

Volume 5, Number 11
December 2013

Officer's Call



Sesquicentennial Series Article #37 **The Grey Ghost**

Submitted by Ben Willingham, DCS



the famed "Mosby Raiders".

John Mosby was a key innovator in the tactics of Guerilla warfare. By 1863 his exploits were becoming legendary in the South, and viewed as a less than honorable way to fight by the North. Regardless of perspective he devised a new way of fighting by which a small agile force could harass and defeat a much larger force. In lightning fast raids, his raiders would move in and cut telegraph lines, ambush couriers or small parties, start fires, harass rail transport, and then disappear into the night. His quickness and stealth led to his now famous nickname, "The Grey Ghost".

Mosby's exploits included a daring raid far inside Federal lines at the Fairfax County courthouse in 1863, where his raiders captured some key Federal officers, including General Stoughton, whom Mosby found in bed, waking him with a slap to his rear. Upon being so roused, the general exclaimed, "Do you know who I am?" Mosby quickly replied, "Do you know Mosby, general?" "Yes! Have you got the rascal?" "No but he has got you!"

The disruption of supply lines and the constant disappearance of couriers frustrated Federal commanders to such a degree that General Phil Sheridan ordered the execution of all captured raiders. George A. Custer did execute several of Mosby's men in 1864 in Front Royal, Virginia.

Often large forces were sent against him, but he always evaded and frequently defeated them. During the battle of Chancellorsville he attacked a Federal cavalry unit, capturing several hundred prisoners. Near Chantilly, he defeated a large body of Federal cavalry, leading General Lee to exclaim: "Hurrah for Mosby! I wish I had a hundred like him."

Near Dranesville, with 65 men, he defeated 200 of the enemy and captured 83 prisoners. One of his most daring adventures was a reconnaissance in the Federal lines, by order of General Lee, after the battle of Chancellorsville, in which he and one companion captured six men, and with two of them, rode undetected past a column of Federal cavalry.

(— Continued on Page 4 —)



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Gordon

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2012-2014

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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.

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

Commander General's Message

Christmas Greetings



This will be my last opportunity to bring you Christmas greetings as Commander General. This past year was a memorable one for Barbara and me. During the year we travelled the breadth of the Order from coast to coast. We broke bread and shared fellowship with compatriots and friends in sixteen of the Order's eighteen societies. We will visit with membership in the remaining two societies in the spring.

As I enter the final lap as Commander General I have been busy growing new leadership so that when the gavel is passed in Charleston, the Order will smoothly transition into a new administration. I have discovered that there are a lot of talented men in the Order willing to step forward when called upon. I would like to extend a personal thank you to all of you for the service that you render in ensuring that our Confederate ancestors remain honored within our families and communities. As most of you know there are many that would vilify them and besmirch their names and denigrate their service. We have the responsibility and the honor to remember them.

Barbara and I wish each of you a Blessed Christmas and a Prosperous New Year!

Deo Vindice!

Toni Turk

Commander General

Request for Nominations

2014 Randall Brackin Teacher of the Year

It is time for nominations for the *2014 Randall Brackin Jones Teacher of the Year*. Please send your nominations and letters of reference to:

Tony Sinclair
906 S. Carlton St.
Ennis, TX 75119

tsinclair1977@sbcglobal.net

Deadline is March 1, 2014

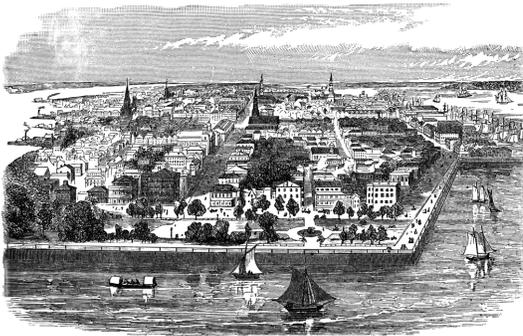
Please refer to the MOS&B web site for more information and an application.

Sincerely,
Tony Sinclair, Chairman
Teacher of the Year committee

(- Sesquicentennial Article # 37 — From Page 1 -)

He was also a vital element in the Confederate secret service, moving spies into and out of Washington; he frequently rode himself in disguise into the capital. Once while in Washington, Mosby sent of a lock of his hair to Abraham Lincoln as a gift. It is reported that Lincoln's keen sense of humor fully appreciated the gesture. Mosby and his notorious raiders refused to surrender at the end of the war. While the group disbanded, they never surrendered.

