

Volume 4, Number 4
April 2012

Officer's Call



Sesquicentennial Series Article #19

Patrick Ronayne Cleburne

March 17, 1828 - November 30, 1864

By: Jerry V. Lawrence

It has been said that Major General Patrick Cleburne was “argumentatively the best Division Commander in the Confederate Army.” You can be sure that is not a quote from anyone from the state of Arkansas. To all native Arkansans he was the best without question. One hundred and fifty years after his death he is still the most popular individual that historical research is being done on. Each year, on the Saturday nearest the General’s birth date, there is a memorial service for him at his grave site in the Maple Hill Cemetery, at Helena, Arkansas. The event draws several hundred at times and in the past has featured such noted historians, as key note speakers, as Tom Cartwright, of Tennessee, James Willis, of Kentucky, and Marilyn Gillhuly, of Georgia. The General’s popularity is not limited to just Arkansas, many of the other Southern states still pay tribute to the “Stonewall of the West.”

Life began for Patrick R. Cleburne, near Cork, Ireland on March 16, 1828 and he received his education by a private tutor until he was twelve and then attended a private school. In 1843 he became apprenticed to a physician, where he acquired the basic skills in tending shop and mixing medicines. In 1846 he failed the entrance examination to medical school, because he lacked the knowledge of Latin, Greek and French. Patrick’s mother had died and his father remarried, to a French lady, and Cleburne had a great horror of the stepmother, so he ran away and joined the British Army. He enlisted in the 41st Regiment of Foot Soldiers. On July 4, 1849 he was promoted to Corporal, but in September his father found out where he was and went and brought him home.

Cleburne’s father then gave him a job in a drug store, in Cork, where he learned chemistry and pharmacy and after getting his certificate he decided to come to the United States. He arrived in New Orleans on Christmas Day, 1849. He went to Cincinnati, Ohio for awhile but soon accepted a position as a manager of a drug store in Helena, Arkansas. In Helena, he was soon recognized as a gentleman and was invited into the town’s best social circles. He joined the Lafayette Masonic Lodge No. 16 in 1852. He became proficient in the two lower degrees, of masonry, and conferred these degrees upon applicants with as much precision as older and more experienced masons. In 1853 Cleburne was elected master of the lodge a position that he presided over with honor and dignity, preserving perfect order and commanding close attention.

(— 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:

Under 20 years old	= \$900
20-29 years old	= \$800
30-39 years old	= \$700
40-49 years old	= \$600
50-59 years old	= \$500
60-69 years old	= \$400
70 years old & over	= \$300

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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Table of Contents

Page	Topic
1	Sesquicentennial Series Article # 19
3	Commander General's Message
6	Arkansas Sesquicentennial Projects
7	Alabama Society Hold Annual Meeting
9	Remembering the War, Remembering Our Ancestors
9	Book Review
10	San Antonio, TX Annual Convention Notice
11	San Antonio, TX Annual Convention Form
12	1000 Years of Confederate Service
14	The Gathering Twilight of Hope
17	The Chaplain's Corner - April: Endings & Beginnings
18	Confederate Legacy Fund
19	2012 Generals Lee & Jackson Tribute Banquet
19	Louisiana Society Sesquicentennial Project
21	Pelican Publishing Company Publisher and Owners Passes Away
22	Texas Confederate Memorial Day: April 26
23	NC Society Installs Wayside Markers
24	The Last Victim of the War

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Commander General's Message

Leaving a Legacy of Confidence



This year's International Convention will be a very important meeting as we continue to set our path forward as a fraternal Order. We will be electing our next administration to serve for the years 2012-2014. We will be ratifying major changes to our Bylaws and our Constitution. We will be spending time, not only working hard, but building new relationships as we learn from and are inspired by each other. We will be broadening our bases of support, increasing our loyalty to the Order, perpetuating the memories and accomplishments of that generation that sacrificed all for their Country. This annual meeting will produce many significant and unique rippling effects for years to come. I challenge you to come and participate with us. Your vote is important to our system of corporate governance. It is an exciting chance to choose your destiny and leave a legacy for others to follow!

For the first time since late 2008, our financial balance sheet has passed the \$300,000 mark. As of March 31, 2012, Treasurer General Jim Templin has reported that the assets of the Order are valued at \$305,616.80. This financial report validates the current model of a volunteer Headquarters, as we have been able to minimize our operational expenditures and use our revenues to replenish our operational funds and make contributions to projects that support our purpose and mission. We do have a financial plan that will grow and change as the circumstances of the Order evolves and the economic upheavals of our times continue.

I have observed that there is a difference between being a member of the Order and being a member who invests in the Order. Some members join the Order to receive a membership certificate and medal. They submit their applications, pay their first year dues, and then vanish. Other members join because they perceive the need to preserve our Heritage and our History. The latter member invests time, energy, enthusiasm, skills, and leadership, in addition to financial assets. Deciding to participate in the Order can be a simple decision. We need you as a member to be passionate about your responsibility. What better way to translate that passion than to invest in our future through our youth? We must educate our children and teach them the importance of the values and principles by which their ancestors lived. What finer lasting gift to use than the record of their ancestors? Planned activities that meaningfully involve new members and the youth will generate excitement and ensure willingness to continue to do more as they connect with other areas of service. Assigned sponsors or mentors, who are responsible for encouraging the new member to participate in special activities, will help build relationships with the chapter membership.

In the coming years, I am confident that the Order will project itself as a leader among heritage organizations. Our stability and performance will continue to be appealing to the new member. The common vision of the membership under the expert guidance and long-range planning of the General Executive Council will ensure that we are able to achieve our mission now and in the future. Membership satisfaction levels are increasing significantly as a result of the focused efforts on improving the levels of membership services, benefits and communications. It is an honor to serve you. I thank you with grateful appreciation for your loyal support.

Gentlemen, every day matters! *YOU* are the Order and our future is in *YOUR* hands! *WE* are men of action!

Max Lee Waldrop, Jr.
Commander General

(- From Page 1: Sesquicentennial Article #19 -)

During his term as Master, the Grand Lodge sent out a decree demanding the subordinate lodges pay a tax to support the St. John's Military College, located in Little Rock. Cleburne, with many leading Masons took a firm stand against the constitutionality of the decree issued by the Grand Lodge. Because of this controversy Lafayette Lodge No. 16 lost their charter and her jewels were returned to the Grand Lodge. The lodge was still under suspension when the War Between the State broke out. A number of the members who wished to have the protection Masonry affords in time of distress, petitioned the Grand Lodges of the states they were stationed in to affiliate them. The states of Tennessee, Mississippi and Alabama made the statement that they could join any lodge in that state, also, could visit all lodges anywhere in the world. They stated they were not suspended for any un-Masonic conduct. However, Cleburne and some of his friends had organized classes and took the sublime degree of Royal Arch Masonry. The degree was conferred upon them by the great poet, lawyer, statesman and Mason, Albert Pike.

Many historians state that Cleburne was a member and Vestryman in the Episcopal Church in Helena, but Dr. C.E. Nash, a close friend to Cleburne and a partner with him in the Drug Store business, states in his book, "*Biographical Sketches of Gen. Pat Cleburne and Gen. T.C. Hindman,*" that Cleburne never became a member. Nash goes on to say, that the Roman Catholic claimed him in public print, stating "Who ever heard of a Irishman named Pat, who was not a Roman Catholic?" Nash's comment to that was, "Well, as there are exceptions to all rules, this is one."

Nash claims that a young Presbyterian preacher, came to Helena as a missionary and joined the Masonic Lodge, the year Cleburne was Master and they became close friends. Nash, also stated, that "Cleburne more oftener went to hear him preach than any one else."

