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March 2014

Officer's Call



Sesquicentennial Series Article #40

JOHN H. REAGAN, CONFEDERATE POSTMASTER GENERAL

By Larry Wilhoite

Historian William C. Davis wrote of Reagan's postal system that it was "the only post office department in American history to pay its own way." Historian Ben H. Proctor selected Reagan as one of the four greatest Texans of the 19th century, along with Sam Houston, Stephen F. Austin and James Stephen Hogg. Who was this Texan in the Confederate Cabinet?

John Henninger Reagan was born October 8, 1818, in what is now Gatlinburg, Tennessee to Timothy R. and Elizabeth (Lusk) Reagan. He was the oldest of six children. John grew up in backwoods Tennessee where the

Reagans were farmers. Hunting and fishing were an important part of his early life.

Financial hardship limited his early education. He studied briefly at Nancy Academy and later at Boyd's Creek Academy for 15 months. John worked as a tanner, farm laborer, mill overseer and salesman to supplement the family's finances. However, his thirst for knowledge caused him to start studying law.

Elizabeth Lusk Reagan died in 1831, leaving his father with six children. John continued to work various jobs, helping his father support the family for the next six years. In 1837, after saving some money, he was able to study a year at Southwestern Seminary in Maryville, Tennessee.

At age 19, John realized that his opportunities in Tennessee looked bleak so he began looking westward to the frontier. Using his meager funds, he trekked to Natchez, Mississippi where he briefly managed a plantation before traveling on to the Republic of Texas.

Once in Texas, Reagan became involved in the war against the Cherokees. On July 15, 1839, he was involved in a battle with the Indians, routing them and killing their leader, Chief Bowl. As a result, he became a captain of a militia company from Nacogdoches.

In that same year, he became a deputy surveyor of public lands while establishing his law practice. He was also elected Justice of the Peace and continued in this capacity for four years. Reagan married his first wife, Martha Music, in 1844. Tragedy struck the following year when Martha died.

Reagan was licensed to practice law in 1846 and opened his law office in Buffalo, Leon County. In April of that year, he was elected a probate judge in Henderson County. The following year, he was elected to the Texas House of Representatives as a Democrat, serving one term, being defeated for a 2nd term.

(— Continued on Page 4 —)



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2012-2014

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

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Commander General's Message

Becoming CG/LCG



The Spring GEC Meeting is held this month at Stone Mountain, Georgia. The By-laws of the Order require that those interested in becoming either the Commander General or the Lieutenant Commander General to attend the Spring GEC meeting in even-numbered years to be interviewed by a designated Nominating Committee. The committee makes its recommendation to the membership at the annual convention in the summer; however, anyone going through the interview process may contend in the electoral process. The Bylaws do not permit nominations from the floor, except for those interviewed by the Nominating Committee in the spring. Normally those interested in being a part of the interview process have declared their intention to run and to be interviewed in the preceding November's *Confederate War Journal*.

The Bylaws also govern the locations of the annual conventions in which elections for CG & LCG are held. These rotate between the three departments during the even-numbered years. The 2012 elections were held in the ATM (Texas). The 2014 elections will be held in the ANV (South Carolina). The 2016 elections will be held in the AOT (Alabama). The site of the 2018 elections is scheduled to be announced at the 2015 convention in Virginia, but it will be held in the ATM.

Conventions during the odd-numbered years may be held in any department. The Chair of the Time and Place Committee is appointed by the CG. The pattern this administration is for the chair of the current convention also to act as the Chair of the Time and Place Committee to recommend the site for the convention three years hence, i.e. the chair of the 2014 convention will recommend the site for the 2017 convention. Recommendations are made to the GEC and announced at the convention.

Those with an interest in serving at the National level are invited to make their interest known to the incoming CG. In the April *Officer's Call* the recommendations of the Nominating Committee for CG & LCG will be reported to the membership.

Deo Vindice!

Toni Turk

Commander General

Please Update Your Contact Information

Being an all-volunteer organization, the MOS&B is always seeking ways to make the administrative functions more efficient. Part of this was moving our email operations to a new system that lets our members update their own contact information. In addition to the email address, the system can also include the physical mailing address and phone number.

To add your mailing address, phone number, or make any other changes to your record, please go to the following link into your web browser:

<http://militaryorderofthestarsandbars.us7.list-manage1.com/profile?u=65fff28d354813006a377a138&id=b6e8100400&e=>

Please take just a moment to add your mailing address and phone number so that we can build a system that allows us to do a better job of keeping in touch with you.

(- Sesquicentennial Article # 40 — From Page 1 -)

Admission to the Texas Bar followed in 1848, and he continued to practice law in Buffalo and Palestine.

He was elected District Judge of Texas and served five of his six year term, leaving early to run for the United

States House of Representatives. While serving in the U. S. House, he married his second wife, Edwina Moss Nelms. The couple had six children before her death in 1863.

While serving in the U. S. House, Reagan was an ardent supporter of state's rights. He was very well respected by his colleagues and was considered a moderate and supporter of the Union.

However, the Union was not to last. Following South Carolina's secession from the Union, other Southern states in the Deep South were poised to follow suit, including Texas. On January 15, 1861, when it appeared Texas would secede, Reagan resigned his seat and returned to Texas to serve as a member of the Secession Convention of Texas. He tried to convince Governor Sam Houston to support Texas's leaving the Union and joining the Confederacy but was unsuccessful. Feeling that many years of war would follow, Reagan voted for Texas to join the Confederacy.

Delegates to the convention elected Reagan as their representative to the Provisional Congress of the Confederacy in Montgomery, Alabama. With state after state withdrawing from the Union, a primary goal of President Jefferson Davis was to maintain communications in the Confederacy. In March 1861, Davis appointed Reagan Postmaster General of the Confederacy with specific instructions to make it self-sustaining. He was also instructed to meet with executives of Southern railroads to secure their support in transporting both the mail and needed supplies, especially military supplies. Davis was so impressed by Reagan's success that he placed him in charge of the telegraph operations.

Many of the officials in the U. S. Postal System were Southerners. Reagan quietly sent an agent to Washington, D.C. with letters asking the heads of the U. S. Postal Department to come work with him in Richmond.

Nearly all who were approached did so, bringing with them their records, contracts, account books, etc. Historian William C. Davis wrote, "Reagan in effect had stolen the U. S. Post Office." Reagan abolished franking privi-

leges, even for President Davis. Everyone had to pay. The Confederate Postal System was up and running in six weeks, much to the amazement of President Davis.