Mosby spent his later years in San Francisco with friends and family. One particular family lived nearby with a young boy. The boy would often come over and eagerly listen to the stories of the old Grey Ghost. Mosby would entertain the young boy with tales of his gallant exploits and daring raids. The two became fast friends and would play war games outside. Mosby taught the young boy the secrets of Guerilla warfare. He taught him to fight like a raider, to fight like a guerilla. The young boy was George S. Patton.



MOS&B 2014 Annual Convention

Announcement

Gentlemen,

The South Carolina Society is honored to host the 2014 MOS&B National Convention in the "Holy City" of Charleston, South Carolina. The dates are Thursday July 10 to Saturday July 12, 2014. Our host hotel will be: DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel & Suites Charleston - Historic District 181 Church Street Charleston, SC 29401.

Please call the hotel directly at (843) 577-2644 to reserve your accommodations and ask for the MOS&B special rate of \$159 per night.

We will kick off the meeting with the GEC meeting on Thursday afternoon. Thursday evening Bill LeFevre, Past Commander of the Capt. Stephen Dill Lee Chapter #301 in Charleston, has arranged for a private tour of the CSS Hunley conservatory. A private cocktail reception with open bar and heavy hors d'oeuvres will follow at the conservatory.

Friday will begin with the Forrest Cavalry Corps breakfast followed by the business meeting of the Order. The annual Awards Luncheon will follow the business meeting. Bill Lefevre has arranged another special treat for Friday evening. We will take a private tour boat to Fort Sumter for an after-hours tour of the fort. On the return trip we will tour Charleston Harbor to include the Battery and hold the Commander General's Reception aboard the tour boat including passed hors d'oeuvres and a cash bar.

Saturday will begin with the annual Prayer Breakfast followed by the concluding business meeting of the Order. Saturday lunch and afternoon are free for you to enjoy eating in and touring the historic district. On Saturday evening I will be the member host sponsoring the Commander General's Banquet at the Carolina Yacht Club in the Fort Sumter Ballroom overlooking historic Castle Pinckney and Charleston Harbor.

We in the South Carolina Society encourage all of our members to attend what will be a wonderful gathering in Charleston, the Conde Nast #1 tourist destination in America. We plan to have the registration forms available by mid January 2014.

Sincerely,

Harold Davis, Commander

South Carolina Society

The Chaplain General's Thoughts

The Ten Predictions

We all celebrate Christmas as the time of the earthly birth of our eternal Lord, Jesus Christ. The contradiction of this previous sentence is, "how can our eternal Lord, the Son of God be born"? My answer is that we do not have the intellectual capacity and understanding to understand the concept of no time, meaning, eternity. The gospel of Luke brings this most beautiful story of how a loving God brings to us a way out of our dilemma of sin. Please, all of us, let's this Christmas season read the Christmas story for ourselves and to our family and friends. Each time I read it, I am moved to tears, even at this moment.

Luke, the physician, also as we know, wrote the book of Acts in which tells the story of the birth of the church in Acts, the second chapter, on the day of Pentecost, a Jewish festival. The birth of the Church is found for me in ten predictions of the future I found many years ago. I ask each of us to examine these predictions which are present and future happenings.

The Ten Can't Fail Predictions for 2014!

1. The Bible will still have the answers.
2. God will hear our prayers and pray still works, Psalms 34:17
3. The Holy Spirit will still move us and change the world. Acts 1:8
4. God will still inhabit the praises of His people and keep His promises. Numbers 23:19
5. There will be God-anointed preaching. Psalms 1:6
6. God will still love sinners like us. John 3:16-17.
7. God still pours out His blessings upon His people.
8. There will be still room at the foot of the Cross. 1st.Cor. 1:18.
9. Jesus will still love you. Philippians 1:6
10. Jesus will still save the lost and in 2014, all we do will be on the record. Rev. 20:12.