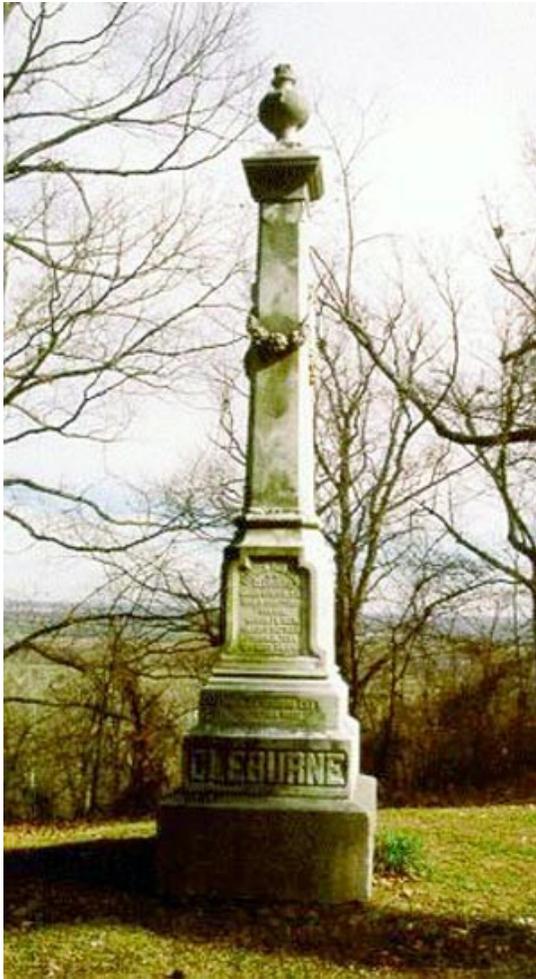
Upon arriving in Helena, Cleburne went to work in a drug store for Dr.'s Charles Nash and Hector Grant and the business thrived under his management. In December 1851 he bought Grant's half interest in the store for \$1500.00. Then in 1854 he sold the store and begin studying law under the directions of Judge Thomas Hanley and Mark Alexander and on January 22, 1856 he was admitted to the bar. He then teamed with Alexander to form the firm of Alexander and Cleburne. He later became partners with Thomas Hindman. The two were close friends and Cleburne aided Hindman in a gun fight, on the streets of Helena. Both men were severely wounded.

One of the most important events in young Cleburne's life came about just one month shy of his 27th birthday. On February 16, 1855 he was declared a naturalized citizen of the United States, by the Arkansas Circuit Court.

Politically, up until this time, Cleburne was a Whig. However, by the mid-1850s, the Whig party was disintegrating and while many were turning to the newly founded American Party of the rising Republican Party. Cleburne turned to the Democratic Party.

In 1860, when the political climate gave way to the coming of war between the North and South, Cleburne enlisted as a private in the Yell Rifles, which went on to become a part of the First Arkansas Regiment Volunteers and was later re-designated the 15th Arkansas Infantry Regiment. Cleburne's view regarding the breakup of the Union is found in a letter to his brother on the day that Arkansas seceded: "I am with the South in life and death in victory or defeat."

In battle, Cleburne and his men were normally the first on the field and the last ones to retreat. The gallantry and ferocity that marked his battlefield performances were exhibited in virtually every major engagement he fought in, including Shiloh, where he was given a brigade command, Murfreesboro, where he commanded an entire division, Chickamauga and Missionary Ridge, where he saved Bragg's supply train during the retreat, for this action he received a vote of thanks from the Confederate Congress. And the ill-fated Battle of Franklin, Tennessee, a tragic battle, but perhaps a fitting testament to the spirit of the Irish-born "Southern" that even though a division commander, the General considered it his duty to be in the forefront of the charge. He must have known that this devotion to his men and the cause would and did cost him his life on that cold November evening in 1864, one hundred and forty eight years ago.



General Cleburne, at the Battle of Franklin, in the thick of the fighting, had two horses shot from under him and he was last seen moving forward on foot, waving his hat encouraging his men forward. The next morning his body was found a few yards from the Union breastworks.

Cleburne was first buried in the Polk Cemetery, near Columbia, Tennessee, but six years later his body was exhumed, by his Mason brothers, and brought back to Helena. His friend and commander, General William Hardee stated; "Where his (General Cleburne's) division defended, no odds broke its lines; where it attacked, no numbers resisted its onslaught, save only once.....and there is the grave of Cleburne.

For these reasons Major General Patrick R. Cleburne is Arkansas' favorite war time hero and for these reasons the General Patrick R. Cleburne Arkansas Society of the Military Order of Stars and Bars chose him as our namesake.

Biography:

"Biographical Sketches of General Pat Cleburne and Gen. T. C. Hindman; together with Humorous Anecdotes and reminiscences of the Late Civil War" By Charles Edward Nash, M.D. ; Little Rock, Arkansas, Tunnam I Pittard, Printers; 1898

"Pat Cleburne Confederate General" By Howell and Elizabeth Purdue, Hill Junior Collage Press, 1973

"Cleburne"; Speech written by Mrs. Marilyn Gilhuly; Unpublished; Georgia, 2000

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Green Forest Sesquicentennial

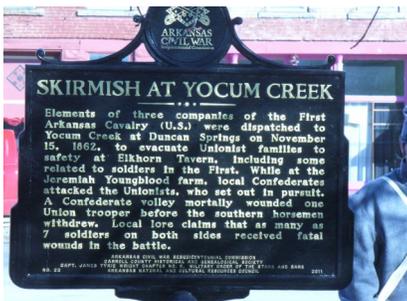
Arkansas Sesquicentennial Markers Going Up Rapidly

The General Patrick R. Cleburne, Arkansas Society, Military Order of the Stars and Bars, are doing their share in placing sanctioned Arkansas Sesquicentennial markers. One compatriot that is going beyond the call of duty is Gordon Hale of Berryville. Compatriot Hale is a past commander of the Captain James Tyrie Wright Chapter, No. 6, in Harrison. Currently he is First Lt. Commander of the General Patrick R. Cleburne, Arkansas Society, MOS&B. He has a passion for placing Confederate VA grave markers for Confederates in Carroll County cemeteries.

During the Sesquicentennial years, as president of the Carroll County Historical Society, he was determined to place at least three markers in his county to commemorate the celebration. The first placement of a marker was September 10, 2011 in historic downtown Eureka Springs. The sign was placed near the location of a cave named "Rock House" where a Confederate recovered during the war.

A second Sesquicentennial sign was placed in Berryville, Arkansas, on September 22, 2011. This is the site of several skirmishes and the burial of Confederate and Union soldiers in a nearby city cemetery. The third Carroll County Sesquicentennial marker was placed in Green Forest, Arkansas on December 17, 2011. It marked the Yocum Creek Skirmish, located north of the town near the Missouri border.

Gordon continues to assist in neighboring Boone County, Arkansas, as he is a member of the Captain James Tyrie Wright Chapter No. 6, MOS&B, who will dedicate their first Sesquicentennial marker on April 28. Four Arkansas Sesquicentennial markers to his credit is not a bad start in the second year of our five year celebration.



Yocum Creek Sesquicentennial
Marker

Sesquicentennial Marker Dedication In Clinton, Arkansas

The Arkansas War Between The States Sesquicentennial marker was dedicated on April 14, 2012 at the Main Street Park, in Clinton, Arkansas. It was sponsored by the River Valley Genealogy Society, City of Clinton, Advertising and Promotion Commission and the Clinton Area Chamber of Commerce. The Welcome was brought by Mayor Roger Rorie while Boy Scout Troop #152 posted



the Colors which consisted of the U. S., Arkansas and Confederate flags. A choir sang two songs, one being the Battle of the Hymn of the Republic. After the second song, the Confederate Color Guard advised that they would counter with our own Southern National song-Dixie- to the crowd's delight.

