

Volume 4, Number 3  
March 2012

## Officer's Call



### Sesquicentennial Series Article #18 Battle of Pea Ridge 150th Anniversary Commemoration

By J. Troy Massey, Past Commander General, MOS&B

The celebration of the Sesquicentennial of the Battle of Elkhorn Tavern took place on March 10-11, 2012 or as the Yankees called and named the park, Pea Ridge. The battle was fought on March 7-8, 1862 in the hills of northwest Arkansas and was the first major battle in Arkansas.

My first job out of college as a Parks and Recreation major was as a summer seasonal ranger at Pea Ridge NMP. It was an enjoyable summer and one that I wished I could have continued on as a career but some things do not work out in life. That summer I portrayed a Confederate soldier "in first person" at Elkhorn Tavern, with that portrayal twice weekly. The park visitors would watch me load my Mississippi rifle, camp around the camp fire and discussing what happened during the battle. Once, an older lady tried to give me money to support my family since the South had lost the war! Another older gentlemen from New Orleans asked for me to come with my troops to his neighborhood in New Orleans as he reasoned the crime rate was horrendous and he needed some help! It was a very interesting summer for a twenty two year old kid looking for a vocation in life. If that job could be called a job, I sure wanted to do it the rest of my working days. Unfortunately, the park service was only hiring career or career conditional employees so there went my chance of employment with the NPS. Thirty four years later in 2011, I retired as an Insurance Claims Adjuster and jokingly state that in my next life, I want to come back as a park ranger.

Now to the Battle of Elkhorn Tavern, as the Confederates named the battle. Two major armies were headed to a major confrontation on the sleepy slopes of Little Sugar Creek in Benton County, Arkansas. The Battle of Pea Ridge ended the threat of a major Confederate invasion of Missouri and was fought across thousands of acres of Ozarks countryside. The site is now the Pea Ridge National Military Park, one of the best preserved battlefields in the nation. The battle developed when Confederate Major General Earl Van Dorn accepted the command of the Confederate Army in the west from President Jefferson Davis. Van Dorn headed west where Southern forces had withdrawn south into the Boston Mountains ahead of an advance by Union Major General Samuel Curtis and his Army of the Southwest. His plan was to the point. He would fight his way into Missouri and keep going north. As he told his wife, "I must have St. Louis."

(— Continued on Page 4 —)



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Effective September 15, 2011, the cost for lifetime membership in the Military Order of Stars and Bars is as follows:

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The MOS&B *Officer's Call*, a leader among heritage magazines, is published monthly by the Military Order of the Stars and Bars.

The members of the MOS&B are descendants of the Confederate Officer Corps and elected government officials. We are dedicated to the preservation and education of the memory of our ancestors and the traditional values of our Southern Heritage.

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## Commander General's Message

### Will the Order Endure?



This is a question that most leaders at some point in their work with an organization must ask themselves. A following question of equal importance is determining if the senior leaders have made and are making the right decisions and working on the correct path forward. They are questions that I find myself asking frequently.

On March 23rd the General Executive Council will convene for our spring meeting in Memphis, Tennessee. This will be a significant meeting for the Order as we will be discussing the future of the Order. My challenge to the members of the GEC will be to introspectively look at our organizational structure, recruiting techniques, member services, financial budgets, and operations and then determine the strategy required to achieve the results that are needed.

I have submitted to the GEC a recommendation in the form of Constitution and Bylaw changes. These proposed revisions are what I personally believe are critical changes to our governing documents that will facilitate growth and stability. Several overall concepts are interwoven into the revisions for discussion and acceptance by the GEC.

For example, the Order has added three levels of organizational control since our founding. The Order was founded as a group of like-minded men who sought to preserve the true reasons for the struggle for Southern independence. These men met once a year and remained relatively small in membership numbers while forming the General Society structure. Eventually, the organization of Chapters was initiated with the chartering requirement of three or more men. Next, a State Society level was introduced by which the chapters within the same state could be organized and their activities coordinated. Chartering for the State Society required 15 members who lived within the state. Then a Department level organization was created so that the State Societies and Chapters could be organized into the three traditional regions (Army of Northern Virginia, Army of Tennessee, and Army of the Trans-Mississippi). Today, the reality is that most of our State Societies for several reasons are in disarray and struggling to add value to the Chapters within their States. The Departments have been a "hit and miss" with their command and control function nonexistent. So what should we do? I am proposing that the Order become a leaner and flatter organization than it is currently. We should "grandfather" the State Societies who are achieving productive results, revoke the charters of those who fail to maintain the required fifteen members, and not approve the chartering of any further State Societies.

This proposal is a major change in direction. The reader might then ask what is to be gained by doing this - is it real change or just hyperbole. The answer is that this is significant change as it brings the Chapter member closer to the General Society officers and staff. Furthermore, it begins to ease the "per capita tax" structure that has crept into the back pocket of our members. As an example, members in one of our states pay annual Chapter dues of \$25, State Society dues of \$10, and General Society dues of \$35. This totals \$70 per year that a member must pay to maintain his membership. This becomes a significant annual investment if the member belongs to several other organizations that require the same amounts if not more.

This is just one example of some of the concepts that are being proposed. I have been a Chapter Commander, a State Society Second and First Lieutenant Commander, a State Society newsletter Editor, and at the General Society level a Chief of Staff, Adjutant General, Historian General, Lieutenant Commander General, and presently the Commander General. I have spoken with many of the membership over the past eight years. Several of these members are now deceased, some have resigned, and many still remain active. In these conversations, members have not hesitated to tell me their opinions on what is and isn't working in the Order. I have listened and learned from you. The changes being proposed to the GEC and ultimately to the membership are a direct result of the feedback received.

In my opinion, we will endure. We can endure for an even much longer period of time, if we make fundamental changes in our structure and our leadership. These are changes that will encourage new applicants to seek to join us and will stimulate and encourage the development of our future leaders.

I salute each of you who are making a difference in the Order. There are many good things that are being accomplished by the membership at the local level. I am excited about what I see occurring across the Order and particularly in Virginia, Texas, North Carolina, and Arkansas. May we constantly seek to take the high road and fulfill the pledge that we made to our ancestors.

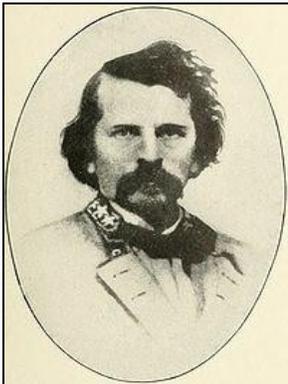
Gentlemen, every day matters! YOU are the Order and our future is in YOUR hands!

**Max Lee Waldrop, Jr.**

Commander General

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

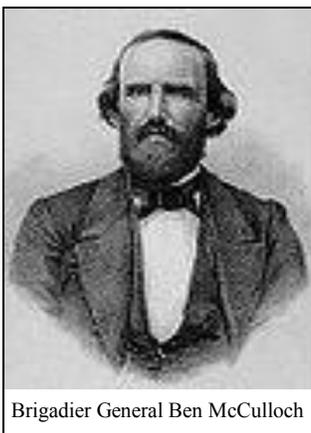
The situation in Arkansas presented Van Dorn with one of the great opportunities of the war. On the night of March 6, Major General Earl Van Dorn set out to outflank the Union position near Pea Ridge, dividing his army into two columns. Learning of Van Dorn's approach, the Federals marched north to meet his advance on March 7. General Curtis had taken up positions at Little Sugar Creek in Benton County, Arkansas. He was 250 miles from his base of supplies and had fewer men and fewer cannon than Van Dorn. Sweeping north from the mountains in brutally cold weather, the Confederates swept around the right of Curtis' entrenched army and launched a devastating two-pronged attack on the Union right and rear. It was a remarkable opportunity to completely crush a major Union army, but Van Dorn did not succeed.



Major General Earl Von Dorn

Pushing his men too hard during the hours leading up to the battle and advancing with insufficient supplies for a major fight, he led a numerically larger army into the field but allowed his command and control structure to completely deteriorate. The first prong of the Confederate attack swept in from the west near the Leetown community. Brigadier General Ben McCulloch, a former Texas Ranger, who led the assault, was killed almost immediately and his second-in-command, Brigadier General James McIntosh, fell just 15 minutes later. Despite heavy fighting and the personal courage and capture of Colonel Louis Hebert, of the Third Louisiana Infantry Regiment, the Confederate attack disintegrated in the face of stiff Federal resistance.

It was during fighting at Foster's Farm near Leetown that Confederate Brigadier General Albert Pike's Indian Brigade ambushed two companies of Iowa cavalry. The northern press would write of their atrocities against the fallen Union soldiers but no proof could be confirmed of these allegations. Meanwhile, the second Confederate column, led by Major General Sterling Price, attacked from the hills and ravines just north of Elkhorn Tavern on the northern end of the battlefield. Despite his superiority in men and artillery, however, Price was unable to drive Union Colonel Eugene Carr from the field. It took six hours of heavy fighting to dislodge the colonel and his men, giving the Federals time to completely reverse their field of battle. Van Dorn led a second column to meet the Federals in the Elkhorn Tavern and Tanyard area. By nightfall, the Confederates controlled Elkhorn Tavern and Telegraph Road. The day ended with Van Dorn holding ground at the northern end of the battlefield, but Curtis bringing more and more men and guns into position opposite him.