Raymond Holder

MOS&B Chaplain General

Request for Proposals for 2017

MOSB National Convention

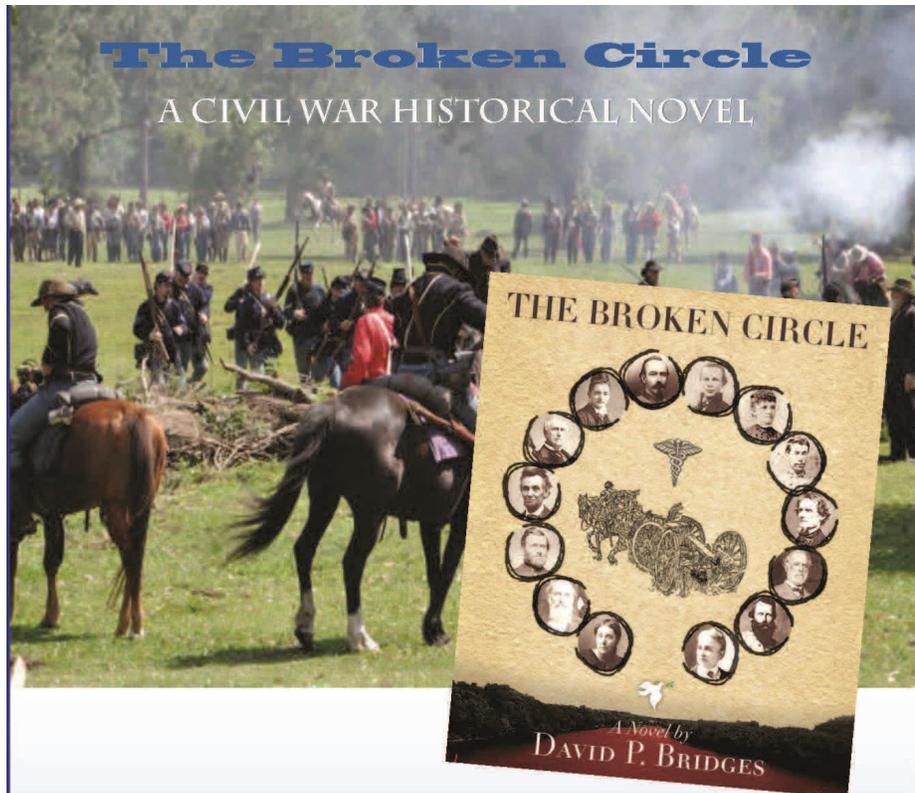
Gentlemen,

As Chair of the 2014 MOS&B Convention, I am automatically Chair of the Time & Place Committee for the 2017 Convention. Since 2017 is a non-election year the convention can be held anywhere; however, the 2018 Convention will be an election year, and the Bylaws dictate that it should be held in the ATM. The Bylaws also direct that the location of that convention be presented to the GEC. This will be done at the March 22, 2014 meeting to be held in Stone Mountain, Georgia. Then the decision will be announced at the 2014 Convention in Charleston, South Carolina to the membership. Details such as date, hotel, venues, etc., are not required to be worked out by this spring or in July – just the host City. With all this being said we are now looking for proposals for the host society and city for 2017.

Please consider responding to me at harold.davis@pfizer.com with your proposals by February 28, 2014 so the committee can make a decision to present to the GEC in March 2014.

Thanks for your consideration,

Harold Davis



Author and historian David P. Bridges captures the Civil War's impact on Southern culture through the experience of James Breathed, a young physician turned warrior. This historical novel relates Breathed's personal conflict, unrequited love, and the heroism that earned him the Confederate Medal of Honor posthumously in 2013.

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Submittal Entries

MOS&B Officer's Call Magazine welcomes submittals via e-mail to editor@mosbfl.org or swampeditor@yahoo.com on or before the 5th day of the month. Pictures are welcome. Please submit articles in Microsoft Word format or as plain text in your e-mail.

Army of Tennessee Lecture Series Presentation Inquiry

The Department of the Army of Tennessee is looking at having a lecture series in which members of the Florida Society, Georgia Society, and the Alabama Society could meet in a agreed upon location such as Dothan, AL or Valdosta, GA to participate in a lecture presentation; as well as, fellowship with members from these three societies.

If you have a particular location that would be a good meeting location or would like to provide input on what the lecture presentation should be about, please contact Compatriot David Denard at denardodidan@bellsouth.net.