In June

1861, the U. S. Post Office ceased mail delivery in the seceded states, making it necessary that the Confederate Postal System operate to make deliveries there. Reagan's system was quite simple: Five cents per half ounce under 500 miles and ten cents per half ounce over 500 miles; two cents for "drop letters" and circulars. Drop letters were letters left at a post office and picked up later. Circulars included business flyers and newspapers. This system provided a steady stream of revenue. To make the postal system more efficient, Reagan cut expenses by eliminating costly and little used routes and forcing railroads carrying mail to reduce their rates in half, while accepting Confederate bonds in whole or partial payment.

Stamps had to be obtained.

More than six million stamps were printed by various Southern printers and the De La Rue Company of London. Reagan selected the images of George Washington, Thomas Jefferson, Andrew Jackson and Jefferson Davis to be used on the Confederate stamps.

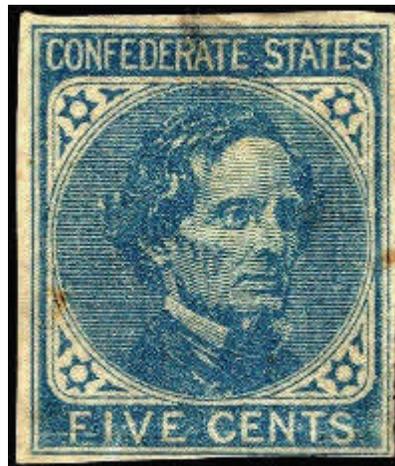
As the War Between the States progressed, Reagan monitored the occupied areas and adjusted the rates according to the risk of delivery. For example, when the Mississippi River cities fell in 1863, he charged higher rates to smuggle mail across the river. This practice greatly angered Union generals when they discovered the Confederate mail system continued to operate in captured areas within the Confederacy.

When General Robert E. Lee proposed his plan to invade the North in 1863, all cabinet members except John H. Reagan agreed. Being the only cabinet member from west of the Mississippi River, Reagan was keenly aware of the importance of Vicksburg and the ramifications of its loss. He proposed detaching the First Corps of the Army of Northern Virginia under Lt. General James Longstreet, sending it to General Joseph E. Johnston of the Army of Tennessee to defeat Grant and thus

By the Post-Master General of the Confederate States of America.

A PROCLAMATION.

WHEREAS, By the provisions of an act, approved March 15th, 1861, and amended by the first section of an act approved May 9th, 1861, the Post-Master General of the Confederate States "is authorized, on and after a day to be named by him for that purpose, to take the entire charge and direction of the postal service in the Confederate States," and all conveyance of mails within their limits, from and after such day, except by authority of the Post-Master General thereof, is thereby prohibited:



save Vicksburg. He obviously was in the minority with this thinking.

Eighteen sixty-three was a disastrous year for the Confederacy with the loss of Vicksburg and the defeat at Gettysburg. General Ulysses S. Grant was placed in command of the Union army and began his all-out blitz against all Confederate forces. In the spring of 1865, Grant and Lee were involved in a stalemate at Petersburg, Virginia.

When General Lee sent a message to Davis that Richmond must be evacuated since he could no longer hold the Petersburg line, Davis and his cabinet members packed what they could from their offices and made their way south toward Georgia. Their plan was to get to the Trans-Mississippi Department where Southern resistance was still strong and continue the fight for Southern independence. Many of the cabinet members began breaking away from President Davis's party, fearing capture, because a large reward had been posted for Davis' capture. John H. Reagan stayed with his President the entire way. George A. Trenholm, Secretary of the Treasury, resigned on April 27, 1865. Davis immediately appointed Reagan to succeed him.

Federal cavalry finally caught up with President Davis and his party on May 10, 1865, near Irwinville, Georgia. Reagan and former Texas Governor Francis R. Lubbock were still present and captured. Davis was mistreated on his way to prison at Fort Monroe in Virginia, while Reagan, along with Vice-President Alexander H. Stephens, was imprisoned at Fort Warren in Boston Harbor.

Reagan fell in disfavor with his fellow Texans when on August 11, 1865, he wrote an open letter to them urging cooperation with the Union, renunciation of the secession convention, abolition of slavery, and letting the freed slaves vote. He warned of possible military rule, if they did not comply. Reagan was prophetic, because that is exactly what happened with the formation of military districts and cruel military occupation.

Finally, in December 1865, after 22 weeks in solitary confinement, Reagan was released. He returned to

Texas where he reopened his law practice and began farming. The following year, he married Molly Ford Taylor, his third wife, who bore him five children. Molly and three of the children survived him.

Reagan was instrumental in forming the new government for Texas. He was a member to the Constitutional Convention of 1875. He helped author the new Texas Constitution and became a part of the effort to remove Governor Edmund J. Davis from office. Davis had lost the election and attempt-

ed to illegally remain in office. Conservative Democrat, Richard Coke, was elected with Reagan's support and endorsement.

Reagan was elected to the U. S. House of Representatives in 1875 after being granted amnesty and having his full citizenship restored. He advocated federal regulation of railroads and helped create the Interstate Commerce Commission (ICC). Supporting him in this were some railroad groups, independent men, merchants, and farmers who felt that the ICC would stabilize rates and end undue competition. In addition, he served as the first chairman of the committee on post offices and post roads.

After his 12-year tenure in the House, he was elected to the United States Senate in January 1887. In 1889, Reagan was deeply saddened by the death of his friend, former Confederate President Jefferson Davis. Senator Reagan was asked about Davis's motives for the war. He replied, "To secure a government that should be friendly to the people. He was an intense believer in the doctrine that the states should control absolutely their domestic affairs."

Senator Reagan was not to complete his six-year term, resigning June 10, 1891 to become chairman of the Railroad Commission of Texas at the request of Governor James Stephen Hogg. He realized that expansion of the railroads would be an economic boom to Texas as well as the nation. However, he knew the railroads were controlled by federal regulation and there was much corruption among railroad executives and government officials wanting to control it. Farmers



were caught in the middle and suffered greatly. Governor Hogg wanted Reagan to fight the high prices charged by railroads. To accomplish this, he implemented simple regulations on railroads and brought them under control in Texas. His measures became a model for other states.

After accomplishing Governor Hogg's goals, Reagan set his eye on the governorship. However, he was defeated for the Democratic nomination in 1894.

History was very important to John H. Reagan and in 1897 he became one of the founders, along with Oran Milo Roberts, of the Texas State Historical Association. During this time, he attended many reunions of the United Confederate Veterans. He made a trip back to Sevier County, Tennessee and received a hero's welcome.

Reagan retired from public life in 1903. He returned to Palestine, Texas and wrote his memoirs entitled *Memoirs, with Special Reference to Secession and the Civil War*, published posthumously in 1906.

