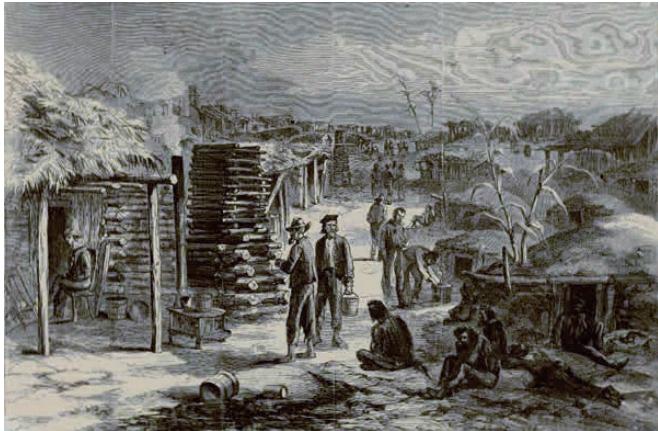


Volume 7, Number 4
March 2015

Officer's Call



Sesquicentennial Series Article #50

Camp Ford

By Karen Kay Esberger

Camp Ford was located four miles northeast of Tyler, in the northeast corner of Texas. Early in the War Between the States, April, 1862, it was established as a training facility, a muster point for troops from that part of the state. Early in 1863, it became a stop-over point for Yankee prisoners being taken to the exchange depot in Shreveport, LA. The first prisoners arrived in August, 1863. It came to be the Confederacy's largest POW camp west of the Mississippi

River.

An interesting memoir was written by a man who had been imprisoned there. Each prisoner could "preempt" a site on which to construct a shelter. Then he contracted with two fellow prisoners to build him a 12' x 10' "mansion" with a "good stone fireplace and a substantial chimney." Chimneys there were built of stacks of clay and oak with mud chinking.

As of October, 1863, the prison grounds had not been stockaded, and approaching winter led to some prisoners being allowed to go beyond the limits to fell trees for more cabins. Unfortunately a Rebel guard shot a Yankee who was barely inside the designated prison grounds, and the Yankees threatened to rise up, kill all the guards, and ransack Tyler. Only local militia guarded the camp, and those 38 men were overwhelmed with the arrival of more than 500 new prisoners from Morganza, Louisiana.

Surrounding planters quickly provided slaves to build a 16-foot high stockade. It was built in ten days and enclosed more than three acres. The residents of Tyler were greatly relieved. Included was a good spring with its creek. So the prisoners had access to both bathing and drinking water. In later years, many men still praised the taste and quality of water available in Camp Ford. The Yankees appointed a "commissioner of aqueducts" to regulate use of the water and at what points it could be used.

Until the spring of 1864, the prisoners lived relatively comfortably. They built their own shelters, as indicated above, planted gardens of vegetables, vines and flowers. They were provided beef to slaughter. Besides food, parts of the animals were used to make combs and beautiful carved sets of checkers and chessmen. They were allowed to keep their own money so they could buy produce from the surrounding farmers. There was very little sickness. However, worn out clothes and shoes were not replaced.

The prisoners published their own newspaper, "The Old Flag," edited by Capt. William May of the 23rd Connecticut and put on concerts which were also attended by surrounding Texas residents. A band and singing clubs presented those concerts. Prison crafts flourished, including basket-weaving, table mats, and drinking cups of ash wood. Ashes were used to manufacture soap. They even built arm chairs and banjos from ash and hickory. Holly wood was used for goblets. Potters used the reddish clay, i.e. local subsoil, to form bowls, plates, coffee cups and smoking

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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.

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Commander General's Message

The General Executive Council, (GEC), met in Vicksburg, Mississippi on March 14, 2015 to conduct the business of the Order. The GEC meets three times each year – once in the Spring, once in the Fall, and once in the Summer in conjunction with our National Convention. It is essentially the Board of Directors for our organization.

The GEC is comprised of the Commander General, the Lt. Commander General, the Adjutant General, the Chief of Staff, the Judge Advocate General and the Treasurer General. In addition, our three Armies are each represented by an Army Commander and two Executive Councilors. Every Past-Commander General or Past-Commander-in-Chief is also a member of the GEC.