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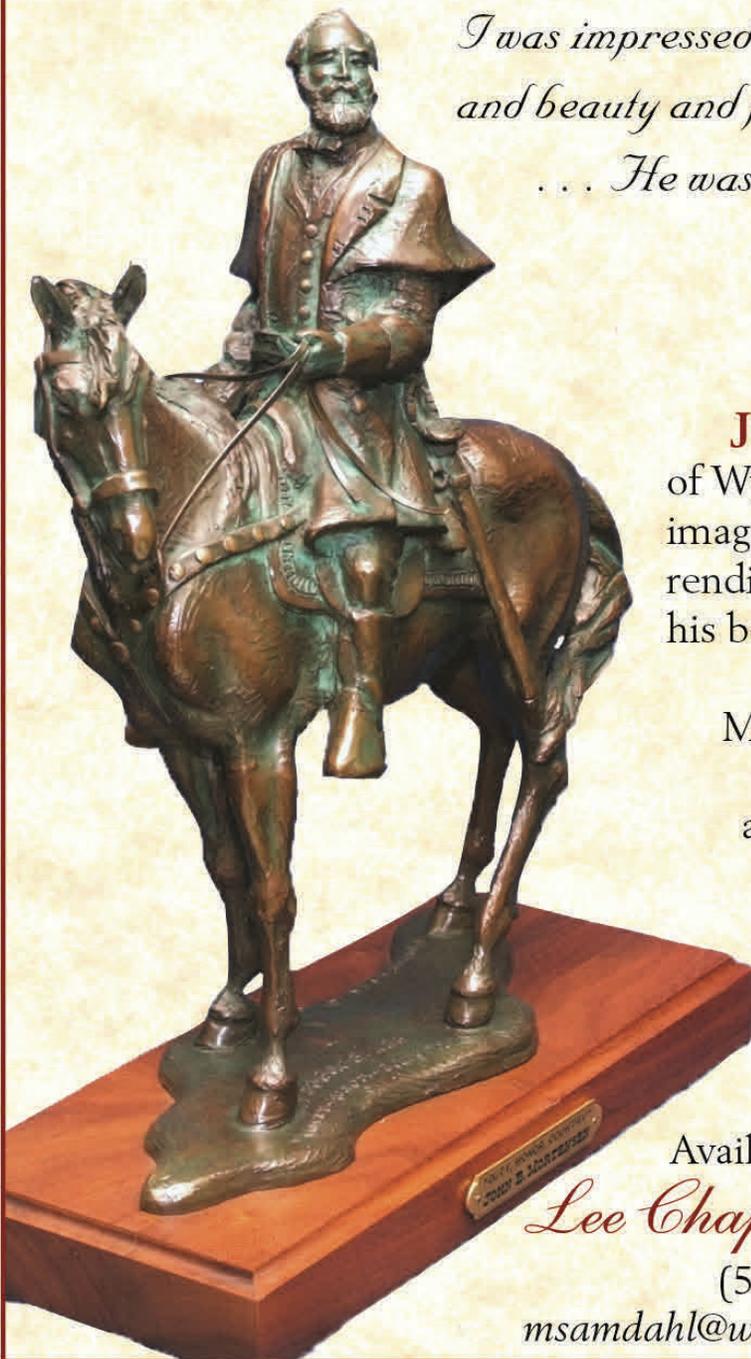
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. . . He was every inch a king."

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General Lee's College in 1869.



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MOS&B Executive Committee Meeting in Orlando, FL

Pictured herein are some of the people and events that occurred at the Executive Committee meeting of the Military Order of the Stars and Bars. This meeting was held at the Doubletree Hotel near the Orlando International Airport.



(Above Right): CG Toni Turk (Above Left): Bert Blackmon & PCIC Philip Law. (Above Center) Lt. Commander General Howard Jones. (Below): Historian General Ben Willingham is presented the Robert E. Lee Chalice. Also pictured is Erika Willingham who received the Varina Davis Award



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Chief Justice Henry McIver Monument Rededication



The Colonel Stephen Jackson Chapter #295 Military Order of the Stars and Bars held a monument rededication service for the late Honorable South Carolina Chief Justice Henry McIver. The service was held at the grave site of Justice McIver in Old St. David's Cemetery on Saturday December 7, 2013. The public was invited and welcomed to participate in this service for Justice McIver as is he remembered for his numerous contributions to Cheraw and South Carolina.