Brigadier General Ben McCulloch

The next morning on March 8th, the Federals opened a massive artillery barrage. The Confederates were exhausted and running short on supplies when Curtis ordered his lines forward. Unfortunately, there was little the Confederate troops could do to stop them. The Confederate right gave way first, Van Dorn and Price going with it, leaving the Southern left to fend for itself. Running short of ammunition, Van Dorn abandoned the battlefield. His supply train at Bentonville had been cut off from the main army and could not reinforce with needed ammunition. These men evacuated the battlefield as best they could, leaving the field in the hands of the Union army. Curtis won the battle and Missouri was saved for the Union. At this battle, 26,000 men fought and more than 3,000 were killed, wounded or captured. The Confederate left the field in an orderly fashion down the Huntsville Road to Van Buren. From there they boarded steamers down the Arkansas River to Little Rock via Memphis then to the summoned command of Major General Albert Sidney Johnston at Shiloh. Due to the muddy road conditions and wet weather, they arrived in Tennessee too late for the Shiloh battle but continued on to join the Confederate army in Corinth, Mississippi.

With the outcome of this battle, northwest Arkansas remained in Union control. Major General Thomas Hindman reformed and fought the combined Union armies of Generals Herron and Blunt at Prairie Grove, Arkansas in December 1862 but was unsuccessful in dislodging the Union invaders. After these two major battles, Arkansas would remain in Union control north of the Arkansas River until the war's end.

## **Major John Loudermilk**

### **Son of George Washington Loudermilk And Mary Polly McNutt**

John Loudermilk was born in Knox County, Tennessee in 1829. His family moved to Union County (now Bartow County) Georgia ca. 1840. On April 30, 1854, John married Susan Smith and they settled in Cassville, Ga. Cassville at the time was one of the thriving trading centers in northwest Georgia. The town boasted 3 colleges among numerous other enterprises.

In 1861 John, now 32 years old, and Susan had settled down to a pleasant and satisfying life. Their family had grown and they now had two young sons, Tate and Hardy. John had become a successful local businessman. Records indicate he owned and operated a hotel, livery stable and other related establishments. He is also known to have speculated in land.

On June 14, 1861, John enlisted as a private in Company K, 18th Regiment, Georgia Volunteer Infantry, Army of Tennessee. He enlisted at Etowah, Ga. and his enlisting Officer was a Colonel Wofford. One of his brothers, Henry Clay Loudermilk, enlisted with him in Company K and Henry remained with that unit until he lost a leg at Cold Harbor and sat out the rest of the war. Many more of John's brothers and other relatives served in the War, primarily in Georgia and North Carolina regiments.

John was appointed Regimental Sergeant of the 18th Regiment on October 2, 1861. Then, on March 11, 1862, he was elected Captain and formed Company D, 36th Regiment, Cummings Brigade, Army of Tennessee. John was Company Commander and his chain of command consisted of Major Broyles, Regimental Commander; Brigadier General Cummings, Brigade Commander and Major General Stevenson, Division Commander. In John's Company were 3 of his brothers, 3 nephews and 3 cousins.

On May 16, 1863, John and one of his brothers, William (Dock) Loudermilk, were captured during the battle at Champion Hill (Baker's Creek,) Mississippi. Their division was under the command of General Pemberton at the time. Dock spent the rest of the War in five different prisons, including Johnson Island. However, John escaped shortly after his capture and reported to General Joe Johnston in Jackson MS. He was assigned to the staff of Colonel Wilson. During his absence from Company D, Lt. W. A. Deweese was in command of the Company and they remained and fought in and around Vicksburg from May through July of 1863.

John rejoined his Company and records show they were stationed back in Atlanta by August of 1863. On July 29, 1863, John requested and received a 20-day leave to be with his wife when she gave birth to their third child. Their son, Walter, was born on August 10, 1863. John reported back to his Company and there is no record that he ever saw his family again.

In the war John participated in many battles including; Cumberland Gap, Perryville, Dog Walk, Baker's Creek, Missionary Ridge, Chattanooga, Lookout Mountain, Pea Vine Creek, Rome, Resaca, Tunnel Hill, Buzzard Roost, Dalton, Adairsville, Dug Gap, Cassville and finally New Hope Church.

During the period from March 17, 1864 through April 29, 1864, John and Lieutenant J.W. Gray, Adjutant of the 8th Georgia Battalion attempted to form a company or battalion of Cavalry to operate behind enemy lines. They submitted their request to General S. Cooper and the Georgia archives contain an interesting series of letters supporting the request.

They received letters of support and praise from Major C. E. Broyles, Lt. Colonel Z. W. Walters, Brig. General Wofford, Brig. General S. R. Gist, Brig. General A. Cummings, Brig. General C. Stevens, Major General W. W. Smith and the Honorable Warren Akin, Member 2nd Congress, CSA. In the end their request was approved but for infantry instead of cavalry due to the shortage of personnel at that time.

On April 28, 1864, John was appointed to Major. His appointment was made official on July 6, 1864 and final confirmation of rank was dated January 5, 1865. However, John did not survive to formally accept his promotion. Fighting just a few miles from his Cassville home, he was shot in the head during the Battle of New Hope Church on June 1, 1864. He was taken by train via Marietta to Field Hospital Number 2 on the Fair Grounds in Atlanta where he "crossed over the river" on June 9, 1864. Major John Loudermilk sleeps with his comrades in the Confederate Section of Oakland Cemetery in Atlanta, Georgia; Row 2, Grave 46.

### **The Story of Susan Smith Loudermilk**

History tells us it was cold (just above freezing) with a light rain falling in Cassville, Georgia, November 5th 1864. Susan Loudermilk, (whose husband, John, had been killed 5 months earlier, bravely attempting to remove the Yankee invaders), was finding life very difficult. Three young boys, no money and no food. The invading forces had occupied Cassville since May. The Yankee soldiers had taken everything from their unwilling Southern civilian hosts. The only Southern occupants of the town were women, children and men too old or too injured to fight. There was no livestock to be found, even an unattended horse could become food for the starving. Life just couldn't get worse. Then it did. A sudden rap at the door about an hour after dark. It was Yankee soldiers from the 5th Ohio Regiment. "You have 20 minutes to get out then we are setting your house on fire." Yankee General Sherman had issued an order to burn Cassville. The order read in part (just in case you might think the soldiers were acting on their own), "... destroy the town by fire, that not a house within the limits of the incorporation, except churches be left standing." I suppose Sherman, being the sadistic, cowardly, poor excuse for a human being he was, waited until after dark to make things just a little worse on his victims. So, what do you do? You have 20 minutes, no horse, no wagon, no help, three young kids including a baby in arms. What do you take? How will you survive? A neighbor boy named Johnny Milhollin wrote about that night years later. He said they took blankets and boards and went over to the cemetery where there was a rock fence. With the blankets they made make shift tents which "almost" kept the rain out. He then recalled that they went days without food before finally finding a haven. No other details of Susan's life are known except that she died sometime before 1870. It is not known when or where she died or where she is buried.

### **Major John and Susan's Three Sons**

In the 1870 census of Union/Bartow County, three boys named Tate, Hardy and Walter are listed in the household of the family of Susan Smith Loudermilk's sister, Polly Smith. It is known that they also lived at times with John's brother, Dock.

Two of John's brothers, Robert Carroll and Henry Clay, migrated to Texas in the years following the war as many families did. They settled in Comanche County and with their Uncle's encouragement the three boys joined them. Hardy came to Texas in the 1870's and Tate followed him in the early 1880's. Walter, at age 20, joined his brothers in 1883. All three men were successful merchants and farmers, active in state and local politics and agricultural movements. Tate served a term in the Texas State Legislature from 1916 to 1918. There was an interesting family story about a "quirk" that Walter had. He did not want anyone wearing blue to enter his home!