The invocation was brought by Judge Roger Hooper and the speaker and organizer, Ms. Mary Jean Hall. Names of Van Buren counties Confederate and Union soldiers were read aloud by representatives from the United Daughters of the Confederacy, Sons of Confederate Veterans, Daughters of the American Revolution, Sons of the American Revolution and various historical organizations. The Confederate Color Guard consisted of Military Order of the Stars and Bars members, Captain J. Troy Massey, commanding;



and Sergeants Gordon Hale and Charles Beaver. Other Color Guard members were SCV members Moon and Fisher.

There was a crowd of over 100 people at the ceremony in which the Sesquicentennial marker was unveiled with the information on the events in Van Buren County, Arkansas during the late War of Northern Aggression.



Alabama Society Holds Annual Meeting

The Alabama Society of the Military Order of the Stars and Bars held its annual meeting on the University of Alabama campus in Tuscaloosa on Saturday, April 7th, 2012. The meeting was chaired by Commander Bob McLendon of Troy, Alabama. Representatives from the Mobile, Birmingham, Troy, Montgomery and Tuscaloosa chapters were present as well as several prospective members and SCV guests.

Various proposed projects and new monuments were discussed as well as plans for membership recruitment. An update regarding the Museum of the Confederacy and its new Appomattox site were given by Paul Bryant. Proposed Alabama legislation that would negatively affect the Confederate Veterans Home was discussed by Commander McLendon and PCG Phil Law. New membership numbers to reinstate the Kelley Chapter of Birmingham were presented by Dr. Richard Price. Plans for a new Society web site and newsletter were also discussed.

New State Society officers were elected by the membership. New officers of The Alabama Society for 2012-2014 are Commander Dr. Richard Rhone, First Lt. Commander Rev. John Killion, Second Lt. Commander Dr. Richard Price and Adjutant Walter Dockery. Appreciations of gratitude for the service of the past officers was given.

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 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.

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.

Submittal Entries

MOS&B Officer's Call Magazine welcomes submittals via e-mail to Editor@mosbfl.org on or before the 1st day of the preceding month. Pictures are welcome. Please submit articles in Microsoft Word format or as plain text in your e-mail.

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YOUR PATRONAGE IS APPRECIATED!

Remembering the War; Remembering our Ancestors

The occasion of the Sesquicentennial of the War Between the States affords the MOS&B great opportunities to tell the true and full story of our ancestors. Several state Societies have taken initiatives to capitalize on this, and in this article, I wanted to share some of these with you. I am sure that none would mind if you plagiarize and come up with a slightly different spin on something similar.

Both Arkansas and North Carolina are working with their state historical commissions to fund and erect new historical markers describing some new aspect of the war that has not been previously recognized. Both Societies have had good success in executing this; some markers are already in place, others are close to being finalized. Virginia has one chapter that has recorded "history moments" to play on a local radio station. These are largely geared to local episodes, and are rendered to emphasize the role of our Confederate ancestors. Historically accurate and positive in nature, they are well-received.

In Louisiana, the Society is promoting books to certain schools that bear on the War, particularly articulating the Southern perspective. In June, they will have an opportunity to attend a conference of independent schools and hand out recommended reading lists to the teachers. {This list is available on request}.

As noted elsewhere, Alabama has teamed with Troy University on a series of seminars on the War, with a pool of pertinent books forming the basis of the discussions.

Both South Carolina and Arkansas are using special dates on the 150th calendar to sponsor dinners honoring both Confederate national and regional heroes.

Our friends "down under" in Australia are working on a commemoration for the visit of the *CSS Shenandoah* to that country in 1865.

The Officer Statue- this project has taken much longer than anticipated, but the end result will be worth the wait. There have been a number of prototypes, each with better refinements. Having seen the latest renditions, I think it will be a piece that you will be proud to own.

"Creativity, imagination, and initiative" - that will let you seize the opportunities this **rare time frame in history affords us!**

J. A. Barton Campbell

Chairman, Sesquicentennial Committee

Book report:

"Enduring Legacy- Rhetoric and Ritual of the Lost Cause"

By W. Stuart Towns

The University of Alabama Press

Rhetoric and ritual commemorating war has been a part of human culture for ages. In "Enduring Legacy: Rhetoric and Ritual of the Lost Cause", W. Stuart Towns explores the crucial role of rhetoric and oratory in creating and propagating a "Lost Cause" public memory of the American South.

"By careful attention to the ceremonial settings and the persistence of the speech-making themes over several generations, the author shows how the status of the orators, the pervasiveness of the rituals, and the repetition of themes for so long created a new white-dominated southern public identity out of the social chaos, uncertainty, and despair at the end of the Civil War in the South."

Charles Reagan Wilson is the Director of the Center for the Study of Southern Culture at the University of Mississippi.

W. Stuart Towns is a retired professor and department chair for the Communication Studies Department at Southeast Missouri State University. He is the author of *"We Want Our Freedom": Rhetoric of the Civil Rights Movement*.

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



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 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 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 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).

One Thousand Years of Confederate Service

When the 75th MOS&B National Convention opens in San Antonio this June, the Opening Ceremony will include a new and meaningful feature. We will now officially pause to honor the memory of Members who have passed in the previous twelve months.

Their names will be called in the manner of a Roll Call, and delegates will answer “present!” on behalf of each of our noble deceased. We will ensure that they are remembered together with their dedicated service to the Order, The South and the Confederacy.

While sadly perusing the list of our fallen Members, an astounding fact suddenly struck me. In my hand, I held the names of Members who combined have most surely given freely well in excess of ONE THOUSAND YEARS of Confederate service. At least one thousand years – probably more.

How do we replace such devotion to duty? How can we replace over ONE THOUSAND YEARS of accumulated experience and knowledge?

Gentlemen: We must take action now! We must recruit new Members, we must persuade current Members to remain in our ranks. Our fallen comrades’ roll will most likely be much the same for all Annual Conventions. Not only have we lost our friends and compatriots, we have lost the power of their love for the Order and the inspiration they have given.

The replacement of this precious fund of knowledge and experience must be addressed, or we face gradual extinction. The enemy is already at the gate – where are our sentries? Who will guard against the tide of politically correct obliteration of our heritage? The answer lies in our families, our male relatives and friends.

We must not allow the Confederacy to become irrelevant as it is fast becoming to the public, even our Southern public. Shall we allow people to write us off as eccentric people “living in the past”...”Ancestor worshippers?”

No, we will not allow this degradation to happen; we will fight the good fight. I add my call to that made by our Commander General, “Recruit, recruit, recruit – always be recruiting.” Our Order can and should endure for the sake of our Ancestors’ revered sacrifices. How will we otherwise face our honored dead when we reach our own reward if we have not done all in our power to keep the faith?

We will adapt to the modern world to prove to all how the values of those who went before us were worth fighting for, and are still highly relevant in today’s unusual world. We can fight in the technical age, harness the internet to our purpose and spread our message far and fast. We will reach out to young people, for they are the old campaigners of tomorrow, they just don’t know it yet!

So gentlemen, forward, always forward and let us talk to our immediate and extended families and friends and spread the word: “You belong in the Military Order of the Stars and Bars.” The future of the Order is where it always has been – in your hands.

The Eyes of the South are upon You!