Chief Justice McIver resided in Cheraw and was well known throughout the state of South Carolina during his tenure as Chief Justice of the South Carolina Supreme Court from 1893-1903. He served on the bench for 26 years and died in office serving our state. He was one of three signers of the Ordinance of Secession from Chesterfield County when South Carolina declared its independence from the Union in December 1860. During the War Between the States he rose to rank of Captain in the CSA Company A, 4th Cavalry Regiment, South Carolina Cavalry. He sustained wounds at the Battle of Hawes Shop, Virginia, but survived the war to go on to become one of Cheraw's most prominent citizens. He also practiced law in Cheraw and his historic office can be visited next to the Market on Market Street downtown Cheraw.



Justice McIver was born on September 25, 1826 in Society Hill and died on January 12, 1903 in Cheraw where he was buried at Old St. David's Episcopal Church in Cheraw. His head stone was found in ruins partially covered a top his grave by the members of the Colonel Stephen Jackson Chapter #295 Military Order of the Stars and Bars. Because of his prominence and service to this state, the Colonel Stephen Jackson Chapter #295 committed a project to restore his head stone monument reminding Cheraw and South Carolina that there is much history here to share with our state and nation -lest we forget. May Chief Justice McIver and many more like him never be forgotten.



LAWRENCE SULLIVAN ROSS – Part One

By Larry Wilhoite

Lawrence Sullivan Ross, more commonly known as Sul Ross, was born 27 September 1838 in Bentonsport, Iowa. The following year his parents, Shapley and Catherine Fulderson Ross, moved to the new Republic of Texas, ultimately settling near Waco.

With Indian raids constantly occurring in the area, Shapley Ross soon became a leader of parties formed to fight the raiding Indians. This fascinated young Sul and he wanted to follow in his father's footsteps.

In 1856, Sul entered Baylor University at Independence, Texas. After studying there one year, he transferred to Wesleyan University in Florence, Alabama. While on vacation from school, Sul participated in campaigns against the Comanches.

One such campaign occurred in 1858 when young Sul was placed in command of 135 Caddo, Waco, Tonkawa, Anadarko and Delaware Indians under Brevet Major Earl Van Dorn, then commanding the 2nd U. S. Cavalry. On 1 October 1858, Van Dorn attacked a village near Rush Springs, Oklahoma. In this fight, Sul was severely wounded and had to return to Texas to recover. The following year, he returned to Wesleyan University where he graduated with honors in 1860.

Following graduation, Sul returned to Texas where Governor Sam Houston commissioned him as a captain in the Texas Rangers and instructed him to raise a company of 60 mounted volunteers. In December 1860, Sul led his company against Comanche Chief Peta Nocona's band at the Battle of Pease River. Nocona was severely wounded by Ross and killed by another Ranger in his company. This battle broke Comanche resistance for several years. After the battle, Ross discovered a white woman among the Comanche, who proved to be Cynthia Ann Parker. Ross became well known throughout Texas after her recapture.

Ross resigned as a Ranger captain in early 1861 and on May 28, 1861, married his childhood sweetheart, Elizabeth "Lizzie" Dorothy Tinsley.

With war on the horizon, he enlisted as a private in his brother's cavalry company. Ross's cavalry was ordered to join Colonel B. Warren Stone of Dallas for service with General Ben McCulloch. Stone's cavalry regiment was designated as the 6th Texas Cavalry and moved to Lancaster. Sul was elected Major by a wide margin. The regiment then moved north to join General McCulloch in Arkansas. In November 1861, Ross and his scouts slipped past Union lines, gathered information on the Federal army and got out without being caught.

Union forces under General Samuel R. Curtis made their way toward Springfield, Missouri. Finding no resistance in Springfield, Curtis pushed on into Northern Arkansas, stopping his 10,000 men at Sugar Creek, near a rise called Pea Ridge. General McCulloch decided to push Curtis back into Missouri as Federal supply lines were extended.

On 25 February 1862, Ross led 500 men in an attack on the Federal supply train at Keetsville, Missouri, capturing nine prisoners. Being 70 miles behind enemy lines, Ross and his troops were forced to take to the mountains to avoid capture, eventually making their way back to his lines. The Texans were in the saddle 36 hours and had only turnips to eat.