During our meetings the officers make reports on their areas of expertise to the other members of the GEC. The system of reporting makes everyone accountable for his actions to the other members of the GEC. The reports for this meeting included a Treasurer's report, a membership report, and proposed amendments to our Constitution and By-Laws amongst other things. Of interest is the fact that the GEC voted to award the 2017 National Convention to Wilmington, North Carolina at this meeting. The GEC also ratified the appointment of Wayne Snodgrass to the position of Adjutant General.

Vicksburg was chosen for the location of our meeting because it is also being considered as a site for a future National Convention. The members of the GEC wanted an opportunity to preview the location to see if it would be a suitable site for a future convention. I am particularly thankful to PCIC Ed Cailleteau who made all of the arrangements for us at Vicksburg. Ed organized a dinner and booked both our hotel and our meeting room. He also worked with the Commander General to provide an outstanding tour of the Vicksburg National Military Park.

The GEC meeting took place between 9:00 AM and Noon the morning of March 14th. After lunch we reconvened at the Visitors Center of the Vicksburg battlefield site. We had retained four guides in advance who were approved by the National Park Service. These guides rode with us in our own personal cars for the actual tour of the battlefield. The tour was extremely thorough and took about two and one-half hours. Everyone agreed that it was one of the finest battlefield tours they had ever experienced.

The members of the GEC are dedicated to the well-being of the Order. They attend our meetings at great personal expense because of their devotion to the Order and their desire to advance our Southern cause. I would like to thank all of those who did attend for their interest and dedication to those values that we hold dear. Deo Vindice!

Best Wishes,

Wm. Howard Jones

Commander General



- Sesquicentennial Article # 50 – From Page 1 -

pipes. Chairs were said to be built in many patterns--- Gothic, rustic, cane-backed, willow-woven, grapevine-wrought and oak-ribbed.

More exerive activities included gymnastics, ball games & wrestling.

This prison camp filled quickly after the Red River campaign in Louisiana where Lt. General Richard Taylor and Major General John George Walker ended Yankee General Nathaniel Banks campaign to move into Texas through its eastern border. The Commandant was ordered to expand Camp Ford which quickly became nearly eleven acres in size.

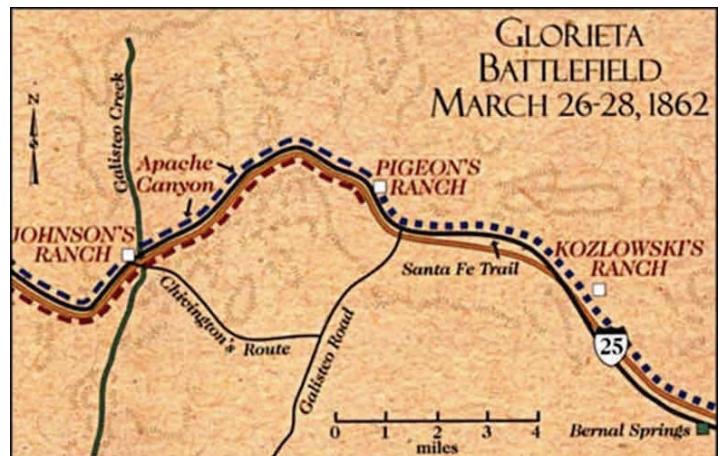
Overcrowding led to loss of trees, diseases, and ruined gardens. The few shared tools caused long waits to use even an ax. Men dug holes and covered them with brush or dug caves in the creek bank for shelter. However, a prisoner exchange and a shipment of tools that October provided more comfort for the remaining prisoners, including tools, clothing and other "camp equipage." So the last winter there became relatively comfortable, but monotonous.

Besides men, the camp was guarded by blood-hounds. These dogs, said to have "wolf-like yelps" and "long hyena-howls," could track men through swamps, as well as woods, and made the prisoners' blood run cold. The best hounds were not allowed to track game, such as deer and foxes, because such scents would distract them during a real pursuit. The best were trained only on human trails and were kept chained to prevent their hunting game. Their sense of smell was certainly legendary.

Units providing guard varied during the War. After the local militia, mentioned above, various Texas Regiments were sent to guard the camp. Later in the War, coverage returned to Texas Reserve Corps and Home Guard troops.