John H. Reagan died March 6, 1905 of pneumonia in Palestine. He was the last surviving member of the Confederate Cabinet. Reagan was so revered for his service to the Republic of Texas, the Confederacy, the United States and Texas, that a day of mourning was declared and the entire Texas State Legislature left Austin to attend his funeral. He was laid to rest in East Hill Cemetery in Palestine, Texas.

Reagan left a huge footprint on Texas, his adopted state. Reagan County is named for him. Many schools in Texas bear his name. The building housing the state offices in Austin is the John H. Reagan State Office Building. A statue of Reagan stands proudly on the campus of the University of Texas at Austin. The poor farm boy from Tennessee had done Texas proud!

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.



Happy Independence Day Break out the Firecrackers and Roman Candles

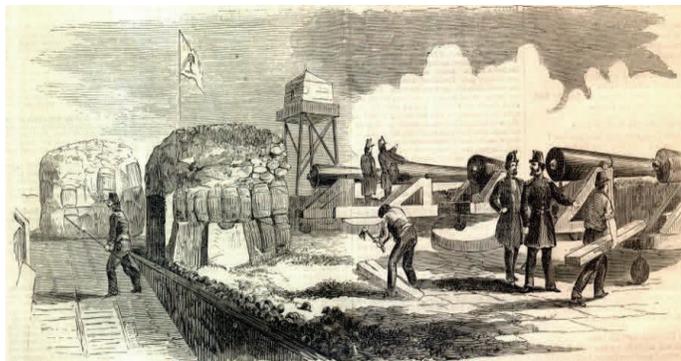
Today, March 2nd, Texans (and those who got here as soon as they could) are celebrating Texas Independence Day on the spot where "Texas became Texas" at Washington-on-the-Brazos. The historic site is a little over an hour's drive from Conroe along Texas 105 in Washington County.

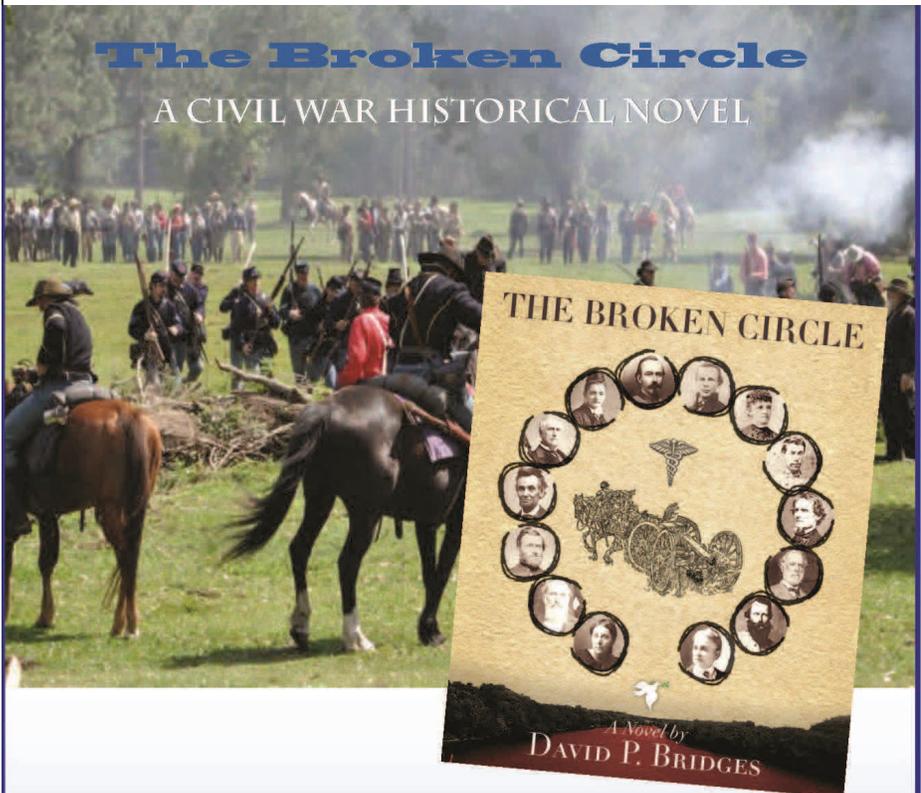
The celebration commemorates March 2, 1836 when 59 delegates met on the site to make a formal declaration of independence from Mexico.

The birthday celebration features live music, food, traditional crafts, living history presentations, firing demonstrations, historical encampments and commemorative programs — all with no park entrance or parking fees.

Guests will step back into history to experience life in Texas in 1836 by visiting with re-enactors and witnessing firing demonstrations in the Texas Army camps as well as a virtual townsite tour. Attendees can walk the same trail as Texas' forefathers and pioneer families, and witness cooking, weaving and period craft demonstrations.

A Texas State Park, the site's three attractions (Independence Hall, Star of the Republic Museum, and Barrington Living History Farm) will feature special activities during the March celebration.





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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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

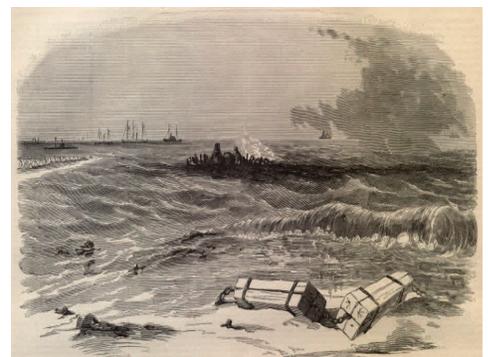
The Department of the Army of Tennessee is looking at having a lecture series in which members of the Florida Society, Georgia Society, and the Alabama Society could meet in a agreed upon location such as Dothan, AL or Valdosta, GA to participate in a lecture presentation; as well as, fellowship with 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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MOS&B 2014 Annual Convention Notice

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.