Major General Earl Van Dorn assumed command of the Confederate forces on 3 March 1862. He had a command of 16,000 Confederates and planned to overwhelm Curtis and his Federals. On 6 March, Stone's 6th Texas Cavalry made a demonstration at Mud Town, allowing Van Dorn, joined by Price's command, to make a flank movement via the Bentonville-Keetsville Road to attack Curtis from the rear. General McCulloch was to attack from the west, avoiding a frontal attack along Sugar Creek. When Curtis discovered Van Dorn's plan, he turned his army to face them.

The Battle of Pea Ridge (called Elkhorn Tavern by Southerners) opened on 7 March 1862, with the Confederate forces separated on wide fronts. Brigadier General James McIntosh, including Sul Ross and the 6th Texas Cav-

ally, attacked from the west and encountered 10,000 federal troops supported by artillery. The Confederates were forced to retreat after both Generals McCulloch and McIntosh were killed. Ross then rode through the night to advise Van Dorn and to deliver new orders to the commander of 3rd Texas Cavalry.

Van Dorn renewed his attack on 8 March but the Confederate position on the west fell apart and the battle was over. Van Dorn was forced to retreat. It was Ross's opinion that the blame for the defeat rested with Van Dorn.

Any hope of the Confederates holding Missouri was lost with this defeat. The 6th Texas Cavalry was sent to Des Arc, Arkansas where they were dismounted; their horses sent back to Texas. Ross considered this a "breach of faith." The regiment was moved to Memphis by steamboat and to Corinth by rail but arrived too late to participate in the Battle of Shiloh.

Ross and the 6th Texas Cavalry accompanied General Sterling Price and the Army of the West to prevent the Federals in Mississippi from joining General Don Carlos Buell in central Tennessee. Price captured Iuka, Mississippi on September 13, 1862, but was forced to retreat with the arrival of a superior Union force under General William S. Rosecrans. Ross's Texans, who were held in reserve, came under friendly fire from some Arkansas sharpshooters. Ross refused to return fire. Instead, he had his men form a line of battle with fixed bayonets and charged the sharpshooters, ending their assault on his troops.

Van Dorn next decided to recapture Corinth, a vital rail center. This would be necessary to launch a campaign to recapture middle Tennessee. The attack commenced on October 3, 1862, with Van Dorn's army of 20,000. Ross's Texans attacked Battery Robinett and drove the Federals from their position, capturing many pieces of artillery. Ross's horse bolted, throwing him to the ground, spreading rumors that he had been killed. His troops held Battery Robinett until a strong force of Federals arrived, forcing him and his men to retreat. Van Dorn then ordered a general retreat. Ross's Texans provided the rear guard. At Hatchie Bridge, Ross directed 1000 riflemen to hold off a much larger Federal force, allowing Van Dorn's army to reach safety. This action led directly to Ross's promotion to Brigadier General.

After a brief furlough to Texas, Ross rejoined his troops as Van Dorn prepared to join General Braxton Bragg and the Army of Tennessee for an invasion of central Tennessee. After wintering near Columbia, Tennessee, the spring of 1863 found Ross and his troops engaged in almost daily skirmishes with the Federals.

Earl Van Dorn was assassinated in May 1863, bringing a halt to the invasion of middle Tennessee. In the reorganization that followed, Ross and his brigade were ordered to Yazoo City, about 40 miles from Vicksburg.

In September 1863, Ross's brigade, numbering 894 men, was ordered to Mississippi to serve in the Army of Tennessee under General Joseph E. Johnston. He was ordered to raid into middle Tennessee to destroy the railroads in the rear of Rosecrans' army. Ross's brigade attacked the Federals at Tuscumbia, Alabama, forcing 10,000 Federals of Sherman's 15th Corps back across the Tennessee River.

In December 1863, Ross's men routed a larger Federal force at Salisbury, Tennessee and captured a train loaded with confiscated cotton. They continued to tear up the rails, burning the ties in the process.

On December 17, General Stephen Dill Lee wrote to General William H. Jackson with orders for the Texas Brigade. Many muskets and small arms in Mississippi were awaiting shipment to General Edmund Kirby Smith. Ross was to accompany these arms across the Mississippi River above Vicksburg. Freezing weather made the movement of the arms difficult, but Ross finally succeeded in getting 1500 muskets to the Mississippi River by horseback. He took a section of artillery with him. Once across the river, he began firing on Federal ships. He succeeded in disabling one vessel, but due to cold weather, he withdrew to find shelter and rations for his brigade.