(Submitted by Roger P Thornton DCS, Recruitment and Development Committee)

ROBERT E. LEE AND TRAVELLER

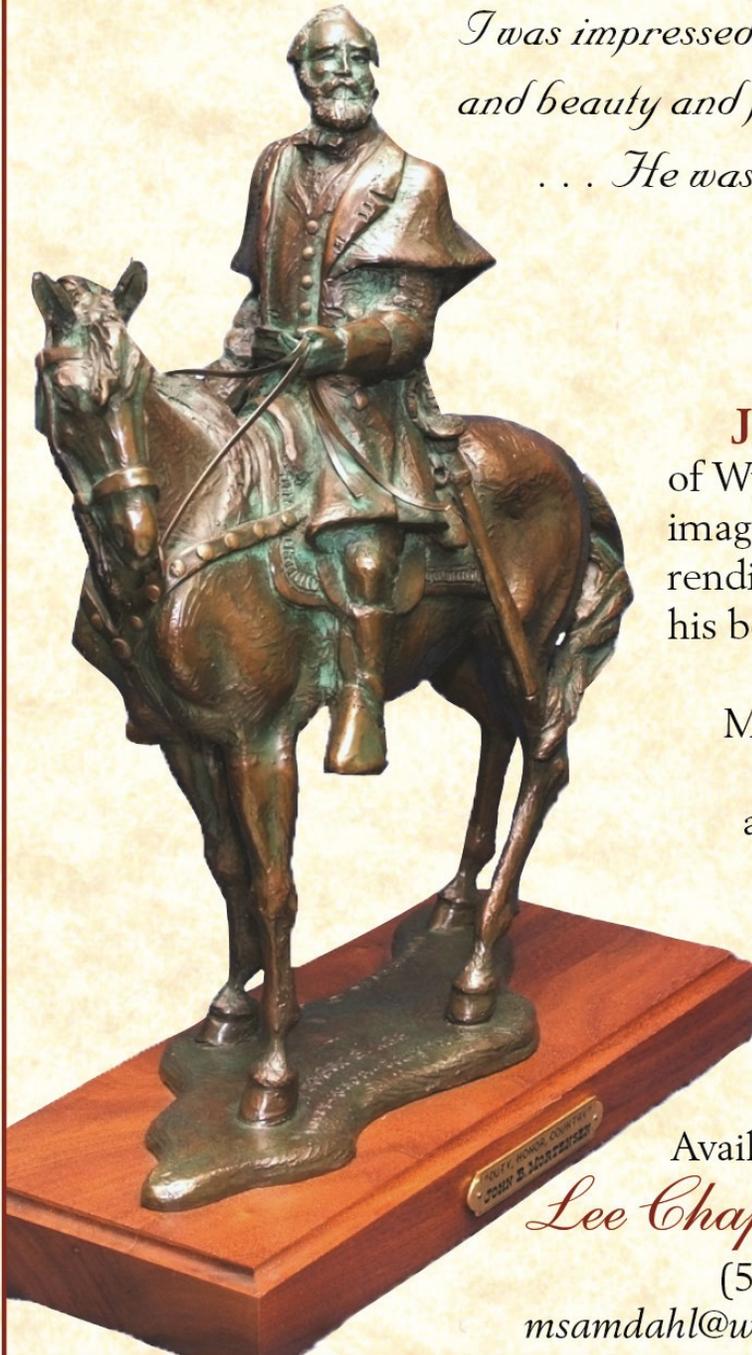
"Traveller moved as if proud of the burden he bore . . .

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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image in his beautiful bronze
rendition of Robert E. Lee and
his beloved war horse Traveller.

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THE GATHERING TWILIGHT OF HOPE

The Attack on Fort Stedman

By C. L. Gray

In the winter of 1865, Confederate hopes for independence were failing fast. Atlanta had surrendered on September 2nd. Union General William T. Sherman had marched through Georgia virtually unopposed, and on December 21st, he captured Savannah. From Savannah, Sherman planned to march up the coast through the Carolinas and unite with General Ulysses S. Grant and the Army of the Potomac, presently dug in around Petersburg. Together, the two Union chieftains would turn the firepower of over 200,000 men on Robert E. Lee's starving and shivering Army of Northern Virginia.

When Sherman entered South Carolina, only militia stood ready to defend the state. Joseph B. Kershaw's old South Carolina brigade, now under the command of General James Conner, was ordered immediately to Charleston. Galbraith Butler's division of cavalry was also ordered home. Wade Hampton led Butler's troopers from Petersburg in the frantic hopes that his reputation could rally new volunteers to the colors.

Before Butler could get under way, General Alfred H. Terry captured the last open Confederate port at Wilmington. In one devastating blow, the Federals had cut off Lee's army from the food and war material that had slipped through the Union blockade since the beginning of the war.

General P.G.T. Beauregard took command of the scattered forces in South Carolina, but was too weak to stop Sherman. With no choice, Beauregard fell back before the Federal juggernaut. When he crossed the border into North Carolina, the militia refused to go with him. The soldiers who did stay with the army were nothing more than a collection of old men and young boys.

Braxton Bragg commanded 6,500 troops in eastern North Carolina and prepared to join up with Beauregard. Neither commander inspired confidence in the Tarheel State or within the Confederate Congress, which now urged Jefferson Davis to put General Joseph Johnston in command before it was too late. Davis, remembering Johnston's refusal to fight in campaigns past, refused.

To keep North Carolina from falling into Union hands and further isolating Virginia and Lee's army, the Congress appointed Lee to the position of General in Chief of the Confederate armies. The position came too late for Lee to effect any real change, but on February 22nd, he restored Johnston to the command of the shattered remains of the Army of Tennessee. He also removed the bureaucratic departmentalization that had hampered the Confederate war effort since the beginning of the war. The two commanders communicated directly with each other so their armies could act as one in the last stand that would have to be made if the country was to be saved.

On March 2nd, General Philip Sheridan's mounted division overwhelmed General Jubal Early's small force at Waynesboro. The Shenandoah Valley was now in Federal hands and Sheridan was free to return to Grant and operate beyond Lee's lines to the west.

The Dire State of the Army

Throughout the fall and winter, Grant stretched Lee's lines around Petersburg by attacking his supply lines both to the south and west. To further extend the line and keep the Confederates off balance, Grant employed a pendulum strategy against the Army of Northern Virginia's weakening defenses. He would attack one flank then the other in quick succession. The inequality was too great. When Grant attacked Burgess' Mill in the autumn, Lee could only muster three brigades to oppose six Federal divisions.

This inequality would increase, for Grant had halted prisoner exchanges. Captured Federal prisoners became a severe drain on supplies Lee desperately needed to feed his army. Richmond held thousands of prisoners within its borders. When the city fell, and Lee knew it was only a matter of time until he would be forced to abandon the Petersburg defenses in order to save the army, those prisoners could easily rejoin the Army of the Potomac and fight against him.

Daily rations became harder to come by. Each soldier was supposed to receive a pound of cornmeal a day and one-third pound of bacon. But the cornmeal ration was always short and the bacon arrived every third day, if it arrived at all. When the meat ration failed, so did the men's strength. Digging a half-hour in the frozen ground reduced the strongest man to a state of weary helplessness.

Heavy rains in January broke down the Piedmont Railroad, severing Lee's supply line from the western Carolinas. The same series of storms cut off the upper valley of the James River. At the time the rains rolled through, Lee only had two days' rations for his men. There was no where else to go to supply the men. The country surrounding Petersburg had been picked clean by foragers from both armies.