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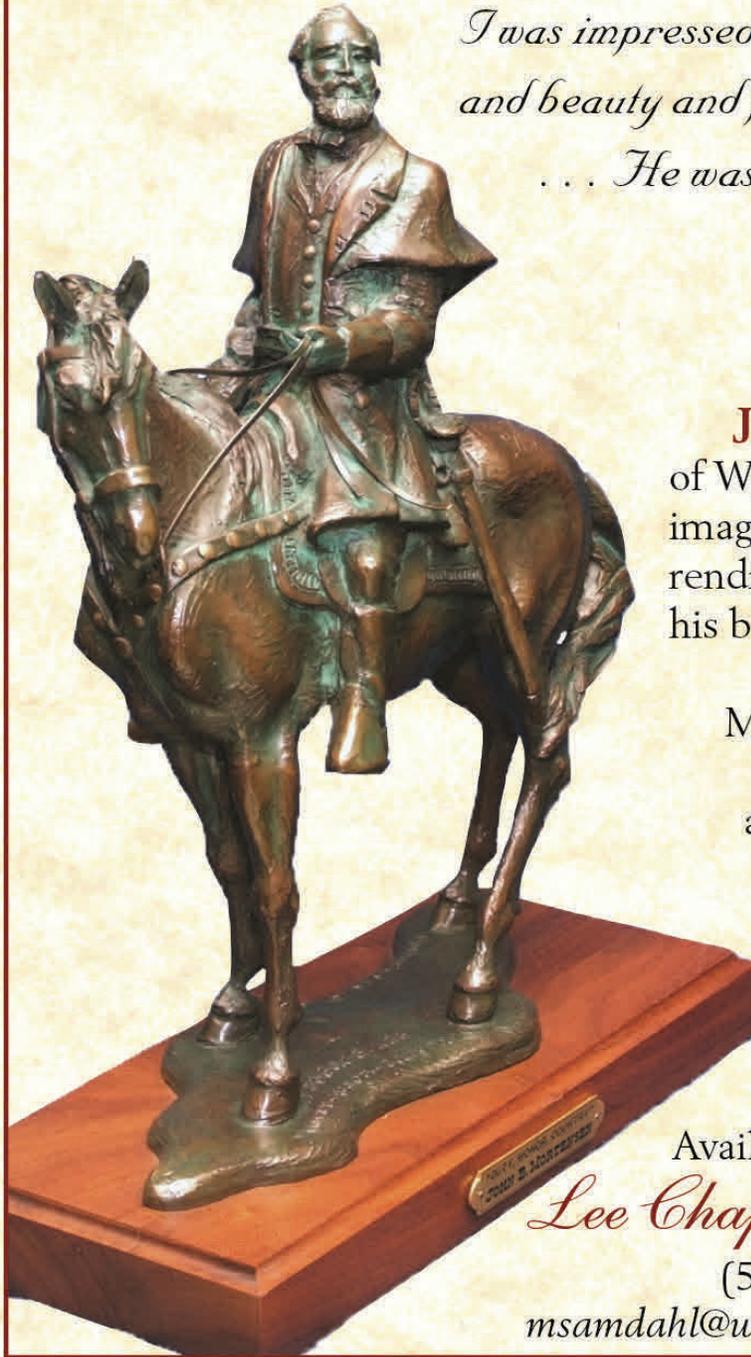
"Traveller moved as if proud of the burden he bore . . .

The horse was beautiful and majestic . . .

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The Chaplain General's Thoughts

By Raymond Holder

Point Man

I recently read a portion of a book named "Point Man". It is the story of a soldier in Viet Nam who was severely wounded being a point man as he would go ahead for a patrol through the jungle trails in Viet Nam. Each of us in the MOS&B is that point person leading the way forward in our individual faiths. Whenever each of us might wonder, how can I do this? Contact your pastor and tell him he is in your daily prayer. Tell others the same. Become involved. We are God's ambassadors. The Christian Church is the only institution our Lord established before He ascended to heaven I am concluding with a reprint of a previous article called The Spiritual Railroads, which is a metaphor for our vital involvement in our individual churches.

The Spiritual Railroads

The development of railroads at the beginning of the War Between the States was in its infancy. It is estimated that the North had approximately 22,500 miles of railroad track and the South had only about 9,500 miles of railroad track. This difference in number of miles of track between the North and South, relates to the availability of resources and each side of this conflict to conduct the war and to overcome their foe.

Each of us has a spiritual railroad. God placed these spiritual tracks within our individual souls. One of the difficulties the South's railroad system had was one of different track gages or width. It was not until after the civil war that the widths of the tracks were standardized. What are our individual standards we adhere to in our relationship with a loving God? By this I ask, what is each of us allowing or letting to come into our understanding of what God wants for each of us? I am going to use a number of metaphors. Train engines represent the church. The different cars being pulled, represent different ministries of the church. People inside the train are people in the church. The tracks the trains runs on represent the way forward.

Each one of us makes a decision regarding our relationship with God. I have decided to invoke the imagery of the spiritual railroad. What train are we going to board or not to board at all? In John 14:6, Jesus stated to Thomas (doubting Thomas), "I am the way, the truth, and the life, no man cometh to the Father, but by me." The railroad tracks represent the way God wants His church to go forward.

I strongly believe in maintaining the basics of our lives. In the 12th chapter of the book Roman, the apostle Paul writes an excellent chapter on the maintained Christian Life. The better maintained the rails and the engine, the more sure steady progress which can be made in each of our walks with God. The lack of maintenance of our relationship with God and His church can bring one closer to a train wreck in our lives. An essential part of maintaining the rails, are the ties which keep the rails together and properly separated. These are represented by church member titles to the church. The rails represent God's law.

These metaphors about the spiritual railroad involving trains and tracks can only be applied just so far. The lack of an adequate rail system in the South as compared to the North also informs each of us in our relationship with a loving God. The time each of us spends in prayer is in direct relationship to the maintenance of our own spiritual railroad and the way forward for each of us.

Raymond Holder

Chaplain General



Confederate Battle Flags Rededicated at NC Museum of History Ceremony

RALEIGH—Four original North Carolina Confederate Regimental Battle Flags were recently restored and rededicated November 9, 2013, in a ceremony at the NC Museum of History. Funding for this restoration was provided by members of the North Carolina Division Sons of Confederate Veterans throughout the state. The Regimental



NC Society MOS&B Commander David M. Edwards of Wadesboro

flags of the 24th, 34th, 38th, and 39th were rededicated in the ceremony featuring several speakers including NC Museum of History officials. NC Society Commander David Edwards was on hand to congratulate the NC Division SCV on their success in raising funds to preserve these four flags.

The keynote speaker was award-winning author and historian

Michael C. Hardy. He presented an excellent history of each of these regiments and the significance of their flags. He stated that the 34th Regimental flag was captured at the Battle of Gettysburg on July 3, 1863.

Excerpts of this article and the photographs courtesy *The Grey Line*, publication of the Garnett-Pettigrew Chapter 67 MOS&B; and Ron Purdue, Editor.

NC Society Wayside Marker Dedicated at Fort Anderson State Historic Site

WINNABOW, NC—The Confederate Officers of North Carolina Society dedicated their third Wayside Marker entitled The Big Guns of Fort Anderson on February 15, 2014 at the Fort Anderson State Historic Site. Society Commander David Edwards was assisted by members Chris Grimes, Larry Brown, and Charles Green.