Ross was then ordered to Benton, Mississippi to guard the Yazoo River and Mississippi Central Railroad from Federal attacks. It was here Ross learned that he had been promoted to brigadier general.

Larry Wilhoite holds a BS degree in history from Stephen F. Austin State University and is an avid student of the War Between the States. He is Commander, Texas Society, Military Order of the Stars & Bars; adjutant of the O. M. Roberts Camp 178, Sons of Confederate Veterans, Waxahachie; and a member of the Order of Southern Cross. For more information, visit militaryorderofthestarsandbars.org or omroberts.com.



LAWRENCE SULLIVAN ROSS – Part Two

By Larry Wilhoite

January 1864 found Lawrence Sullivan Ross and his Texans in Mississippi, preparing to defend the state against a Federal invasion by Federals under William T. Sherman.

Ross and his brigade spent the early part of February 1864, fighting heavy Union infantry and cavalry attacks at Santaria, Liverpool and Yazoo City, Mississippi. The citizens of Yazoo City gave the Texans a vote of thanks for saving their city and entertained Ross and his men for several days.

On February 3, 1864, General William T. Sherman launched his raid into central Mississippi with 25,000 troops. His objective was the vital rail center at Meridian. Ross's Texans harassed Sherman's rear, keeping Sherman's infantry closed up. Although Sherman completed his mission, Ross's men continued to harass Sherman's army.

May 17th found Ross and his Texans at Rome, Georgia and involved in a skirmish which began three months of continuous action contesting the advance of Sherman's march through Georgia. Often the Texans had to fight dismounted and within a few paces of the enemy. Ross's Brigade was involved in 86 engagements opposing Sherman's invasion.

Surrounded by the Texas Brigade, the Federal cavalry tried to sever the rail lines south of Atlanta at Lovejoy's Station on the Macon & Western Railroad. They had to cut their way out through Ross's Texans. Near Newnan, Georgia, on July 30, Ross was fighting dismounted, when some members of the 8th Iowa Cavalry also dismounted got between Ross and his horses. Some 500 horses were lost. Ross and his staff officers were temporarily captured until

Major General Joseph Wheeler mounted a counterattack, rescuing Ross, his men and horses. Now remounted, Ross pursued and captured much of the 8th Iowa Cavalry. Ross received much praise from his superiors for his bravery and persistent efforts in securing Lovejoy's Station.

On August 18th, Brigadier General Judson Kilpatrick raided the railroad at Fairburn. Ross attacked on the 19th with his entire force, joined by another large Confederate force, and surrounded Kilpatrick at Lovejoy's Station. Kilpatrick was forced to fight his way out. Ross's men were dismounted and behind a dismantled rail fence when charged by Colonel Robert Minty's 2400 Federals. Minty bragged that he had wiped the Texans out as hundreds fell under their blades. Ross took a position on a rise and sounded recall as the Texans regrouped. The Texans had lost only two killed, 20 wounded and 30 captured during the entire engagement with Kilpatrick!

The end of August 1864, found Ross and his Texans on picket duty near Jonesborough, Georgia. Atlanta was evacuated as Ross and his men dug in. He had begun this campaign with 1,009 men and now he commanded just over 200.

General John Bell Hood, who had replaced Johnston as commander of the Army of Tennessee, prepared to break off from Sherman and move into Alabama. His goal was to bring Sherman out of Georgia while moving to retake Nashville from the Federals. Ross's brigade now numbered 686 men and joined in the lead for Tennessee. The Confederates first objective was to destroy General John Schofield's army of 23,000. Ross's Texans engaged in many cavalry skirmishes during the move toward Columbia, Tennessee. Hood had hoped to hit the Federals at Spring Hill while they were spread out on their way to Nashville. Hood's orders to General Frank Cheatham were

confusing and allowed the Federals to pass on to Franklin and entrench. Ross continued raiding in the area.

Ross was then ordered to capture Schofield's supply train before it reached Franklin. He dismounted three of his regiments and attacked the train with fury. This caused the Federals to panic and 39 wagons with much needed supplies were captured.