Lee could not bear to see his men suffering. He wrote the Secretary of War, "If some change is not made and the commissary department reorganized, I apprehend dire results. The physical strength of the men, if their courage survives, must fail under this treatment."(1)

Richmond responded by firing the incompetent Colonel Lucius Northrop and replacing him with General I.M. St. John, who went straight to work. But the change had come too late. There was nothing left to gather. St. John estimated that 500 tons of supplies had to be delivered daily in order to subsist the army.

Lee kept up the pressure. "Unless the men and animals can be subsisted, the army cannot be kept together, and our present lines must be abandoned," (2) he warned Richmond. He was not issuing idle threats. Congress reacted to his ominous prediction with strong words of patriotism, but nothing came of the appeal. The sad reality was that the people were just as destitute as the army.

With no food, desertions increased. But lack of food was not the primary reason for the desertions. Frantic letters from loved ones left behind in Georgia and the Carolinas began to arrive at the front. Wives relayed the horrors of the impending approach of the enemy and the utter desolation of the countryside once they had marched by. Men slipped away, not to feed their bellies, but to protect their homes and their families and to keep the wolf at bay until crops could be sown and harvested.

Lee sent the provost guard into western North Carolina to round up deserters. He made examples of those who were caught deserting the line. He sent a much needed brigade from the defenses to guard the crossings at the Roanoke River.

The Net Closes In

But it was Sheridan's return that threw Lee into turmoil and made him consider whether or not he should keep his army in the field. He sought advice from his Second Corps Commander, John B. Gordon.

Gordon arrived at Lee's headquarters in the wee hours of the morning. Lee had him sit down at a table covered with reports and read each and every one of them. The reports contained the unvarnished truth about the physical condition of the army. To Gordon, it was a revelation. When he put down the last one, he was flabbergasted. Lee asked Gordon what he would do if he was in command of the army.

Gordon replied that his first course of action would be to seek the best terms possible with the enemy. Lee replied that he did not feel it was a soldier's place to make decisions that were political in nature. Those decisions should be left to President Davis, but even at this late date, Davis still held out hope that independence could be achieved.

Gordon's second course of action was to retreat and join up with Johnston as quickly as possible. His final one was to strike a blow against the enemy without delay.

Lee concurred with each of Gordon's suggestions. Since peace was not an option due to Davis' stubbornness or delusions and the roads were too muddy to travel quickly enough to outpace Grant, the only option left was to fight.

But if they were to fight, they would need to do so before Sheridan returned from the Valley. Lee told Gordon to make a study of the Federal center to see if the army could make a breakthrough.

Gordon Sets the Strategy

Gordon chose Fort Stedman as the point of his attack. The fort was located on the high ground known as Hare's Hill and was approximately three-quarters miles southeast of the Appomattox River. Stedman did not have any particular visible strength and was open in the back. The ground behind the fort was only as high as a parapet. The distance between Stedman and Colquitt's Salient, from where Gordon planned to launch his attack, was 150 yards, and the pickets were separated by 50 yards.

Behind Stedman were three more Union forts. Gordon's strategy had three companies of 100 men each, in the darkness and the confusion of battle, pretending to be Federal troops hurrying to the rear to secure the forts. Gordon hoped to reach the rear of Grant's line with little or no opposition. The main force would then spread out to the right and left rolling up the flanks and opening the way for the cavalry to get through and destroy Grant's communications.

Gordon asked Lee for three guides familiar with the area. Gordon stressed that the guides should be native to the countryside and able to recognize where they were even though once prominent landmarks had been destroyed by the presence of the two armies. Lee supplied the men. He informed Gordon that he did not know them personally, but they had come highly recommended.

Protecting the Union lines were *chevaux-de-frise*, frames covered with wooden stakes. Gordon assigned fifty stout men the Herculean task of chopping these obstacles down and clearing the way for the infantry. Altogether, there would be four and a half divisions of infantry plus Rooney Lee's division of cavalry participating in the pre-dawn attack. These divisions represented almost half of Lee's army.

At 4:00 a.m., three quick pistol shots echoed in the darkness. The axeman sprang forward and quickly disposed of the *chevaux-de-frise*. The companies designated for the three forts were through Stedman and on their way to the rear. The attacking force spread out to approximately 500 yard on either side. So, far things were going better than Gordon could hope for.

But victory was illusionary. The guides quickly became lost. They sought in vain for the forts but could not find them. The reason was simple. The forts did not exist. What Gordon thought were forts were, in reality, the remains of old Confederates works that had been lost during the initial fighting at Petersburg.

The attack quickly broke down. Repeated attempts to storm Fort Haskell and Union Battery 9 were repulsed. The Federal forces rallied and poured a galling fire into the Confederates. At 8:00 a.m., Lee called off the attack. When the retreat sounded, some of the men balked at returning to their own lines. They would rather risk capture than run the gauntlet of Union canister and shot to reach the safety of their own defenses.

Immediately following the repulse of Gordon's attack, the Federals advanced along the entirety of Lee's right nearly to Hatcher's Run, seized the entrenched picket lines, and captured nearly 800 prisoners. More importantly, Grant was now in position to launch a successful attack and break the Confederate front whenever he wanted.

No Choice But to Retreat

Lee telegraphed the news of the defeat to Richmond. The next day he wrote Davis, "I fear now it will be impossible to prevent a junction between Grant and Sherman, nor do I deem it prudent that this army should maintain its position until the latter shall approach too near."

"The dreaded contingency" (3) of abandoning the Petersburg trenches now became "a foregone conclusion." (4) Lee began to make plans. He sent the pontoons forward, readied the supplies, and strengthened the right flank. He was forced to accelerate his plans when Sheridan, now back from the Valley, broke through at Five Forks and seized the South Side Railroad.

After Sheridan's victory, Grant began to shove against the Confederate entrenchments in earnest. Lee's lines contained no more strength than a picket line, and the Federals easily broke through. Overwhelmed, the Confederates began their retreat west, hopefully, to join up with Johnston.

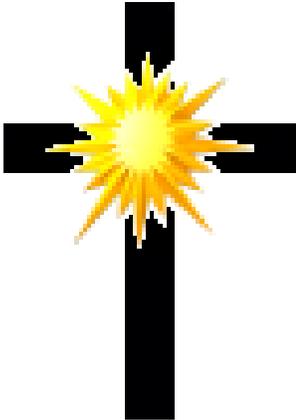
Fifteen thousand soldiers of the Army of Northern Virginia left Petersburg in a retreat that more resembled a route. Lee watched the long columns make their way through the night. When the last troops passed, Lee swung up on Traveller and followed after his men.

1. Douglas Southall Freeman. *R.E. Lee, Volume III*. (New York: Scribner, 1934), 536.

2. *Ibid.*

3. Freeman. *R.E. Lee, Volume IV*, 21.

4. *Ibid.*



Chaplain's Corner

April: Endings and Beginnings



At the Dalton, Georgia, Civil War Show this spring I found a very interesting book by Jay Winik entitled *April 1865: The Month That Saved America*. Winik discusses two pivotal events in April of 1865—the surrender of the Army of Northern Virginia and the assassination of President Lincoln. While Winik's book is well written, it is neither the style nor the content that I found most thought-provoking; rather, it was the title.

April may or may not be the month that saved America, but it is surely a month that includes both beginning and ending dates for many important events. Four of America's wars in three different centuries have begun in April: the American Revolution (April 19th), the War Between the States (April 12th), the Spanish-American War (April 25th), and World War I (April 6th.) The Battle of San Jacinto that led to Texas independence was fought on April 21st (1836) and is still celebrated in San Antonio. Even the beginning and ending of the Federal Income Tax year is "celebrated" in April!