It was the end of a wintry week of snow and ice as members of the North Carolina Society gathered at Old Brunswick Town to unveil the Fort Anderson wayside marker. Larry Brown gave the invocation, followed by

Chuck Green who lead the flag salutes.

Commander Edwards gave a brief dedication speech along with Keith Hardison of the NC Department of Cultural Resources. Chris Grimes lead the responsive reading. The marker, entitled "The Big Guns of Fort Anderson" was then unveiled.

The crowd ended the ceremony by singing *Dixie* and giving the old Rebel yell. A great day, even though brisk winds were coming off the Cape Fear River.

25th Annual Robert E. Lee Birthday Celebration

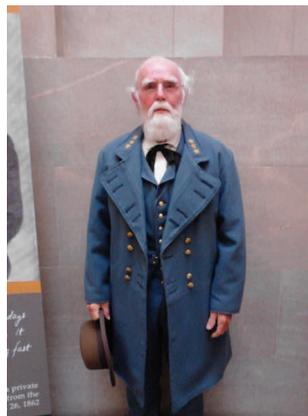
A standing room only crowd of over 150 people attended the 25th Annual Robert E. Lee Birthday celebration in the historic House Chamber of the NC State Capitol in Raleigh on Saturday, January 18, 2014. The event was co-sponsored by the Capt. James I. Waddell MOS&B Chapter # 32 (Raleigh, NC) along with the Capt. Samuel A. Ashe UDC Chapter (Raleigh) and the 47th Regiment NC Troops SCV Camp (Wake Forest, NC).

Chapter Commander Frank Powell introduced the speaker and Chapter Chaplain David Lanier provided music which included *Dixie*. NC Society Commander David Edwards of Wadesboro brought greetings for the MOS&B.

The Confederate State Marines served as the Color Guard for the event which included members David Henderson and John Perry. The 6th Regiment NC Troops served as Honor Guard and included Chapter Lt. Commander James Izzell.

Once again this year, the Chapter furnished a wreath that was placed on the grave of General Lee's daughter, Annie Carter Lee, who is buried in Warren County near Warrenton, NC.

Melanie Perryman, President of the Capt. Samuel A. Ashe UDC Chapter welcome those in attendance. Her members furnished and served a special 25th Anniversary birthday cake following the ceremony.



Neal Brantley of Clayton, NC, portrayed Robert E. Lee at North Carolina's 25th Annual Robert E. Lee Celebration.



General Robert E. Lee is shown addressing a packed NC State House Chamber in Raleigh on 1/18/2014.



The Stars and Bars flies over the NC State Capitol in Raleigh on 1/18/2014 for the 25th Annual Robert E. Lee Birthday Celebration



The grave of Robert E. Lee's daughter, Annie Carter Lee, is shown with a memorial wreath placed by the Capt. James I. Waddell MOS&B Chapter #32 (Raleigh, NC) on 1/19/2014. The grave is located in Warrenton, NC.

Little Known Facts About the First Lady of the Confederacy

By Dr. Gary Loudermilk, DCS

It is one of the Civil War's rich ironies that Varina Howell Davis became First Lady of the Confederacy, for she was unsuited by personal background and political inclination for the role. Born into the planter class in Mississippi in 1826, she received an excellent education at a girls' academy in Philadelphia and at home with a private tutor. Her father, William B. Howell, was an active member of the Whig party, and she grew up in a household where people took politics seriously and discussed them with gusto. She was a straightforward, candid, and outspoken girl, and her personality was always at odds with the role of the Southern "lady."

The First Lady got off to a bad start in the summer of 1861 by appearing at public receptions when she was visibly pregnant, something that very few politicians' wives did in the nineteenth century. She could also be blunt-spoken, according to a man who met her in Richmond in 1862. He described her as "very smart, . . . quite independent, says what she pleases and cuts at people generally." Furthermore, Varina Davis had an acute sense of the ridiculous, which got her into trouble. At a dinner party she attended, a general's wife remarked that the underdrawers for an entire Confederate regiment had mistakenly been made with two right legs. She burst out laughing, much to the horror of the other guests.

As the war ground on, Varina Davis continued to depart from the traditional female role. As early as 1862, she envisioned a hard life after the war and told her husband she would take a paying job outside the home if necessary. She also began selling off her personal possessions, clothing, china, and books, to build up cash reserves. Her personal life was further marred by the tragic death of her young son Joseph, who died in a freak accident in 1864 when he broke his neck in a fall at the Confederate White House. As she told one of her friends, she was relieved when the Confederacy collapsed and the war ended in 1865.

Yet the postwar era was also filled with challenges for Varina Davis. Her husband served two years in federal prison, and after he was released in 1867 he was never able to support his family. Continually at the edge of destitution, the Davises never again owned a home. Varina Davis gradually took over the management of their household affairs as her husband's health declined. After he died in 1889, she moved to Manhattan, where she lived for the rest of her life. Still fending off poverty, she nonetheless created an interesting life, writing for newspapers and magazines. Many of her publications focused on the war, and they often reflected her conviction that secession had been a terrible mistake. It certainly cast a long shadow over her life, even though she had never wanted to be the Confederate First Lady. Varina died in 1906.

The Union Atrocities at Gallatin, Tennessee

Gallatin was founded in 1802 and is located just east of Nashville on the Cumberland River. Prior to the WBTS, the citizens of Gallatin hoped to remain neutral and were opposed to secession but once the fighting began they gave almost unanimous support to the Confederacy and volunteered to serve in defense of their beloved state.

The Union Army captured Gallatin in February 1862, following U.S. Grant's capture of Fort Donelson. Gallatin was strategic because of the railroad and Cumberland River, both of which the Union Army sought to control. In July 1862, General John Hunt Morgan captured Gallatin and held it until the Confederate forces fell back to Chattanooga in October. While there Morgan placed a train loaded with explosives in South Tunnel and blew it up making the tunnel unusable. Following the Emancipation Proclamation slaves fled to the Union troops, who established a "contraband camp" at Gallatin. The slaves were fed and housed and then put to work for the Yankees. However the blacks were not well treated by the Yanks.

In November 1862, Union General Eleazar A. Paine recaptured the town and Union troops occupied it throughout the remainder of the war and on in through the Reconstruction days. Paine was notoriously cruel and caused the murder of hundreds of Confederate soldiers and Southern citizens. The long enemy occupation drained the area of resources. Union troops lived off the land, confiscating livestock and crops from local farms. By the end of their occupation there was widespread social and economic breakdown accompanied by a rise in crime.