Submitted by Gary M. Loudermilk, DCS  
Grandson of Walter Loudermilk  
Great Grandson of Major John Loudermilk

### **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) so we may stay in touch.

### **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](mailto:trturk@frontiernet.net).

Photo #1



## GORGAS CHAPTER #299 REPORT

By Dr. Sam Gambrell, Jr, Adjutant

### PROGRAMS

September 2011-1<sup>st</sup> Lt. Commander John Coleman gave a most interesting presentation entitled "Adventures of a Confederate Captain, his great grandfather Thomas Wilkes Coleman. Thomas' father had come to Greene County, AL near Eutaw in 1818 where he built Grassdale, his plantation home. Thomas was born in 1833 at Grassland, grew up there, and attended Princeton University graduating with both BS and MS degrees. Returning to Green County,

he read law in Greensboro, Hale County, with Steven Hale. After marrying Frances Wilson on October 25, 1860, he joined the Greensboro Guards and was sent to Ft. Morgan. He organized Co. F, 40<sup>th</sup> Alabama Infantry and was elected their Captain. He was sent to Vicksburg, fought at Deer Creek, was captured, and paroled on July 9, 1863. Going home, he joined the 40<sup>th</sup> Alabama again and was sent to Chattanooga, TN with his body servant, Mark. Fighting at Missionary Ridge, he was shot with a minnie ball which collapsed his left lung and exited through his back. He rode the train to the hospital at Marietta, GA for treatment and sent Mark back to Alabama to get his wife, Frances, and her servant, Betsy, to come to the hospital. After treatment, he was moved in a mule and wagon with his family to the hospital at Montgomery, AL for recovery from his wound. He was the father of nine children, a very active and successful politician, and a successful trial lawyer. He was elected Solicitor in Hale County, elected to the Supreme Court of Alabama, served on the Constitutional Conventions of 1865 and 1901, was a University of Alabama trustee who was instrumental in bringing Dr. Denny and Dean Farrar to the university, founded the Farmers and Merchants Bank of Montgomery, and was a friend and colleague of Booker T. Washington as they worked together on concerns of and problems in the Black community. One of the most outstanding citizens and leaders in Alabama during his lifetime, he died on November 9, 1920 at age eighty-seven and was buried in the cemetery at Grassdale Plantation. Photo 1 shows Adjutant Sam Gambrell presenting an MOS&B coffee mug to John Coleman for his excellent presentation.

October 2011-Roger Ballard, a Chapter member, gave a most interesting presentation entitled "Collecting the Confederacy with an Alabama Connection". He showed several weapons and knives explaining for each its type, its history, and how he acquired it. Included in his presentation were:

A Dixon-Nelson Rifle, 58 caliber, made in Alabama.

A Sturdivant Rifle, 58 caliber, serial # 149, made in Alabama. Sturdivant was a jeweler.

A Confederate copy of a Sharps Rifle, made in Richmond, VA.

A Dragoon pistol, 52 caliber, made by a gunsmith, Mr. Gilpy, in Mobile.

A Navy Colt pistol, model 1851, serial # 94120, which was one of 600 that were bought by Alabama Governor Moore for use by Alabama Confederate soldiers.

An 1855 Colt Sidehammer pistol owned by Henry Yarborough and a photograph of Yarborough.

A knife owned by J. M. McKinney, an Alabama man.

A knife made for G. W. Shackelford, one of three brothers in the Confederate Army. Made by Lewis Crenshaw of Hope Hull, AL.

A knife made by T. L. Pruitt of Prattville, AL which was one of 39 made for men of the Autauga Guards.

A knife carried by James Monroe Jay, a Confederate soldier who mustered into service at Navy Cove near Fort Morgan, AL. He joined the "Dixie Boys" unit of Pickens County, AL. The "Dixie Boys" later became Company C, 24<sup>th</sup> Regiment, Alabama Volunteers.

A morning report from the 24<sup>th</sup> Alabama signed by Captain (later Colonel) Newton N. Davis and dated February 15, 1862.

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( - From Page 7: Gorgas Chapter Report - )

### ANNUAL FISH FRY AND SOCIAL

On October 23<sup>rd</sup>, approximately 170 members and guests of Paul Bryant Jr and the local MOS&B, SCV, and UDC organizations gathered at ThisLDu, Paul's plantation near Boligee, AL, for the social outing that Paul hosts each year. The 5<sup>th</sup> Alabama Infantry Regiment Band (seen in Photo 2 preparing to play) gave beautiful renditions of several selections of Civil War period music. A delicious fish fry with all the trimmings was served and enjoyed by all. Early attendees enjoyed fishing in Paul's fish ponds. Photo 3 shows Gorgas Chapter Commander Richard Rhone presenting a Certificate of Appreciation to Paul and his wife, Cherry, from the Gorgas Chapter in recognition of their service to the MOS&B, to heritage organizations, and to the Tuscaloosa community at large. Photo 4 shows UDC ladies who attended the social gathering, L to R: Elizabeth Cleino, Anne Rhone, Sybil Banks, and Gwen Dockery.



### Cpt. James Tyrie Wright Chapter Installs Historical Marker

Captain James Tyrie Wright Chapter, MOS&B, with the Carroll County Historical Society at Green Forest, Arkansas. Thanks to Past Commander Gordon Hale, has now placed three Sesquicentennial markers in Carroll County, Arkansas and two are sponsored by the Captain James Tyrie Wright Chapter No. 6, MOS&B, in Harrison, Arkansas and the USCSA. Thanks to Linda and Charles Beaver for the photos and who are also members of the MOS&B, USCSA, SCV and UDC. In addition, Boone County, Arkansas has their first Sesquicentennial marker approved and should be placed in early spring. This marker is also sponsored by the Captain Wright Chapter, MOS&B, USCSA, SCV and UDC. We are looking at a second and third marker in Boone County. (Article submitted by J. Troy Massey, Past Commander General)

### Sesquicentennial Highlight Article Notice

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

### Submittal Entries

MOS&B Officer's Call Magazine welcomes submittals via e-mail to [Editor@mosbfl.org](mailto: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.

## 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](mailto:caynorwrls@frii.com)



### *Military Order of the Stars & Bars* *75th Annual General Convention* *San Antonio, Texas June 7-9, 2012* (RSVP Deadline is May 25, 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



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

San Antonio, Texas : June 7 - 9, 2012

Name & Title: \_\_\_\_\_ Chapter: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City/Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone #: \_\_\_\_\_

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; Barbeque Dinner at 7:00 PM \_\_\_\_\_ @ \$45.00 \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Friday, June 8, 2012:**

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 \$ \_\_\_\_\_

White Guayabera Shirt \_\_ Medium \_\_ Large \_\_ X-Large \_\_ XX-Large \_\_\_\_\_ @ \$25.00 ea. \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**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

## Convention Notice

The Convention committee met with the Barge people in San Antonio and decided to cancel the Barge dinner because it would be unworkable and even impossible for many reasons. We will have a Texas BBQ or a Texas Steak dinner (with all the trimmings) that Thursday evening on the Menger Hotel patio.

## Convention Dress Code Announcement

Because San Antonio is hot during the summer months we are holding the convention early in June, after school lets out. Also we are modifying our dress code to fit the weather by encouraging casual dress as much as possible. You may wear comfortable, casual clothes to each event; sport coats if you so desire but no ties. The exception will be for the officers on the night of the Fiesta and at the business meetings. Officers involved will wear business suits and ties.

We would like to encourage the men to purchase a Latin American/Cuban shirt known as a Guayabera, sometimes called a Mexican wedding shirt. This is standard nice dress wear for these countries and are extremely comfortable. You may never wear another type shirt again. We will sell these in three sizes, medium, large and extra large. If interested send a \$25.00 check made payable to David Whitaker MOSB 2012. Send to 20018 Black Canyon, Katy, TX 77450. Specify your size. The shirt will be in San Antonio when you arrive. Cut-off date for this purchase is May 01, 2012.

For the ladies who would like to wear a typical off the shoulder Mexican sun dress, they may be purchased at the famous market place just a short trolley trip away (everyone will eventually make this trip to the famous Mexican restaurant that is open 24 hours a day).

## The History of the 19th Texas Infantry Confederate States Army

By Colonel Gary W. Canada & Dr. Edward R. DeVries

67 pg., \$7, PDF

**Reviewer: Deputy Adjutant General** William L. Caynor Sr. DAG Caynor has published two books being: *Without a Scratch & Patriots & Secessionalists*. His next book, entitled "*Independence or Annihilation*," is to be released in 2012.

### Review:

This text is a war history of a chivalrous and honorable unit, the 19<sup>th</sup> Texas Infantry. There is little neither known, nor recorded regarding this regiment and thus through Sgt. Macijah N. Lawrence's descendant and Colonel Gary Canada, a marriage in literature was authored. Colonel Canada gave this unfinished manuscript to Dr. DeVries shortly before his death, which thankfully Dr. DeVries completed for the rest of us to learn. This southern unit was mustered into service at Jefferson, Texas and served through the western campaigns until their surrender at Galveston, Texas on June 2, 1865. This audacious tale, which includes a muster roll of the regiment, is destined for any "War of Northern Aggression" library.