But the holidays this April that do include the possibility of saving America are not military or financial in nature—they are religious and are central to our Judeo-Christian heritage. Both the first day of Passover and Easter Sunday this year are on the same weekend. The Passover recalls God's salvation of the Jewish people from bondage and death in Egypt just as Easter holds the promise of resurrection and eternal life for Christians. And, moreover, the holidays line up this year just as they did in Jesus' time—Good Friday, when the lambs are slaughtered, followed by the Passover and Easter.

Some folks on the political scene in America have made no secret of their unbelief in God and their own reinterpretation of some of the Biblical commandments. But I hope those of us who have faith in God and in the clear teachings of the Scriptures will join together this year in the church or religious institution of our choice to reaffirm the spiritual foundation which America so desperately needs. We don't have to preach on the street corners or give interviews to the press, although some of us have done both. All we have to do is to be a living example of the faith we profess. As St. Paul wrote in Romans 12: "I appeal to you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that you may prove what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect."

April is a good time for endings and beginnings in the Spring of the year. I hope as we draw near to Good Friday, Passover and Easter you will find occasion for your own witness that we can be points of light in the struggle for the soul of America.

Chaplain John Brinsfield

Honorary MOS&B Membership Granted to Texas Land Commissioner Jerry Patterson

The General Executive Committee (MOS&B) met in Memphis, Tennessee on March 23, 2012 for their spring board meeting. Chief of Staff David G. Whitaker nominated Texas Land Commissioner Jerry Patterson for an Honorary membership in the Order. This was passed unanimously. Welcome Commissioner Patterson.

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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Enclosed is my gift of:

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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



2012 Generals Lee & Jackson Tribute Banquet

Compatriot Larry Jolly, Commander of the Lt. Gen. NB Forrest Chapter 100, Military Order of the Stars & Bars, was one of the speakers at the 2012 Generals Lee & Jackson Tribute Banquet held on 26 January 2012, AD, in Ripley, Mississippi, sponsored by the Tippah County Heritage Coalition with the Tippah Tigers SCV Camp 868 as lead sponsor.
(Submitted by Christopher Cummins)

Louisiana Society Sesquicentennial Project

In Louisiana, as part of our Sesquicentennial effort, members of the MOS&B are helping certain schools obtain copies of books which will enable students to understand the true nature of the War Between the States. I have prepared a list of recommended readings that will be distributed to social studies teachers attending a June conference sponsored by our independent (conservative) teachers' organization, the Associated Professional Educators of Louisiana.

(Submitted by Roger Busbice, Lieutenant Commander, Louisiana MOS&B)

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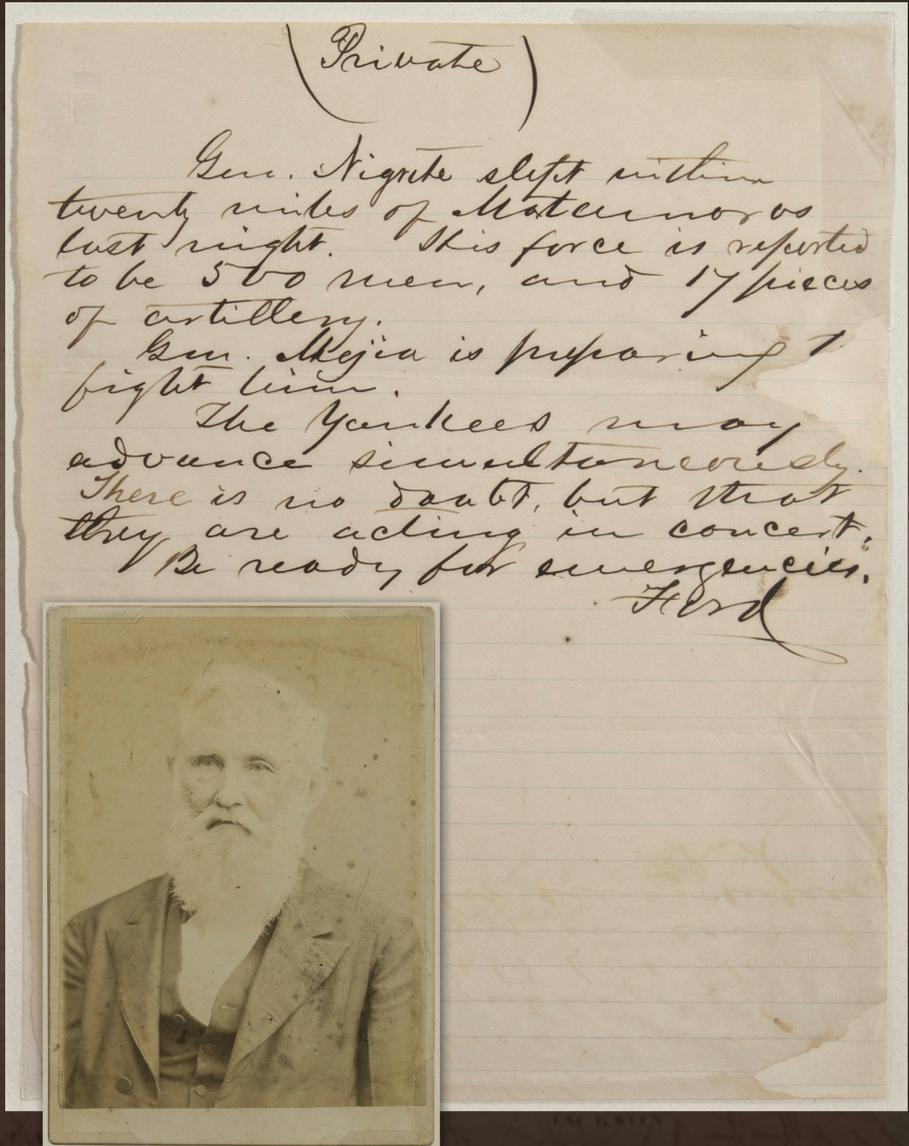
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A Rare Intelligence Report by John Salmon "RIP" Ford and cabinet card photograph of Ford

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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PELICAN PUBLISHING COMPANY PUBLISHER AND OWNER PASSES

(Gretna, La.) January 9, 2012—In March of 2010, New Orleans area based Pelican Publishing Company, Inc., celebrated the fortieth anniversary of publisher and president Dr. Milburn Calhoun. Today we mourn his passing.



A bookman, publisher, philanthropist, and retired physician, he died Saturday, January 7, 2012, at West Jefferson Hospital in New Orleans following a lengthy illness. He was eighty-one. Visiting takes place today, Monday, January 9, 2012, from 3:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. with a service immediately following at Oak Park Baptist Church, 1110 Kabel Drive, New Orleans. Additional services will be held Thursday, January 12, 2012, at Kilpatrick Funeral Home, West Monroe, La., with visitation from 9:30 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. with a service and interment immediately following at Sibley Cemetery in Choudrant, La.