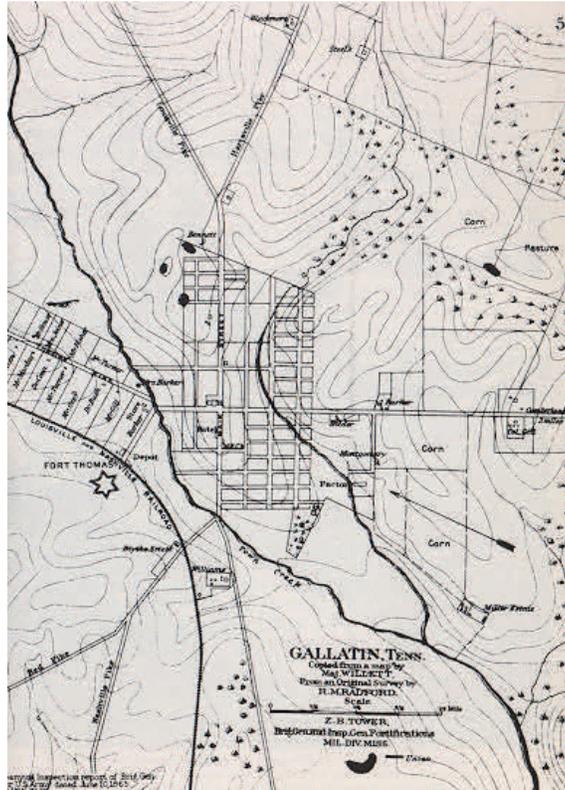
Before being assigned to Gallatin General Paine commanded a brigade at Paducah, Kentucky, a critical supply depot for the Federal army. There, Paine developed a reputation for harshness and cruelty toward the civilian population. He ordered all alleged Confederate fighters caught within his territory to be executed on the spot.

He subsequently headed the District of West Kentucky, where his men were deployed guarding railroads from Confederate raiders from November 1862 until April

1864. His headquarters were in Gallatin, Tennessee, in the middle part of the state, and a center of regional railroads. Tennessee was occupied by Union troops from 1862 until the end of Reconstruction.

Paine's reputation grew for repressing and stealing from the civilians. In addition to executing 186 suspected spies (Paine thought that if you were a Southerner you must be a spy) in the Gallatin town square**, he was known for what was called "chasing the fox with fresh horses" - having his men chase down and kill prisoners who were set free on old horses. Executions were commonplace, typically without benefit of a trial or legal counsel.

In her diary, 16-year-old Alice Williamson described Paine's execution of alleged spies in and around the town square (**see note at the end).



About the diary:

This small, leather-bound volume is the 36-page diary kept by schoolgirl Alice Williamson at Gallatin, Tennessee from February to September 1864. The main topic of the diary is the occupation of Gallatin and the surrounding region by Union forces under General Eleazar A. Paine. The diary relates many atrocities attributed to Paine. Frequently mentioned is presence of black contrabands in and around Gallatin, attempts to give them

formal schooling, and their abuse by Union troops from Eastern Tennessee.

Alice Williamson is bitterly resentful of the Union occupation. She epitomizes the helplessness felt by many Confederate sympathizers in Gallatin. She notes the presence of rebel troops in the region, mentions the massacre at Fort Pillow, the death of Confederate raider John Hunt Morgan, and the fall of Atlanta. Her diary tells the story.

Several typical excerpts from her diary (Google: Alice Williamson Diary):

March 12th *Old Payne (Gen. Eleazar A. Paine) dined at Mrs. Hales today: every one despises him but is afraid to show it. Yesterday he went up the country a few miles to a Mr. Dalton's whose son came home from the Southern Army the day before and had the same day taken the Amnesty Oath. Riding up to the door he enquired of Mr. Dalton if his son was at home but before he answered his son came to the door. Old Nick then told him to get his horse and go with him. After*

insulting the father, he carried his son a half mile away and shot him six times. One of Payne's escorts hearing the young man groan with pain placed a pistol to his temple and remarked, I will stop that, sir, and shot him again. But this is nothing new this is the fifth man that has been shot in this way, besides the many men that have been carried off by scouts and never returned.

March 11th I learn today that Gen. Payne had no charge against young Mr. Dalton, so he told his (Dalton's) father. After killing him he rode back to the house and told Mr. D. that his son was in sight - he could bury him if he wished. Today a gentleman (Col. E _____) was in Payne's office when he was trying a young man about sixteen years old and the only support of an aged father who was with him. His crime was being a rebel. Payne sent the young man to jail telling the guard to bring him out a seven o'clock. The father actually fell upon his knees before the heartless tyrant but was heartlessly bidden to rise and go home, the young boy has never been heard of since.

April 7th. Another soldier was shot yesterday. The Yankees went to jail and brought him while a citizen was standing near. He said the soldier was very poorly clad but his countenance was that of a gentleman. When the guard brought his horse to him (a broken down one from the camp) he asked what they were going to do with them. On being told to "Mount that horse and say no more . . ." he did so remarking that he supposed they were going to shoot him. They took him to the river to shoot him but finding some gentleman there - Mr. H. & M. they said they had gone in a hornet's nest to shoot and went somewhere else. When they carry them out to shoot them they given them a worn out horse and tell them if they can escape they may: they say they "have fine fun chasing the boy with fresh horses" I am sorry I did not commence my journal when old Payne first came; he was worse then than now.

April 11th Another man was shot today at the race track: the Yankee women went to see this one shot too; they say Capt. Nicklen is the one to work the prisoners and they intend to go and see them all shot.

April 20th Yankees moderate; cooled down a little. -- Two men from Wilson, one from Hartsville brought down 3 days ago and put in jail they have not been seen since; if they are not already shot they will be. One of them had a brother shot last week: the charge against him was that he had been a soldier.

April 27th Sis has just come home from Mrs. Lanes: while there she visited the grave of the stranger soldier who was shot Friday. The Yankees took his coat and boots off and put him in the grave without coffin or wrappings of any kind.

May 2nd A reg. of East Tennesseans have come to hold this Post. They are the meanest men I ever saw; but they have one good trait they make the Negroes 'walk a chalk'
May 6th Col. Miller of East Tennessee takes command today. The soldiers say if Capt Nicklen leaves they will kill every Negro in Gallatin in less than a week

Sept 22 Gen. Payne stayed at Paducah 56 days and shot 67 men: he is now under arrest. Paducah is a union place.

Sept 27th Tom Miller is to be hung Friday week for an insult offered his mother by a Yankee.