*Both Colonel Canada & Dr. Edward R. DeVries are descendants of soldiers belonging to the Ninetieth Texas. Dr. DeVries has authored 27 books and dozens of published articles.*

Books can be ordered from: SB&TS - Box 618 - Lowell, Fl 32663

or can be purchased online at: <http://www.bibleschool.edu/Dr.DeVries/booktape.htm>

## ROBERT E. LEE AND TRAVELLER

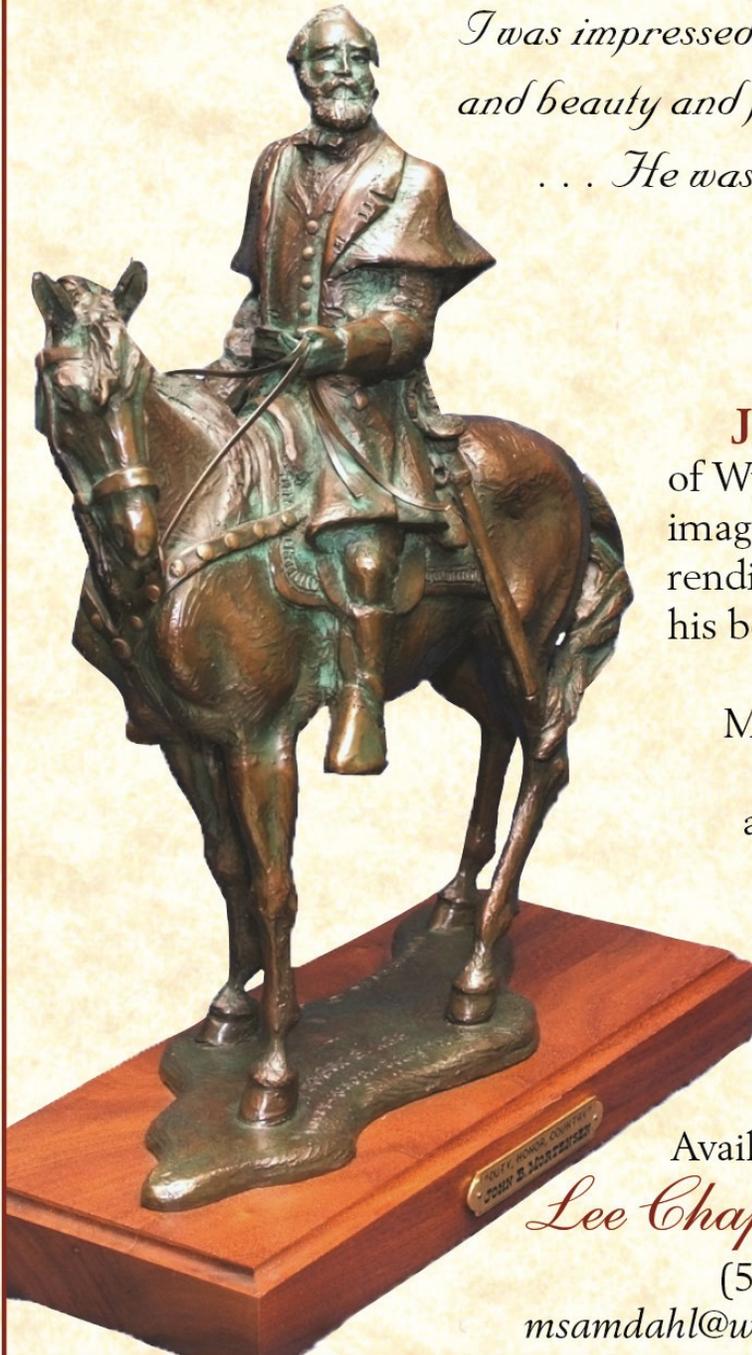
*"Traveller moved as if proud of the burden he bore . . .*

*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  
General Lee's College in 1869.



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## THE LOSS OF KENTUCKY DIVISION IN THE RANKS

BY C. L. GRAY

At the start of the war, Leonidas Polk was no different than any other man in the Confederacy. He wanted to serve his country. So he wrote his old classmate from West Point, Jefferson Davis, and volunteered his services. Davis invited Polk to Richmond to discuss the current state of affairs. Polk arrived, filled with advice on a wide range of subjects.

Even though Polk had been educated at West Point, he had resigned from the army after graduation to enter an Episcopalian seminary. Upon ordination, he had been sent southwest to the frontier country along the Mississippi River. He flourished there and by time the war started, he was the Bishop of Louisiana.

With no practical military experience, the best Polk should have hoped for was a rank of captain or major. Davis made him a major general in command of the Mississippi Valley. Polk's department encompassed the Mississippi River, the navigable portion of the Tennessee River, and fronted both Missouri and Kentucky.

In the aftermath of Fort Sumter's surrender, Kentucky declared its intention not to take sides in the upcoming fight. Kentuckians were passionate to violence about their politics and neutrality was Frankfort's way of avoiding a civil war within the commonwealth's borders. This declaration actually proved to be a boon to the Confederacy, for the state provided a protective buffer between North and South from the Appalachian Mountains to the Mississippi River, putting both the Tennessee and Cumberland Rivers out of the reach of Federal gunboats.

One of Polk's first moves after arriving in his new command was to occupy New Madrid, Missouri. He threw up fortifications to prevent Union gunboats from descending the Mississippi. But Polk was not content. Another city upriver beckoned him. Columbus, Kentucky! He knew if he could just occupy Columbus, a battery of heavy guns along the city's high bluffs would prevent any Federal encroachment along the Mississippi.

His orders not to enter Kentucky under any circumstance, combined with Davis' pledge to the Kentucky legislature to respect the state's neutrality should have been enough to keep the Fighting Bishop out of the commonwealth. It was not. On September 3, 1861, he paraded his troops through the city and quickly turned Columbus into a river fortress.

It was a grievous wound; a needless, self-inflicted wound. Having won his prize, Polk dithered about taking Paducah. General Ulysses S. Grant showed no hesitation. Two days after Polk seized Columbus, Grant marched into Paducah. Polk was flanked and Columbus was worthless. The Fighting Bishop had flaunted Kentucky's neutrality for nothing.

The dominoes fell quickly: Mill Springs, Forts Henry and Donelson, Shiloh Church and the loss of Albert Sidney Johnston, the retreat to Corinth, Beauregard's "breakdown," and the retreat to Tupelo. Kentucky, middle Tennessee, and northern Mississippi and Alabama were now in Union hands, leaving Chattanooga vulnerable. This important city, sitting on the Georgia border, was the gateway to the rail hub and industrial center at Atlanta.

Richmond sent General Edmund Kirby-Smith to Chattanooga to take command of the Army of East Tennessee. Smith's department ran from the Cumberland Gap in the north to Chattanooga in the south and was simply too large for Smith to guard with the few troops Richmond had sent him. Smith appealed to Braxton Bragg, now commanding the Army of Mississippi, for help. Bragg put McCowan's division on the trains and sent them east.

Smith's worse fears were realized when General Don Carlos Buell's Army of the Cumberland began a deliberate march towards Chattanooga. He lit up the telegraph wires to Bragg's headquarters in Mississippi urging the new commander to come to Tennessee and help him defend the city.

To delay Buell's march, Smith dispatched Nathan Bedford Forrest on a raid through middle Tennessee and John Hunt Morgan on a raid through Kentucky. Forrest destroyed railroad bridges and convinced Buell that he had plans to seize Nashville. As spectacular as Forrest's raid was, it was Morgan's raid that caught Bragg's attention and made him consider moving from Tupelo to Chattanooga. Morgan had entered Kentucky with 900 men but had left with 1200. He guaranteed both Bragg and Smith that an invasion of Kentucky would find many more men rallying around the Confederate standard.

On July 21, 1862, Bragg gave the order and put his army on the trains to Chattanooga, arriving in the city in less than three weeks. He met with Smith and, together, they put in place a strategy that would free Tennessee and Kentucky from Union hands. While Bragg waited for his supply wagons and artillery to arrive from Mississippi, Smith was to take his army and clear out the small Union force holding the Cumberland Gap. Once the Gap was

clear, Smith would return to Chattanooga. Bragg would then maneuver, cut Buell's supply line, and force Buell to fight, hopefully, on ground that would be advantageous to the Confederates.

Once Smith was away, he changed his mind. He no longer had any desire to lay siege to the Cumberland Gap. He sent word to Bragg that he planned to skirt around the Gap, leaving a small force to watch the Yankees while the rest of his men marched to Lexington to collect much needed supplies from the fertile Bluegrass Region.

Bragg found himself on the horns of a dilemma. He did not have enough men to handle Buell by himself, nor did he have the authority to order Smith to keep to their original plan. Smith only came under Bragg's direct authority when the two forces were combined.

Smith's insistence to move into Kentucky changed the operation. A campaign to destroy Buell's army was reduced to a raid deep into Kentucky. This action would take both Smith and Bragg far away from their supply sources and require them to live off the land.

Even though the focus of the campaign had changed, Bragg was still optimistic. He had not forgotten Morgan's enthusiastic report of how the Kentuckians had rallied to the Confederate standard.

At the end of August, Bragg headed to Kentucky. Both Union and Confederate armies moved on a similar line through Tennessee: each commander trying to outmarch the other.

