you charge, yell like furies!" (3) The charge produced an immediate result. The Federals galloped back down to the hill to the safety of their numbers.

Late in the afternoon, Beauregard led his entire line forward, devastating McDowell's army. Soldiers stampeded to the rear. Men crazed with fear high-tailed it toward Sudley Ford and Centreville. Most, too tired to run, simply discarded their gear and walked away from the field.

Early and Jeb Stuart's cavalry gave chase, but Stuart's troopers were soon inundated with prisoners. Beauregard ordered another cavalry detachment to cross the creek and get behind Hunter and Heintzelman, but before the cavalry could advance, a rumor reached Beauregard that Union forces were crossing at Union Mills. He postponed the pursuit until he could determine whether the rumor was true or false.

At Blackburn's Ford, Johnston ordered Longstreet and Bonham to cross the creek and advance on Centreville. He hoped to secure the town before McDowell arrived and cut the Union army off from Washington. But the Union Mills rumor delayed the pursuit. Longstreet and Bonham crossed the creek only to run smack into Israel Richardson's brigade posted south of Centreville. Not willing to fight, the two Confederate generals retreated across the creek.

Content with victory, Beauregard called off the pursuit shortly after 7 o'clock. The next day, Johnston made the decision not to give chase. His men, short on rations and ammunition, were in no condition to continue the fight. That night, a rain storm drenched the countryside and turned the roads into a sea of mud. The battle was over.

1. William C. Davis. *First Blood: Fort Sumter to Bull Run*. (New York: Time Life Books, 1983), 110.
2. Jackson, Thomas J., Brigadier General. "Report of Brigadier General T.J. Jackson, C.S. Army, Commanding First Brigade, Army of the Shenandoah." *A Compilation of the Official Records of the Union and Confederate Armies. Series 1, Volume 2, Chapter 9*, 481.
3. *Ibid.*, 223

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We are extremely grateful to the members of The Confederate Legacy Legion of Merit. These Compatriots have chosen to support the Legacy Fund with donations of \$1000 or more. Last year, we received donations from our members in excess of \$17,000. In addition, our fund balance has grown to exceed \$50,000 since the inception of the program.

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Non-renewed MOS&B 2011 annual memberships were deleted from the listserv effective February 1st. Headquarters will be seeking to renew these memberships for 2012 into the National At-Large Chapter.

CALENDAR

Chapters, Societies and Departments can have their special events publicized on the new website 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.