On April 29, 1864, Major General William T. Sherman reassigned Paine to a post in Tullahoma, Tennessee to guard bridges crossing the Duck and Elk rivers. A Congressional inquiry into Paine's actions in Kentucky and Tennessee found him guilty on several counts. He was punished by reprimand and he resigned from the Army in April 1865. If ever there was a man who should have been hung for war crimes it was this man. He was responsible for hundreds of soldiers and civilians being murdered. I might add there were many more Yankees like him. Alice Williamson's comments in her diary about the Union Soldiers reveal the Yankees true feelings about the black people. The blacks were kept busy digging graves it seems.

In the aftermath of the war, former slaves moved from the farms into town. At the same time, many white citizens moved from town out to farms to avoid the occupying troops. The area took many years to recover.

***The gallows at the Gallatin Town Square were located near the front door of an old revamped building now the law office of William Bryan Roerhig III, a member of the MOS&B and the current Commander in Chief of the Order of the Southern Cross. Many claims have been made regarding this building being haunted.*

HCG David G. Whitaker DCS
The Texas Chapter #5
Military Order of the Stars & Bars



SAM DAVIS, BOY HERO OF THE CONFEDERACY

By Larry Wilhoite

"If I had a thousand lives, I would give them all here before I would betray a friend or the confidence of my informer." Those were the last words of Sam Davis before the trap door sprung and launched Sam into eternity and his martyrdom in Southern history.

Sam was born October 6, 1842, in Smyrna, Rutherford County, Tennessee to Charles Louis and Jean Simmons Davis. He was the oldest of nine children raised on the 168-acre family farm. The Davis family was a typical Southern middle-class family of the period. Sam was primarily home-schooled until he

entered the Western Military Institute at Nashville in 1860 where he studied under Henry Shaw and future Confederate General Bushrod Johnson. His loyalty to his state called in 1861, bringing his formal education to an end.

After Lincoln's call for 75,000 volunteers to put down the Southern rebellion, Tennessee seceded from the Union. Sam, like so many of the young Southern boys, was caught up in the war fever and enlisted in Company I,

"Rutherford Rifles", First Regiment of the Tennessee Volunteers at the age of 19. The First Tennessee Regiment marched off to western Virginia where the regiment participated with General Robert E. Lee at the Battle of Cheat Mountain followed by fighting in the Shenandoah Valley.

April 1862 found the regiment back in Corinth, Mississippi with the Army of Tennessee under General Albert Sidney Johnston. Although

Davis was slightly wounded in the Battle of Shiloh, he was sufficiently recovered to march into Kentucky with General Braxton Bragg to secure that state for the Confederacy. At the Battle of Perryville in October 1862, Sam suffered a more severe wound, requiring a much longer period to recover.



In the fall of 1862, Captain Henry Shaw, his teacher at Western Military Institute, recruited Sam into a band of Southern spies known as "Coleman's Scouts." Their objective was to gather intelligence on the Federal army in central Tennessee and relay it to General Bragg in Chattanooga.

Coleman's Scouts wore Confederate uniforms, but they often, out of necessity, wore captured Union uniforms, dyed a dark brown using walnut dye.

Captain Shaw, alias E. Coleman, maintained his headquarters about 40 miles south of Davis's home. Shaw collected verbal and written reports from his scouts and then assigned one scout to take the material to General Bragg.

The Union was desperate to capture Coleman's Scouts and put them out of business. Brigadier General



Grenville Dodge arrived in Pulaski, Tennessee on November 5, 1863. His top priority was to locate Coleman's headquarters.

Davis spent October and November 1863 in and around Nashville collecting intelligence on the Union forces. Shaw assigned Davis to deliver the information to General Bragg, who

was at Missionary Ridge. Davis had received permission to visit his home before undertaking this mission. He started out early on the morning of November 19, dressed in boots his father had mended for him, old gray Confederate pants and a walnut-dyed Union cape and hat and arrived at Shaw's headquarters that day. On November 20th, Davis set out on his mission to General Bragg.

Davis was about 15 miles from Shaw's headquarters when he was ambushed by soldiers of the 7th Kansas Cavalry (known as Jayhawkers) of Dodge's command. Sam was taken to General Dodge at Pulaski. Dodge ordered his men to arrest anyone in the area who might in the least appear suspicious.

Davis was traveling with a naval pistol and a pass signed by E. Coleman. In his pockets, they found information that could only have come from Dodge's desk. More incriminating documents were found in the heel of his boot and saddlebags. Dodge knew he had a traitor in his office.

Davis was jailed in Pulaski. Later in the day, three other men were put in the same cell, one being Henry Shaw, alias E. Coleman. Dodge wanted Davis to reveal the location of E. Coleman's headquarters and the identity of his informer. Davis refused.

Dodge wrote to General W. T. Sherman, saying "I found Davis to be a young man not over twenty years of age, tall and soldierly and very respectful." However, he told Sherman he could not get him to answer his questions about Coleman's Scouts. Dodge then informed Davis that he would be tried as a spy, knowing that if convicted, he faced execution by hanging. Still, Davis remained silent.

Davis was again interrogated by several officers without success. Many of the Union officers were very impressed by Davis's loyalty to his leader and



Mother, do not grieve for me. I must bid you good-bye forevermore. Mother, I do not fear to die. Give my love to all."

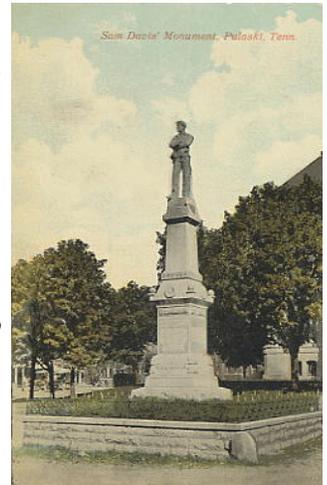
Your Dear Son,

Sam

Mother tell the children all to be good. I wish I could see all of you once more, but I never, never will no more. Mother and Father do not forget me, think of me when I am dead, but do not grieve for me, it will not do any good.

Father, you can send after my remains if you want to do so. They will be at Pulaski, Tenn. I will leave some things with the hotel keeper for you.

Pulaski is in Giles County Tennessee, South of Columbia."



Sam Davis sat atop his coffin as he rode the wagon to the gallows. The entire Union XVI Corps was drawn up around the gallows when Federal Spy Chief L. H. Naron broke through the ranks shouting "Stop the execution! Stop!" He brought a pardon to Davis offering him his freedom and safe conduct to the Confederate lines if he would only give them the information they wanted. Davis calmly replied "If I had a thousand lives to live, I would give them all rather than betray a friend or the confidence of my informer." He then turned to the provost and said "Officer, I did my duty. Now, you do yours."