Buell had a head start. Smith's movements had alerted the slow-moving Union general of Confederate plans for Kentucky. He had started on his way even before Bragg's artillery arrived from Mississippi. Buell squandered his lead when he stopped at Nashville, flung up fortifications, and waited for Bragg to attack. Several days passed before he realized Bragg had no interest in Nashville. Buell quickly got his men on the road. He approached Bowling Green about at the same time Bragg's lead elements neared Cave City. Bragg gathered his army at Glasgow, which put his troops between Buell and Louisville, effectively cutting Buell off from his supply base. Bragg had won the race. If Buell wanted Louisville, he would have to fight for it.

Bragg was then handed an unexpected gift when some of his men attacked (without orders) the Union stronghold at Munfordville. The attack failed, but the next morning, Bragg attacked with his entire army and won more than a victory. From Munfordville, Bragg was able to protect Smith still gathering supplies around Lexington.

One of the reasons Buell's great army moved so slowly was Buell's insistence on marching with a long train of supplies. Cut off from his supply base, he fed his army from his trains. This allowed him to stay put while Bragg's army stripped the Munfordville region bare. Confederate forage parties widened their circle, but it would not be long until Bragg would have to forgo his superior position in order to feed his army.

Bragg could always attack, but Buell had numerical superiority. Bragg requested Smith come to his aid, but Smith had no interest in leaving Lexington. He did, however, send a dispatch, lecturing in tone, to Bragg urging the general to hurry up and dispatch Buell, for until the Yankees were defeated, Kentucky would not rally to the Confederate cause.

The fact of the matter was the men of Kentucky were in no hurry to rally at all. A couple of regiments had been formed since the Confederates crossed the border, but the 15,000 rifles Bragg had brought with him remained, unused, in his wagons.

Bragg then hit upon an ingenious idea on how to get those rifles into the hands of new recruits. If the men of Kentucky would not volunteer, he would draft them into the army. To do so, he had to install a pro-Confederate government in Frankfort. As luck would have it, the duly-elected Confederate governor of Kentucky had joined him on the march. Bragg and the governor headed off to Frankfort for an inauguration.

In the meantime, Buell had come under tremendous pressure from Washington to rid Kentucky of the Confederate presence. Buell summoned his will, his courage, or both, and marched down the roads toward Lexington and Frankfort.

Bragg saw his opportunity. He sent word to Bardstown (where the army moved once it could no longer sustain itself at Munfordville) and ordered the army to attack.

Enter Leonidas Polk. In Bragg's absence, the Fighting Bishop had command of the army. He received Bragg's order and immediately called a war council where he proceeded to cajole, mesmerize, and bully his subordinates into ignoring the order. Instead of attacking, Polk retreated to Danville.

Fortunes changed rapidly. Smith had planned an attack of Buell's columns to coincide with Polk's assault. When Bragg learned of Polk's insubordination, he was able to call off Smith in time. The newly installed governor had no choice but to break off his inaugural speech in the middle and depart Frankfort with Bragg.

Bragg sent orders to Polk to march to Harrodsburg which Polk ignored. Bragg repeated, insisted really, that his orders be obeyed. Polk turned around and finally headed where Bragg wanted him to go.

As the soldiers tramped down the road to Harrodsburg, they suffered from the heat and lack of water. Kentucky was in the midst of a severe draught. Every well, waterhole, and spring had been drained long ago, but the Confederates heard that there was water near the small town of Perryville. Union forces in the area also heard the same. Both armies arrived at Doctor's Creek to fill their canteens, resulting in an hour or two of shooting before night fell.

When Bragg learned that Buell was at Perryville, he ordered Polk to attack immediately. Once more Polk refused to obey. Later, he would explain to Bragg that he didn't understand what Bragg had meant by the word *immediately*. The battle commenced only after Bragg's arrival on the battlefield.

The Confederates won a tactical victory at Perryville, but it came to nothing. Bragg could not remain in Kentucky. With Smith bringing up the rear, the Confederates retreated to Murfreesboro. A storm of vitriol and criticism broke over Bragg's head. Polk and Smith heaped on their criticism as well. According to these two generals, the failure of the campaign belonged solely to Braxton Bragg. Never once did Polk and Smith take responsibility for their actions, which doomed the enterprise even before Bragg had left Chattanooga.

The division in the ranks of the Army of Mississippi, soon to be renamed the Army of Tennessee, was not addressed by Davis, who refused to hear any criticism against his West Point classmate. Polk remained in place and his pattern of disobeying orders and influencing his peers to do the same would cost the Confederates many more victories.



## THE CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

### STONEWALL JACKSON

By Charles Holt Dobbs, Chaplain 12<sup>th</sup> Mississippi Infantry CSA

Charles Holt Dobbs was born in St. Francisville, Louisiana, on 9 July 1835. His father, Henry M. Dobbs, Jr., and his mother, Thekla Nubling, were originally from Dutchess County, New York. Charles Dobbs graduated from Centre College in 1859 and Danville Theological Seminary in Danville, Kentucky in 1861. He was ordained by the Central Mississippi Presbytery and served as the pastor of the Oak Grove, Mississippi, Presbyterian Church from 1861 to 1863. He was the chaplain of the 12th Mississippi Infantry Regiment, Army of Northern Virginia, from February, 1863 to September, 1864, and was at the battles of Chancellorsville, Gettysburg, Spotsylvania, and Cold Harbor.

Chaplain Dobbs wrote "Reminiscences of an Army Chaplain" as a series of weekly articles for the Presbyterian Christian Observer in 1874.

I do not attempt to write history in these papers; I design merely to give an account of events and incidents, and their religious bearings, which came under my observation, or which I gathered from trusty witnesses. It is certainly true that the good which men do lives after them. Gen. Jackson exerted a great moral influence upon the chaplains, the officers and men of the army of Virginia. His godliness, his simplicity, his sincerity, his spirituality, were themes which never grew stale. The ungodly as well as the pious revered and honored him, as well for his earnest, religious zeal, as his soldierly qualities.

Whenever he rode through the camp, the air resounded with cheers. On the morning that our meeting was interrupted by the long roll, Gen. Jackson, with his staff, rode past our command. The men cheered loudly, and after he had passed you could hear on all sides, "Look out, boys, old Jack is on the war path;" "he's got on his new suit;" "bloody work ahead;" "old Jack has on his war look;" "he is wide awake;" "he is riding at his fighting gait;" etc., etc. Sometimes after this I learned the following particulars from an eye witness:

Gen. Jackson first asked Rev. Dr. Lacy, his chaplain, if he could not pilot him through the wilderness, by some road to the left of the plank road, by which he could get into that road two or three miles beyond Chancellors. (1) Dr. Lacy, not having lived there for a number of years, sought out a trust farmer as guide. This man informed him that there was a road which led into the plank road a half mile beyond Chancellors, and another five miles beyond. Gen. Jackson chose the latter, and sent one brigade upon the former, some of whom were captured, and left the impression that their whole command was captured. And here is where prisoner number one got his impression. History, however, tells us how Gen. Jackson succeeded in planting his batteries, and forming his lines within a few hundred feet of Hooker's reserves. Prisoner number two gave us the first intimation of this grand flank movement. Soon after this, however, came the intelligence that Gen. Jackson was seriously wounded, and was suffering from pneumonia, and the joy of victory was turned into sorrow. I believe I could have laid my hands upon a thousand men who would willingly have died in his place. Many of our men now lost heart in the success of the Southern

Cause. It was not from lack of confidence in Gen. Lee, but there was none who could execute like Stonewall Jackson.

When the news came, as come we all felt it must, that the great General was dead, the whole army wept, and every man pronounced his eulogy. (2) They talked of his piety, his earnestness, his interest in them, his love for souls. They talked of his natural traits of character and of his generalship; they lived over their army life, in which he was the hero.

A chaplain said: "I met him one day, and thought he was a captain of artillery, but he talked so well and was so thoroughly posted as to a chaplain's duties, and gave me so much valuable information and advice, that I was not surprised when they told me he was Stonewall Jackson."

A private said: "He spoke in the prayer meeting, a few words, but they were so earnest that I shall never forget."

Another said: "At meeting he came and sat down on a log by me, and would not let me get up to make room for him. He knelt down by me and prayed; it was so natural, so earnest."

Another said: "He shook hands with me, and urged me to give my heart to God."

Thus, all over the army, men of every rank and condition pronounced his eulogium. And all had some action, some word, some pleasant recollection, which doubtless now they tell to their children, with tears in their eyes, as they think of the great and good man, who has "crossed over the river, and is at rest under the trees." (3)

From John W. Brinsfield, ed., *The Spirit Divided: Memoirs of Civil War Chaplains—The Confederacy*.

1. Chaplain Beverly Tucker Lacy, former pastor of the Presbyterian Church in Fredericksburg, Virginia, was Jackson's "Corps Chaplain."