Born in West Monroe, on January 15, 1930, he was a graduate of Ouachita Parish High School, 1947; Northeast Junior College, 1949; Louisiana State University, 1951; and the LSU School of Medicine, 1955. After an internship at New Orleans Charity Hospital, 1955-56, he practiced medicine in Buras for nine years, interrupted by two years in the United States Air Force where he attained the rank of major. He practiced medicine at Nicholson, Baehr, & Calhoun from 1965 until his retirement in 1997. He also served as chief of staff at West Jefferson Hospital. He was a longtime member of Oak Park Baptist Church where he served as a deacon and in numerous support positions. A lifelong bibliophile, he was a recognized expert on rare books. He founded Bayou Books, an old, rare, and out-of-print book dealer specializing in Louisiana and Southern subjects, and in 1961, he opened a Gretna bookstore by the same name. In 1970, he and family members acquired Pelican Publishing Company, a small New Orleans book publishing company that they relocated to Gretna. Publishing standouts include the blockbuster success of motivational titles such as Zig Ziglar's *See You at the Top* and the publication of *Cajun Night Before Christmas*®. In addition to spawning Pelican's wildly successful series of more than thirty *Night Before Christmas* titles and products, the publication of *Cajun Night Before Christmas*® marked the beginning of Pelican's children's book division, which is now the company's largest niche. Other areas of specialty include cookbooks, architecture titles, the *Best Editorial Cartoons of the Year Series*, works on Southern history and culture, Civil War scholarship, black studies, and books covering every aspect of life in Louisiana.

"We were not a people of means," Dr. Calhoun said, describing the challenge of purchasing a bankrupt publishing house, "so we did it the old-fashioned way. We published important books that other publishers were not publishing and a large part of the population wanted."

The model worked. Pelican's sales doubled each year during the first ten years of Dr. Calhoun's leadership. Business expanded into all fifty states, and soon the company began to establish its international presence and enjoy global distribution in the sale of English-language rights to publishers throughout Asia, Africa, Europe, and South America. Today, with a backlist of more than 2,500 titles, Pelican is the largest independent trade book publisher in the South. In continuous operation since 1926, Pelican remains a family-owned, independent general trade and children's publisher committed to publishing books of quality and permanence on a wide variety of subjects.

In 1998, he funded the Mary and Darrell Calhoun Recreational Center at the Louisiana Baptist Children's Home in Monroe, and in 1999, he endowed the one-million-dollar Mary E. and Darrell L. Calhoun Chair in Pharmacology at the University of Louisiana at Monroe. He and his wife established the Milburn and Nancy Calhoun Foundation in 2009 to support religious and educational activities. Donations may be made to the foundation at 9 Muirfield Place, New Orleans, LA 70131.

Dr. Calhoun reflects on some of the highlights from his forty years, along with Pelican's history and the publication of *Sherwood Anderson and Other Famous Creoles*, the first trade title by William Faulkner and the first book in Pelican Publishing history.

Texas Confederate Memorial Day April 26

The marching armies of the past
 Along our Southern plains,
 Are sleeping now in quiet rest
 Beneath the Southern rains.
 The bugle call is now in vain
 To rouse them from their bed;
 To arms they'll never march again
 They are sleeping with the dead.
 No more will Shiloh's plains be stained
 With blood our heroes shed,
 Nor Chancellorsville resound again
 To our noble warriors' tread.
 For them no more shall reveille
 Sound at the break of dawn,
 But may their sleep peaceful be
 Till God's great judgment morn
 We bow our heads in solemn prayer
 For those who wore the gray,
 And clasp again their unseen hands
 On our Memorial Day

TEXAS SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 526

WHEREAS, April is the month in which the Confederate States of America began and ended a four-year struggle for states' rights, individual freedom, and local government control; and

WHEREAS, The State of Texas declared herself to be a free and independent state and subsequently joined the Confederate States of America of which it was a member state from 1861 until 1865; and

WHEREAS, The battlefields, monuments, museums, and other historical sites to be found in Texas allow our citizens and visitors to remember, study, and appreciate the men and women of that unique time in the history of Texas and the nation; and

WHEREAS, The flag of the State of Texas was carried by Texas Confederate soldiers in every major battle of the War Between the States and the state contributed over 115,000 soldiers and sailors to the service of the Confederate States of America; and

WHEREAS, During the period of reconciliation, Texas Confederate veterans became Instrumental in the continued development of our state and local governments and our institutions of higher learning; and

WHEREAS, We honor our past and draw from it the courage, strength, and wisdom to go forward into the future together as Texans and Americans; and

WHEREAS, The State of Texas has long recognized her Confederate history and the leaders who made sacrifices on behalf of the Confederate cause; and

WHEREAS, The Texans who served in the War Between the States are memorialized in almost every county in the state, and many cities and counties in the State of Texas bear the name of Confederate veterans; and

WHEREAS, It is important for all Texans to reflect upon our state's past and to respect the devotion of her Confederate leaders, soldiers, and citizens to the cause of Southern liberty; and

WHEREAS, In years since the war, the morally abhorrent practice of slavery has in the minds of many Texans become the prime motivation of Southern soldiers, despite the fact that 98 percent of Texas Confederate soldiers never owned a slave and never fought to defend slavery; and

WHEREAS, Politically correct revisionists would have Texas children believe that their Confederate ancestors fought for slavery when in fact most Texans joined the Confederate armed forces to defend their homes, their families, and their proud heritage as Texans; and

WHEREAS, Confederate Memorial Day in April is a time for all Texans to honor those men and women who died for Texas, and also all the Texans who came afterward and benefited from their legacy of honor and devotion to our state; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the Senate of the State of Texas, 76th Legislature, hereby recognize April as Confederate History and Heritage Month In the State of Texas and encourage all Texas schools and citizens to join in efforts to become more knowledgeable of the role of the Confederate States of America in the history of our country.

President of the Senate

Rick Perry

I hereby certify that the above Resolution was adopted by the Senate

On March 30, 1999.

Betty King

Secretary of the Senate

Mike Jackson

Member, Texas Senate

NC Society Install Wayside Marker

Gentlemen of the Order,

I am happy to inform you that the NC Society's First Historical Wayside Marker will be officially unveiled at the Bennett Place State Historical Site on Sunday, April 29, 2012 at 1:00 PM. The MOS&B has funded the placement of this Wayside Marker which commemorates the "Meeting of the Generals" Johnson, CSA/Sherman, USA, at the close of the WBTS. The Marker pays special attention to General Johnson and General Hampton, CSA. This is a permanent Wayside Marker and will bear the official logo of the Order.

The NC Society also has another Wayside Marker going up soon at Governor Zeb Vance's birthplace near Asheville, NC and two more Markers in the planning stages for Ft. Fisher (Confederate Lighthouse) and Ft. Anderson's, Battery B. (Wilmington). I invite all to attend the unveiling. Also the NC Society, MOS&B, JR Reserve Honor Guard will be in attendance at the event at the Bennett Place on April 29th. Come see this new unit of young men in action. Remember to wear that Kepi !

Sincerely,

Larry Beeson

NC Society

150th WBTS Committee Chairman

Special Note: The Correct Date of the 2012 NC Society MOS&B Convention is Saturday May 5, 2012 at 10:30 AM. Please make a note of this. May 5, 2012. More Convention info to follow.

Sincerely,

Rodney Williams

NC Society Commander

The Last Victim of the War

by Andy Turner

No one wants to be the last person killed in a war. Thomas Martin, a Kentuckian who was captured in January 1864, had been sentenced to die for being a guerrilla. The punishment was given as a deterrent and no one expected it to be carried out. By May of 1865, however, Martin's future was not looking good.

Joseph Hooker, commanding the Northern Department and headquartered in Cincinnati where Martin was held, ordered Martin's execution be carried out on May 5th.

By May 5, 1865, Robert E. Lee, Joseph E. Johnston, and Richard Taylor had all surrendered their armies. President Lincoln was dead and buried. The war was over. That didn't stop Hooker.

Several people tried to save Martin's life, including two prominent Cincinnatians: Judge Johann B. Stallo and Judge William M. Dickson. Stallo was the patriarch of Cincinnati's German community and later became ambassador to Italy. Dickson, married to a cousin of Mary Todd Lincoln, was a founder of the Republican Party.