Captain William F. Armstrong then removed Sam's hat, placed a white bag over his head and adjusted the noose before dismounting the gallows. The trap door sprung, launching young Sam toward Heaven and into Southern martyrdom.

Today, the Sam Davis home in Smyrna, Tennessee, is maintained as a shrine to this Confederate hero. Sam is buried in the family cemetery behind the house. Oh, such courage, loyalty and devotion!

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.

informer. Dodge therefore appointed a military commission for a court-martial beginning on November 22.

When Davis was captured, he was wearing a Confederate uniform and therefore, according to the U. S. Army's own regulations, should have been held as a prisoner of war, not a spy. Instead, they proceeded to try Sam as a spy. Even though the witnesses who captured Davis testified that they felt he was wearing a Confederate uniform, the Judge Advocate ignored such testimony.

Davis was tried on two counts, first being a spy, and second, carrying information from within the Union lines to persons in arms against the United States. Davis pleaded not guilty to being a spy and guilty on the second count. The court found him guilty on both counts and sentenced him to be hanged on November 27, 1863.

Davis had many visitors while awaiting his execution. One such visitor quoted Davis as saying "I do not fear for death, but it makes me mad to think I am to die as a spy."

Davis wrote this letter to his parents before his execution. "Dear mother, O how painful it is to write you! I have got to die to-morrow---to be hanged by the Federals.



General Executive Meeting at Stone Mountain, GA

Lincoln and Ft Sumter

By David Whitaker, DCS

Lincoln's own commander in Fort Sumter, Major Robert Anderson, clearly blamed Lincoln for starting the war. When Anderson found out an attempt was going to be made to reinforce the fort, he wrote back to Lincoln and Secretary of State Cameron a letter that included: . . . *a movement made now when the South has been erroneously informed that none such will be attempted, would produce most disastrous results throughout our country. . . . We shall strive to do our duty, though I frankly say that my heart is not in the war which I see is to be thus commenced. . . .*

Obviously the one who strikes the first blow is not always the one who starts a fight. The one who starts a fight is the one who makes the first blow necessary.

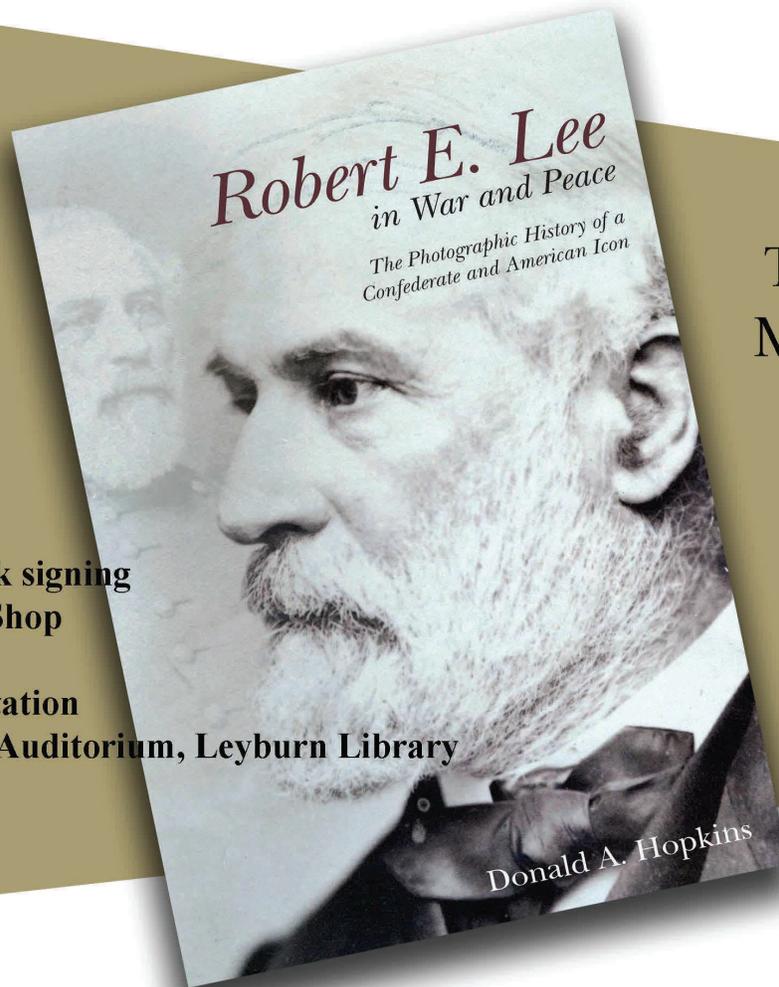
It is a HUGE part of the Fort Sumter story to know about Lincoln's reinforcement attempt because that's what set everything in motion. The Confederates demanded surrender because Lincoln's hostile naval flotilla was steaming fast to Charleston. Enter Beauregard. The fight was on.

Magna est veritas et praevalabit!
(Great is truth and it will prevail!)

Meet the Author!

Robert E. Lee in War and Peace

The Photographic History of a Confederate and American Icon



Tuesday,
March 25

**3 - 5 pm book signing
in Museum Shop**

**7 pm presentation
in Northern Auditorium, Leyburn Library**

The first book in seven decades offering every known Lee image (61 in all), with extensive commentary on Lee's life, antique photography, and previously unknown information about these images.

Author Donald Hopkins will be speaking and signing copies of his new book. Be sure to stop by for a visit and to get your copy personally signed!

Washington and Lee University ~ Lee Chapel & Museum

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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We are extremely grateful to the members of The Confederate Legacy Legion of Merit. These men have chosen to support the Order by donating \$1000 or more to the Legacy Fund. We are indebted to all of our donors for their vision and their generosity.

The Confederate Legacy Fund is an important part of our over-all financial plan. The contributions that are made by our members will remain intact for perpetuity. Only the interest that is generated from the fund will be spent. Our expenditures are limited to scholarships and projects that will preserve and enhance our Southern Heritage. Currently these types of expenditures are paid for from our general fund. The income generated from the Legacy Fund will eventually pay for all of these types of expenditures.

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Please consider MOS&B's Legacy Fund in your financial planning. Those members who make a one-time donation of \$1000 or more will receive the distinctive Confederate Legacy Legion of Merit neck ribbon and drop. A member may also qualify for the same award by utilizing one of our deferred payment plans.

Your generosity is most appreciated. Membership in the Confederate Legacy Legion of Merit will assure that there is always adequate funding for scholarships and Southern heritage projects. Please consider the Confederate Legacy Fund in your financial planning.

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