2. Lt. Gen. Jackson died on May 10.

3. Paraphrase of Jackson's last words, "Let us cross over the river and rest under the shade of the trees."

## Trilogy of Dr. Edward R. DeVries

**This is a trilogy of three biographical works authored by Dr. Edward R. DeVries.**

### **The Christian Testimony of General Robert E. Lee**

94 pg., 2003. School of Biblical & Theological Studies, \$7, PDF

### **The Christian Testimony of General J.E.B. Stuart**

60 pg., 2005. School of Biblical & Theological Studies, \$6, PDF

*Foreword by Colonel J.E.B. Stuart IV*

### **The Christian Generals Volume III: The Life and Ministry of Brigadier General Richard M. Gano**

43 pg., 2007. School of Biblical & Theological Studies, \$6, PDF

**Reviewer: Deputy Adjutant General William L. Caynor Sr.**

#### **Review:**

These biographies are a testimony to the Christian faith of these three Confederate Generals. Their lives are illustrated as being interwoven with a spiritually strong foundation. Without this, these men would not be who historians record them as being today. Their integrity and character are an affirmation to this cornerstone in conviction. Dr. DeVries seizes the essence of these gallant southern leaders through primary & secondary documented resources in order to better understand the character of a man. He dares to take you away from the battlefield of the General and more into the constitution of a human being. These books are a must to understanding who these prodigious men were and why they were in a position to change the course of a nation.

All three of these books can be ordered from: SB&TS - Box 618 - Lowell, Fl 32663  
or can be purchased online at: <http://www.bibleschool.edu/Dr.DeVries/booktape.htm>

## CONFEDERATE LEGACY FUND

As members of the Military Order of Stars and Bars we are proud to honor our ancestors and the cause that they fought for. We have an obligation to future generations to preserve the memories of our great battles and the dreams of what might have been. This is our sacred trust.

As an organization we are entering an era where many other organizations are threatened. Each year their members grow older and there are fewer new members. Worse yet, their financial resources dwindle as a downward spiral takes place.

As members of the Order we have a unique opportunity to assure our relevance for future generations. Fortunately, our own membership is actually growing while memberships in other organizations dwindle. But there still is a financial component that is needed to assure our viability moving forward. This is why the Confederate Legacy Fund is so important to our future.

The Legacy Fund is part of our over-all financial plan. We are asking our members to consider MOS&B in their financial planning. Members who donate \$1000 will receive the distinctive *Legion of Merit* neck ribbon and drop. Your donation may be made as a single payment, in two annual payments of \$500 each, or in four annual payments of \$250 each.

We are deeply indebted to our members for their generosity. Over \$50,000 has already been raised for the Legacy Fund through the generosity of our members. The Fund will be treated like an endowment - only the interest from this fund will be spent and the principle will always remain intact. Our expenditures are limited to worthwhile projects such as scholarships and Southern heritage projects. Eventually, all such expenditures will be paid for from the interest generated from the Legacy Fund instead of our General Fund.

Please consider the Legacy Fund in your financial planning. Your gift will be greatly appreciated. *Deo Vin-dice.*



### CONFEDERATE LEGACY FUND PLEDGE FORM

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Make Check/gift payable to: MOS&B Confederate Legacy Fund

Mail to: MOS&B – IHQ, P.O. Box 1700, White House, TN 37188-1700

## 200th Birthday Celebration

On February 4, 2012, A. H. Stephens' birthday was celebrated and hosted by the MOS&B. This event took place at the A. H. Stephens State Park in Crawfordville, GA. Pictures of this event and memorial service are included herein.



## Brigadier General St. John Richardson Liddell MOS&B Chapter Installs New Officers

The Brigadier General St. John Richardson Liddell Chapter #271 held its January 2012 meeting in a 19th century home and those in attendance were treated to a delicious home cooked gourmet meal. The highlight of the evening was the Chapter Change of Command. After the Induction of Officers Ceremony, a birthday toast to General Robert E. Lee of old Virginia was presented and everyone enjoyed a piece of a Confederate Flag adorned birthday cake in the General's honor. The program for the evening was a presentation of the house's history, its contents which included a variety of antiques, and a tour of the home.

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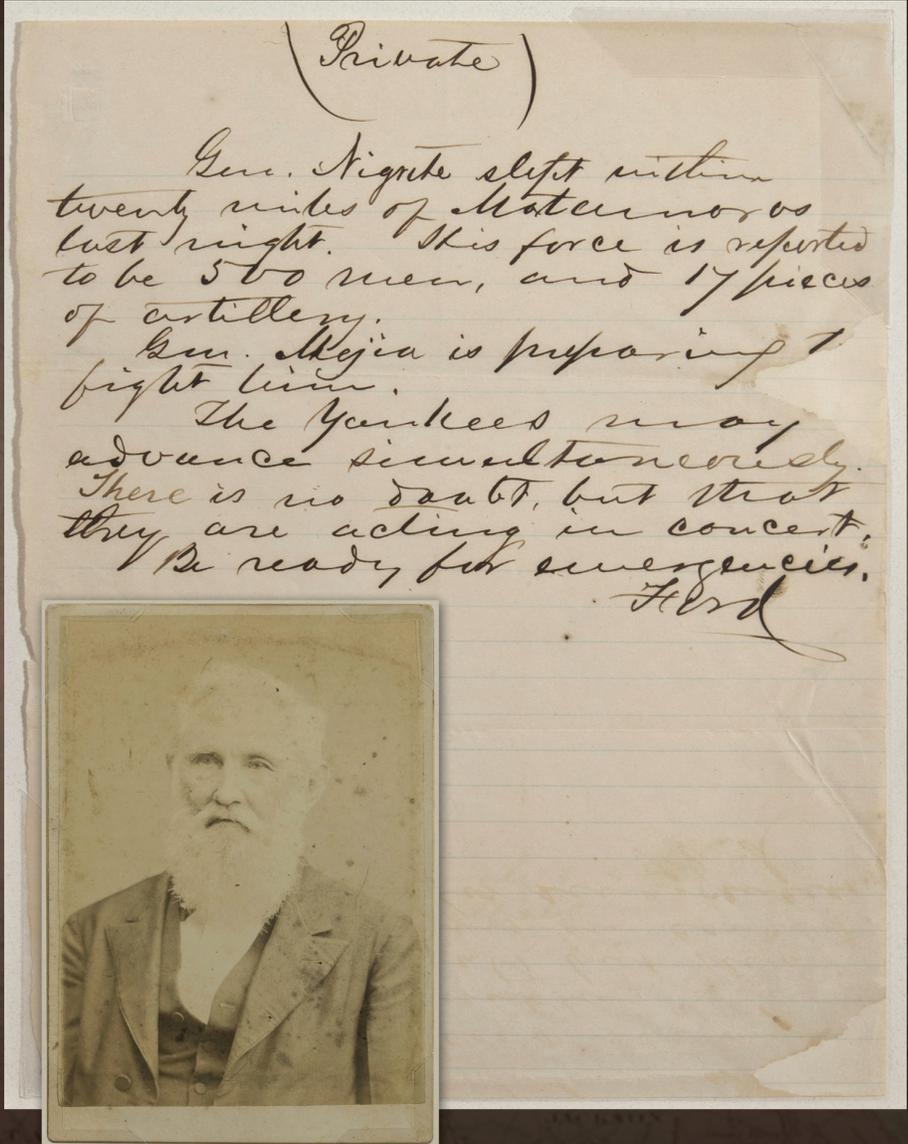
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# A Rare Intelligence Report by John Salmon "RIP" Ford and cabinet card photograph of Ford

John Salmon "RIP" Ford was already a legendary Texas Ranger by the time of the American Civil War. Destiny, however, had not finished with him. This dispatch finds him days away from leading Confederate forces to victory in the last battle of the Civil War, the Battle of Palmito Ranch. Colonel Ford had secured trade agreements between the Confederacy, the Mexican port of Puerto Bagdad, and the nearby river city of Matamoros; both cities were crucial in sustaining the South's arms and ammunition supply train. This trade agreement remained in effect even as Mexico experienced civil discord of its own. In 1863, as part of Napoleon III's plan to conquer Mexico, French forces occupied Mexico City and installed a monarch loyal to France. This plan was an eventual failure, but France would maintain a military presence in Mexico for years to come. Likewise, the Confederates remained committed to Mexico and employed agents like Ford to observe how the situation would play out, as this communiqué attests.

Tomás Mejía, the subject of this report, was a conservative, pro-monarchy Mexican cavalry general who sided with the French. Here Ford notes the proximity of Mejía's nemesis General Miguel Negrete to Matamoros and Puerto Bagdad where Mejía was situated. Noting that "Nigrite slept within twenty miles of Matamoros last night... Gen. Mejia is preparing to fight him. The Yankees may advance simultaneously," Ford was conveying intelligence that Union forces and those of Mexican republicans were likely planning a joint attack on their common enemy.



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Pictured above is Ellis Selph & Jan Johnsson

## Robert E. Lee Birthday Celebration Held January 16th

**RALEIGH**—The 23rd Annual Robert E. Lee Birthday Celebration was held in the historic House Chambers of the NC State Capitol in Raleigh on Saturday, January 21, 2012. The celebration was sponsored by the Capt. James I. Waddell Chapter MOS&B, Raleigh; the Capt. Samuel A. Ashe Chapter UDC, Raleigh; and the 47th Regiment NC Troops Camp SCV, Wake Forest. The Stars & Bars flew over the Capitol during the ceremony.