Following the Battle of Franklin, fought November 30, 1864, Ross's brigade followed General Nathan Bedford Forrest in pursuing a retreating Federal army toward Nashville, arriving on December 3. With Hood's arrival, Ross's men were allowed to retreat into the countryside to cook rations and reshod their horses.

The Battle of Nashville was fought in bitter cold on December 15-16, 1864. Ross was at Murfreesboro when General George Thomas attacked Hood's Army of Tennessee. Ross's Texans captured a Federal supply train and took 150 prisoners, then set the boxcars on fire after removing much needed sugar, coffee, hardtack, clothing plus other badly needed supplies. Hood was soundly defeated and retreated. Ross provided the retreating Army of Tennessee with a rear guard.

December 31, 1864, found Ross and his Texans near Iuka, Mississippi. Ross reported casualties of 12 killed, 70 wounded and 5 captured in the Tennessee Campaign. These Texans had captured 550 prisoners, 9 stands of colors, several hundred horses and enough overcoats and blankets to supply his whole command.

The early part of 1865 was spent on picket duty in front of Vicksburg. Ross left the brigade on March 13, 1865, on a 90-day leave of absence. General Lee surrendered while he was on leave and Ross knew his war was over.

Ross received amnesty and bought a small plantation in the Brazos bottoms near Waco and became a farmer. McLennan County was overrun by desperados and the citizens appealed to Ross to rid the county of them.

In 1873, Ross was elected sheriff of McLennan County and served two years. During his term, he arrested hundreds of criminals, including the infamous Belle Starr. A Constitutional Convention was called in 1875, and Ross was one of three delegates from McLennan County.

Ross was elected to the Texas State Senate in 1880. While serving in this capacity, his youngest child died. His wife's health began to deteriorate after the loss of her child and her mother, so Ross decided not to seek a second term. However, the convention held in Hillsboro chose him and adjourned before he could decline. Tragedy again struck the Ross family when his oldest son died on January 31, 1883.

Ross was not through with politics however and in 1886, decided to run for Governor of Texas. He won the election by the largest majority up to that time and served 4 years. His term was known as the "era of good feeling" in Texas. During his term as governor, the new granite capitol was dedicated; taxes were reduced, and Anti-Trust laws were passed.

Following his two terms as governor, Ross became president of Texas A&M University. During his tenure, he revived the declining school, and enrollment increased with new buildings being erected.

Lawrence Sullivan Ross died on January 3, 1898, after a brief illness at the age of 59. The Dallas Morning News reported Ross's death the following day:

"It has been the lot of few men to be of such great service to Texas as Sul Ross. Throughout his life he has been closely connected with the public welfare, and discharged every duty imposed upon him with diligence, ability, honesty, and patriotism. He leaves a name that will be honored as long as chivalry, devotion to duty and spotless integrity are standards of our civilization and an example which ought to be an inspiration to all young men of Texas who aspire to a career of public usefulness and honorable renown."

In 1917, the 35th Texas Legislature established Sul Ross Normal College in Alpine, Texas which opened in June 1920. It became Sul Ross University in 1969.

Larry Wilhoite holds a BS degree in history from Stephen F. Austin State University and is an avid student of the War Between the States. He is Commander, Texas Society, Military Order of the Stars & Bars; adjutant of the O. M. Roberts Camp 178, Sons of Confederate Veterans, Waxahachie; and a member of the Order of Southern Cross. For more information, visit militaryorderofthestarsandbars.org or omroberts.com.

GETTYSBURG BATTLE-FIELD

Hand-colored lithograph by John B. Bachelder, 1863



Bird's-eye panoramic view of the battlefield facing west. Bachelder, John Badger (1825-1894). Subtitled Battle Fought at Gettysburg PA July 1st 2nd & 3rd 1863 by the Federal and Confederate Armies Commanded Respectively by Gen. G.G. Meade and Gen. Robert E. Lee. 1863 copyright. Small map of Soldiers National Cemetery in central lower margin. Facsimile signatures of Union Generals (Doubleday, Newton, Hancock, Birney, Slocum Sykes, Sedgwick, Howard, Williams) verifying accuracy of troop positions, and facsimile of hand-written statement by Meade on the accuracy of topography and troop positions within it.

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