In the April 1888 edition of *The Century Magazine*, Dickson wrote an account of Tom Martin and his fate:

The Last Victim of the War (By W. M. Dickson)

To the traveler on the old Walnut Hills road, Cincinnati, at noon, May 11, 1865, an unwonted spectacle presented itself. To the south of the road along the ravine near by stood, in solemn silence, a regiment of soldiers facing the road, the companies at each wing at right angles, forming a hollow square. Within this, near the left, stood a squad of soldiers, arms at the shoulder, bearing upon the breast of a youth kneeling erect beside his coffin and facing them at eight paces, with hands unbound and tremorless at his side, and eyes bandaged with a white handkerchief. At the word of command the guns were fired and the youth fell dead.



Thus perished Thomas Martin, the last victim of the great civil war. The war was over, Lee had surrendered, Richmond had been taken, Johnston had yielded, Davis had been captured. Federal and Confederate, the blue and the gray, were fraternizing everywhere save in that lonely ravine, within the corporate limits of Cincinnati, where was being transacted the most revolting deed of war—the deliberate killing by overwhelming power of an unresisting human being.

Few of the citizens of Cincinnati were aware of the tragedy at the time; and how few now, as they read this narrative, will recall it.

We are living in a time of reminiscences, and the history of this poor Confederate soldier may have its lesson.

Nearly a year before his execution, its victim, a native of Kentucky, had been captured in that State and brought to Cincinnati as a prisoner; there he had been brought before a court-martial upon the charge of being a guerrilla, and had been convicted and sentenced to be shot. He was a mere boy, quite illiterate, unable to read or write; he claimed that he was a regular Confederate soldier, and evidently the distinction between such a soldier and a guerrilla was beyond his knowledge.

At the time this sentence was rendered, no one expected it would be carried into execution. No member of the court, and certainly the military commandant of the city, [Brig.] General August Willich, did not. The sentence had been rendered for its deterrent effect upon the guerrillas in Kentucky. So little did General Willich think the sentence would be executed that he gave the boy his liberty, the freedom of the city, using him as a sort of orderly; and in his intercourse with him he became attached to him. Time passed; and the day when General Hooker would leave the department, of which he had had command since General Sherman's action retired him from the front, was approaching.

In an evil moment for the victim, General Hooker, in the first days of May, 1865, asked an aide to read over the papers on file in the department, so that he might dispose of them. In so doing, the papers relating to this boy were found. The general had forgotten the case. He inquired whether sentence had been executed. Learning that it had not, he sent for General Willich, his subordinate, and asked for the facts. General Willich stated them as above given. Next day, he received an order from General Hooker directing him to shoot the boy on the 5th of May, then only a few days off. General Willich was dumbfounded. To shoot the boy who had been his attendant for nearly a year, and whom he had respected for his faithful conduct, was too much for the stern old soldier of many years and many wars. With tears in his eyes he rushed to Judge Stallo, now our minister at Rome, and besought his interference. Judge Stallo, in turn, came to me and solicited my aid.

Meanwhile General Hooker had left the city to attend the funeral of Mr. Lincoln at Springfield. Therefore I could not reach him. At my request, Mr. Gaither, then Superintendent of Adams Express Company, sent a telegram to Major [Thomas T.] Eckert to be laid before [Secretary of War] Mr. [Edwin M.] Stanton, requesting his intervention. But no order came, and preparations were made for the execution. The boy was dressed for death. The priest, Father [Frederick] Garesche, brother to General [William S.] Rosecrans's chief of staff—who fell at Stone's River—attended him. The mournful procession took its way to the ravine, yet General Willich moved slowly, hoping the order for suspension would be received. He left a mounted orderly to wait until the last moment for a telegram from Stanton. Anxiously, imploringly, he looked back for his messenger. At length, to his great joy, in the distance he saw him coming at full speed, holding in his outstretched hand a paper. It was this telegram:

War Department,
Washington, D.C., May 5, 1865.

Major-General Joseph Hooker: Suspend the execution of Thomas Martin, to be executed in Cincinnati this day, until further orders.

By order of the President.
E. M. Stanton, Secretary of War.

Great was the rejoicing. The soldiers who were to shoot the boy now congratulated him on his escape, and all returned to the city. Alas, how short-lived was this joy!

It had been my purpose to advise General Hooker, on his return, of what I had done; but my first knowledge of this was from an aide of his, who delivered a note from the general requesting my presence at his headquarters.

The moment I saw Hooker, I discovered that he was under great excitement, which he was striving to suppress, and in this effort he fairly succeeded. He did not look me full in the face, but sat sideways, looking obliquely, ever and anon casting upon me furtive glances. In slow and measured tones, he said: "Judge Dickson, I was very angry at you on my return and had ordered your arrest; but reconsidered it, and am now more composed." "Why, you surprise me, General! What is the matter?" "Why, sir, on my return to the city I found my administration of this department had been interfered with; that Martin, whom I had ordered shot, had not been shot; that Mr. Stanton had suspended my order. I immediately telegraphed him, demanding why he interfered. He replied that it was in response to the Gaither telegram—your work. I demanded of him to send me a copy of this telegram, which he did. Oh, yes, sir! I have got it. I know all you did."

"Well, General, was it not all right?" "No, sir; it was not right. No, sir. Why, sir, when I was in command of the Army of the Potomac, Lincoln would not let me kill a man. Lee killed men every day, and Lee's army was under discipline; and now, sir, Lincoln is dead, and I will kill this man. Yes, sir, I will. The order is given to shoot him tomorrow, and he will be shot; and don't you interfere."

"Did Stanton order you to shoot him?" I inquired. "No, sir. He left the matter in my hands, and I demanded that he be shot—and shot he will be."

"Well, General," I again interposed, "this boy was only a guerrilla. The war is over. He belonged to Colonel Jesse's command. The papers of this morning tell us that the Government has given Jesse the same terms given Lee; that he is now in Louisville, where he has been feasted and fraternized with by Union officers. Will it not be shocking to shoot here one of his deluded followers?"

"It makes no difference," replied the general. "Louisville is not in my department. I am not responsible for what is done there. I will do my duty in my own. I will kill him. Yes, sir, I will; and that to-morrow."

The image of the speaker rises before me with startling distinctness. The manner as well as the words indicated that his mind was oppressed with the thought that Lincoln's humanity had thwarted his career. In some way it seemed to him a relief to sacrifice the boy. Hence his eagerness that the opportunity should not escape him.

As I gazed upon the man the uppermost thought in my mind was, not the brutality of his act, nor yet pity for the fated youth,—though these thoughts were not absent,—but simple amazement that such a man, only a few months before, in a supreme crisis, should have held in the hollow of his hand, as it were, the fate of this mighty nation.

But why revise these harrowing incidents of the war? As well ask, Why tell the story of the war at all? If it is to be told, let us have the whole. Let the young not be misled; the dread reality has something else than the pomp and circumstance, however glorious. Besides, there will be other wars and other generals. Let these remember that an abuse of power will sooner or later rise up in judgment against them.

W. M. Dickson.

About Andy Turner

Andy Turner is a lifelong student of the Civil War. For fifteen years he has been editor of The Gettysburg Magazine, and owner and publisher for the last five. When he added book publishing to the Magazine business, Gatehouse Press was born. A former 8th grade history teacher, Turner has expanded Gatehouse which now publishes the Magazine, Morningside books, and the new online magazine.

Source: www.gatehouse-press.com



*Military Order of the Stars & Bars
75th Annual General Convention
Is just two months away.*

Please plan to be there!



*San Antonio, Texas
June 7-9, 2012*