**Frank B. Powell, III**, Commander of the Capt. Waddell Chapter served as the master of ceremonies. Greetings were brought from the following organizations: NC SCV Commander **Tom Smith**; Capt. Samuel Ashe Chapter UDC President **Carolina Cooper**; NC MOSB Commander **Rodney Williams**; and the NC Children of the Confederacy 2nd Vice President **Michelle Powers**.

SCV Lt. Commander-in-Chief **Kelly Barrow** of Grifton, GA, gave the keynote address on *Robert E. Lee and Stonewall Jackson*. Members of the *Confederate States Marines* posted and retired the colors and **Ellis Selph** and **Jan Johnsson** provided music throughout the service including *Dixie*. Members of the Capt. Waddell MOS&B Chapter in attendance included **Frank Powell, George Pearson, and Byron Brady**.

### ***THE CONFEDERATE BATTLE FLAG***

For the average non-Southerner, the continued affection residents of the South display toward the controversial Battle Flag can be baffling. If African-Americans are so incensed by the banner, why not just fold it up and put it away? Why indeed? The war has been over for 137 years. Certain unsavory groups of a racist stripe seem unduly attached to the symbol as well. No one in the print or electronic media seems willing to come forward and offer a counterpoint. Is there another point of view after all?

Newspapers and writers have developed the habit of concluding that all flag related stories end the same way. The throwaway line for the other point of view is usually something like "flag defenders say the banner stands for heritage". However, what does that mean? If such an understanding can be developed, is it still not overshadowed by prevailing negative opinions? Can a symbol so emotionally charged ever be mutually understood?

Therein lays the problem. The very same symbol means completely different things to different people. Perhaps this is the best place to start. Many hate groups have gravitated toward the historical flag. However, it is also true these very same groups also use other symbols that are loved and cherished by millions of people. The pinnacle of the Ku Klux Klan was in the 1920s. They boasted over a million members with national leadership in Ohio and Illinois. Yet the most careful photographic scrutiny of the era will fail to reveal a single Confederate flag. One will however find the American flag and the Christian cross in profusion. These symbols are mainstays even today for hate groups.

The difference is that patriotic Americans and Christians already have a context for these symbols. The icons cannot be co-opted because they already mean something else. This is also precisely why Southerners continue to love the Battle flag in the face of so much bad publicity. The flag already has meaning and context.

In fact, what the shamrock is to the Irish or the Star of David is to Jews, the Battle Flag is to most Southerners. There is enough historical baggage to encumber any of these symbols, but there is more to admire. The Confederate flag embodies religion, ethnic heritage, early-American revolutionary ideology and ultimately familial sacrifice on the battlefield. The circumstances that gave it birth are the touchstone of the regions identity, no different from the potato famine for the Irish or the holocaust for the Jew. To examine the flag, in historical and ethnic context should permit all but the most rabid flag-haters an opportunity to understand what is behind the vague explanation of "heritage".

While the Battle flag did not make its appearance in its recognizable form until 1862, some of the design elements date to antiquity. The "X" is the cross of St. Andrew. It was the fisherman Andrew who introduced his brother Simon Peter to Jesus in Galilee 2000 years ago. When the disciple Andrew was himself martyred years later he asked not to be crucified on the same type of cross Christ died upon. His last request was honored and he was put to death on a cross on the shape of the "X". Andrew later became the patron saint of Scotland and the Scottish flag

today is the white St. Andrews cross on a blue field. When Scottish immigrants settled in Northern Ireland in the 1600s, the cross was retained on their new flag, albeit a red St. Andrews cross on a white field.

When the New World opened up, landless Scots and Ulster-Scots left their homes and most of them settled in the South, preserving their old culture in the isolated rural and frontier environment

Grady McWhiney explains in his book *Cracker Culture*, that fully 75% of the early South was populated by these Celts. Most sold themselves into indentured servitude (the earliest form of American slavery) because they could not afford the cost of passage. This explains why only 6% of the African slaves brought to the New World ended up in the American colonies. The lowland English of Saxon descent by contrast settled the Northeastern colonies. This imbued those colonies with such an English character they are still known as New England. Urban, commercial and materialistic by nature these Yankee descendants could not have been more different from their Southern countrymen. Many historians believe the longstanding historical animosities between Saxon and Celt did not bode well for the new country. With this historical perspective the St. Andrews cross seems almost destined to be raised again as ancient rivals clashed on new battlefields.

From this Celtic stock, the ingredients that made the unique Southern stew were gradually introduced. The American Revolution unleashed Celtic hatred of the redcoat. Southerners penned the Declaration of Independence, chased the British through the Carolina 's and defeated them at Yorktown. However, they were dismayed when New England immediately sought renewed trade with England and failed to support the French in their own revolution. Another Virginian later crafted the Constitution, a document as sacred to Southerners as their Bibles. Law, they believed finally checkmated tyranny. The red, white and blue 13-starred banner was their new cherished flag. These same features would later become a permanent part of the Battle flag.

But all was not well with the new republic. Mistrust between the regions manifested even before the revolution was over. The unwieldy Articles of Confederation preceded the constitution. Two of the former colonies (N.C and R.I.) had to be coerced into approving the latter document after wrangling that included northern insistence they be allowed to continue the slave trade another 20 years. Virginia and Kentucky passed resolutions in 1796 asserting their belief that political divorce was an explicit right. Massachusetts threatened on three separate occasions to secede, a right affirmed by all the New England states at the 1818 Hartford convention. The abolitionists were champions of secession and would burn copies of the constitution at their rallies. Their vicious attacks upon all things Southern occurring as it did in the midst of Northern political and economic ascendancy animated Southern secessionists years before the average Southerner could consider such a possibility.

Meanwhile Low Church Protestantism had taken root in the South in the early 1800's and like kudzu has flourished until the present day. Sociological studies conducted by John Shelton Reed of the University of North Carolina scientifically prove that the South is still the nations most religious region. Southerners are more likely to belong, attend and contribute to their churches than Americans from any other section. Calvinism is the main strain of religious thought and this connection to Scotland and the St. Andrews cross is no coincidence. The religious revivals that swept the Confederate armies during the war further ingrained faith as a fixture of Southern character. During the same era north of the Mason-Dixon transcendentalism, as expounded by Thoreau and Emerson, the taproot of modern secular humanism, was displacing puritanical religion as the dominant philosophical belief. The nation was also fracturing along spiritual lines.

By 1860, the United States was in reality two countries living miserably under one flag. When war broke out, Dixie 's original banner so resembled the old American forebear that a new flag was needed to prevent confusion on the field of battle. The blue St. Andrews cross, trimmed in white on a red field appeared above the defending Confederate army. Thirteen stars appeared on those bars representing the eleven seceding states and revolutionary precedent. These fighting units were all recruited from the same communities, with lifelong friends and close relatives among the casualties of every battle. As they buried their dead friends and relatives, the names of those battles were painted or stitched on their flags. At Appomattox a Union observer wrote, they were stoic as they stacked their arms but wept bitterly when they had to furl their flags.

Then, as now the flag symbolizes for Southerners not hate but love; love of heritage, love of faith, love of constitutional protections, love of family and community. If the 1860 census is to be believed, 95% of the slaves were owned by just 5% of the population. The modern insistence that the conflict was to resolve the issue of slavery is at best overstated and at worst revisionist.

But the current argument does deserve one more look. The vitriolic, almost irrational antipathy toward the flag is a recent phenomenon. Credible research reveals its origins to be in the 1980's revived by a financially strained and scandal plagued NAACP. Current President, Kwame Ninsin has turned the issue into a fundraising juggernaut.

Egged on by a liberal media irritated at the lingering conservatism in the South, the flag fight has generated much heat but little light. South Carolina relocated the flag from its capital dome to a place of historical significance after they decided it flew in a position of false sovereignty. Governor Hodges became the second governor in a row whose broken promises to "leave the flag alone" scuttled their reelection bids. Former Governor Barnes of Georgia finessed a backroom flag deal that for now has changed the flag but sank his rising political star as outraged citizens sent him to retirement in the 2002 elections. In Mississippi, however, the thing was put to an old fashioned democratic vote. By a 2 to 1 margin and outspent 10 to 1 they voted to keep the state flag, which features the Battle flag. In fact, three times more African-Americans voted to keep the flag than voted for President Bush. Mississippians speak for all Southerners when they say "It's our symbol, its our heritage and therefore our choice".

In the end what people choose to believe about the flag is just that, a choice. One can accept the interpretation of entire states, Southern rock and country bands, NASCAR fans, Kappa Alpha fraternities, thousands of re-enactors and a century of thoughtful historians. People can also embrace the interpretation of a few pathetic racists and an opportunistic civil rights organization well amplified by a sympathetic media. Like all choices its says less about the object than it does about the person Perhaps only the Irishman can define the shamrock, or a Jew explain the Star of David. Are not Southerners entitled to the same latitude?

Virginia Kuhn



## Study Findings Released on Unmarked Graves at Vicksburg National Cemetery

Date: February 14, 2012

Contact: [Michael Madell, Superintendent](#), 601-619-2902

VICKSBURG, Miss. - The National Park Service today announced the final results of an 18-month study of unmarked and unrecorded burials in Vicksburg National Cemetery. Research performed by Vicksburg National Military Park staff and archeologists from the Southeast Archeological Center identified a total of 13 previously unknown graves. The interments are located in newer sections of the cemetery that, according to records, were opened beginning in the 1940s, and used to bury veterans of World War II and later, the Korean War.

"Though we are relieved to now know the results of our research," said Vicksburg National Military Park Superintendent Michael Madell, "we also are very sad to learn that 13 individuals have had to rest in anonymity for several decades. These souls, be they veterans or spouses of veterans, deserve more respect and recognition. We apologize to them and to their families."

In August 2010, as cemetery workers were preparing a grave site for the burial of a World War II veteran, they discovered the site they were preparing was occupied by a casket. There was no headstone, nor record of interment in the space. An adjacent grave site, also believed to be empty, was also found to be occupied by a casket. It, too, was unmarked and unrecorded. Those graves were immediately closed without disturbing the remains, and the veteran was buried in another plot.

Shortly after the two unmarked graves were discovered, NPS officials asked for assistance from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to examine additional sites within the newer sections of the cemetery to determine if there were other potential unknown burials. In December 2010, ground-penetrating radar (GPR) devices were used to scan portions of these sections and detected what appeared to be a significant number of unmarked graves. Soon after, NPS workers physically probed some of the suspected sites with metal rods. In several cases the probes made contact with solid objects beneath the surface, appearing to confirm the GPR's findings.

In January 2011, Madell requested assistance from the NPS Southeast Archeological Center to further investigate the anomalies. Professional archeologists from SEAC conducted field research in the cemetery in January, May, and June of 2011. The team utilized more extensive GPR and probe testing, and also used shallow mechanical scraping to get a more precise picture of subsurface features.

Mechanical scraping involved using a backhoe to create a shallow excavation approximately 62 centimeters wide, averaging 30 centimeters deep, and of varying length. The scraping technique proved effective, allowing the archeologists to differentiate between false readings created by soil conditions, rocks, and other subsurface debris, and that of the actual grave shafts. Madell stressed that the scraping was not deep enough to disturb interments.

When information collected through the field investigation was analyzed, archeologists were able to verify, with a high degree of probability, the existence of eleven previously unknown graves (in addition to the two unmarked and unrecorded graves discovered in August 2010).

Madell further explained that NPS staff also conducted a comprehensive review of archives and records in an attempt to identify the individuals who were buried in the unmarked graves. He noted that NPS staff searched or coordinated with others to search records from local funeral homes, the Mississippi Department of Archives and History, the Department of Veterans Affairs, and National Archives facilities in both Washington, DC, and the Atlanta area, all without success. "My staff and I searched all files and storage facilities located in the park without finding pertinent information," Madell said. "Regrettably, we must conclude that there are no records to indicate the names of the 13 souls who rest in these unmarked graves."

Madell noted that the records search did result in the discovery of the names of approximately 130 spouses of veterans who had been properly recorded in files and buried next to their loved one, but whose names were never inscribed on the headstones. The National Park Service is working with the Department of Veterans Affairs to arrange for the names of those spouses to be added to the headstones. The VA also will be providing a headstone inscribed with 'unknown' for each of the 13 unmarked and unrecorded graves that were discovered.

The NPS intends to collaborate with local veterans groups to honor the 13 unknown individuals as part of this year's Memorial Day ceremonies.

Vicksburg National Cemetery was established in 1866, with the first burials occurring in 1867. The cemetery was closed for interments in 1961, with exceptions made for those veterans or descendants of veterans who had previously "reserved" a gravesite.

*NOTE: A complete copy of the report on archeological investigations can be found at: [www.nps.gov/vick/parkmgmt/upload/VICK-Cemetery-Investigations-Final-Report.pdf](http://www.nps.gov/vick/parkmgmt/upload/VICK-Cemetery-Investigations-Final-Report.pdf)*

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*Jerry Patterson is the elected Texas Land Commissioner and a Marine with service in Viet Nam. He is proud of his Confederate heritage and tries to be the voice of reason with groups like the NAACP and other organizations. He has been vocal in his support of the Texas Confederate license plate and has also pushed for a Buffalo Soldiers license plate. He speaks at Confederate events and is a voice for us in the State Capitol in Austin. The following is an article he recently wrote.*

*Submitted by Gary Loudermilk, Comm. General*

## **Honoring Our History**

Any attempt to judge our history by today's standards — out of the context from which it occurred — is at best problematic and at worst dishonest. For example, consider the following quotes:

- 1) "So far from engaging in a war to perpetuate slavery, I am rejoiced that slavery is abolished."
- 2) "... there is a physical difference between the white and black races which I believe will forever forbid the two races living together on terms of social and political equality."

By today's standards, the person who made the first statement, Confederate Gen. Robert E. Lee, would be considered enlightened. The person who made the second, President Abraham Lincoln, would be considered a white supremacist.

Many believe the War Between the States was solely about slavery and the Confederacy is synonymous with racism. That conclusion is faulty, because the premise is inaccurate. If slavery were the sole or even the predominant issue in sparking the Civil War, the following statement by Lincoln is puzzling: "My paramount object in this struggle is to save the Union and it is not either to save or destroy slavery. If I could save the Union without freeing any slaves I would do it."

If preserving slavery was the South's sole motive for waging war, why did Lee free his slaves before the war began? In 1856, he said slavery was "... a moral and political evil in any country ..."

Why was Lincoln's Emancipation Proclamation effective in 1863, rather than when the war started in 1861? And why did it free only the slaves in the Confederacy and not in Northern or border states?

If slavery was the only reason for the Civil War, how do you explain Texas Gov. Sam Houston's support for the Union and support for the institution of slavery? In light of the fact that 90 percent of Confederate soldiers owned no slaves, is it logical to assume they would have put their own lives at risk so that slave-owning Southern aristocrats could continue their privileged status?

There are few simple and concise answers to these questions. One answer, however, is that most Southerners' allegiance was to their sovereign states first and the Union second. They believed states freely joined the Union without coercion and were free to leave the Union at will. You could say they really believed in the 10th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution, the "powers not delegated" clause. They believed the federal government should be responsible for the common defense, a postal service and little else. They viewed the Union Army as an invader, not an emancipator.

I am not attempting to trivialize slavery. It is a dark chapter in our history, North and South alike. However, I am a proud Southerner and a proud descendent of Confederate soldiers. I honor their service because, to me, it represents the sacrifice of life and livelihood that Southerners made for a cause more important to them than their personal security and self-interest.

While I'm aware of the genocidal war conducted by my country against the American Indian, I'm still a proud American. And while I'm also aware of the atrocities that occurred at My Lai, I am proud of my service as a U.S. Marine in Vietnam.

If the Confederate flag represented slavery, then the U.S. flag must represent slavery even more so. Slavery existed for four years under the Stars and Bars and for almost 100 years under the Stars and Stripes. If the few hundred members of racist groups such as the Ku Klux Klan want to adopt the Confederate flag as their symbol, over the objections of millions of Southerners, should we believe it has been corrupted for all time? Since the KKK has adopted the cross for its burnings, should churches across the country remove this symbol of Christian faith from all places of worship?

Should we diminish the service of the Buffalo Soldiers (Black U.S. cavalry troopers of the late 1800s), since those soldiers were an integral part of a war that subjugated and enslaved a whole race of people, the American Plains Indians? No. We should not surrender the Confederate flag or the cross to the racists, and we should not tear down the monuments. Retroactive cleansing of history is doomed to failure because it is, at heart, a lie. We should memorialize and commemorate all of our soldiers who served honorably — those who wore blue or gray or served as Buffalo Soldiers — whether or not we completely support their actions in today's enlightened world.

Jerry Patterson  
Texas Land Commissioner, Austin



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**Upcoming Re-enactments for March & April**

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|---|---|
| March 24-25, 2012: Battle of Narcoosee Mill - St. Cloud, FL   | April 28 - 29, 2012: 25th Annual Civil War Re-enactment at Rank Park - Keokuk, IA                               |
| March 29 - April 1, 2012: 150th Anniversary of the Battle of Shiloh - Shiloh, TN                                    | May 3 - 6, 2012: 150th Anniversary of the New Mexico Battles of Glorietta Pass and Apache Canyon - Santa Fe, NM |
| March 30 - April 1, 2012: 9th Annual Prado Regional Civil War Re-enactment - Chino, CA                              | May 4 - 6, 2012: 150th Battle of McDowell - McDowell, VA  |
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