Camp Ford was one of the healthiest of POW camps because of its good water and a large number of Yankee officers to provide a functioning system of internal discipline. Their commanding officer was a Colonel who had graduated West Point. Most of the fatalities occurred in the crowding of the summer, 1864. A great number of those were new recruits, as opposed to veteran Federal regiments who suffered no deaths at the Camp. The overall death rate was less than 7 percent.

Karen Kay Esberger, Ph.D., R.N., is a retired nurse who is now President of Daffan-Latimer 37, the Chapter of the United Daughters of the Confederacy in Ellis County. For further information, see www.txudc.org



The Battle of Glorieta Pass

By Dr. Gary Loudermilk

The westernmost campaign of the War Between the States was fought in New Mexico Territory during 1861-1862. In 1861, Jefferson Davis had commissioned General Henry Hopkins Sibley to raise three full regiments in West Texas, which eventually became the Fourth, Fifth and Seventh Texas Volunteer Cavalry.

General Sibley arrived with this substantial force during the winter of 1861, and took command of all Confederate forces in New Mexico. The Texan Army was accompanied by artillery and supplies.

The Confederate plan for the West was to raise a force in Texas, march up the Rio Grande, take Santa Fe, turn northeast on the Santa Fe Trail, capture the stores at Fort Union, head up to Colorado to capture the gold fields and then turn west to take California. There would be access to 1,200 miles of California coastline with many open, blockade-free ports. Open trading ports meant better chance of recognition by, and trading with, European countries.

On July 23, 1861 Confederate Texans invaded Southern New Mexico capturing Ft. Fillmore along with its garrison on July 27. Confederate Commanding officer Lt. Col. John Baylor immediately called for reinforcements, as Union forces started concentrating to oppose further penetration.

After Baylor captured Fort Fillmore the Federals fell back and reorganized at Santa Fe. Union commander Lt. Col. Edward Canby had an army of 2500 men and he immediately requested volunteers from Colorado and New Mexico. By February, 1862, Canby reported that he had 4,000 troops at the ready and 3,000 Confederates under Sibley's command were moving up the Rio Grande Valley.

On February 21, 1862 the Texans won the Battle of Valverde near Fort Craig, 100 miles south of Albuquerque. Needing supplies, the Confederates began a steady march up the Rio Grande and took possession of Albuquerque on March 2, 1862. Major Charles Pyron of the Second Texas Regiment was sent on to Santa Fe and secured it on March 13. With supplies running low, Sibley knew they could not remain idle and determined to advance on Fort Union to capture its great stores and arsenal.

Meanwhile, the First Regiment of Colorado Volunteers marched down from Denver to reinforce the Union troops at Fort Union. The 950 Colorado Volunteers bolstered the 800 regulars and volunteers already at Fort Union. Colonel Slough assumed command of all the troops. The two forces were poised to meet.

Unaware that the Colorado troops were in New Mexico, General Sibley anticipated little trouble from Col. Canby and his men who had been bypassed at Fort Craig. Major Pyron, Second Texas Mounted Rifles, was reinforced with four companies from the Fifth Texas Cavalry under Major John S. Shropshire and headed towards Fort Union. Pyron camped at Johnson's Ranch at the west entrance to Glorieta Pass on March 25.

On March 25 at 3:00 p.m., Federal Major John Chivington with more than 400 infantrymen left Bernal Springs for Santa Fe where he planned to surprise what he believed to be a small force of Confederates. After marching 35 miles, the group arrived and camped at Kozlowski's Ranch at midnight. Federal cavalrymen located and captured some Confederate scouts and from them Chivington learned that Confederate forces were at the far end of Glorieta Pass preparing to march the next day. At 8:00 a.m. on the 26th, Chivington's force moved toward Glorieta Pass for a surprise attack on the Texans.

Major Pyron and his estimated 600 troops left Johnson's Ranch (Canoncito) moving east into an open part of Apache Canyon where he ran into Chivington's troops. Pyron set up two howitzers and fired at the Union troops. Chivington deployed two companies under Captains Wynkoop and Anthony, along with Captain Walker's dismounted cavalry.

After about an hour, Chivington's men gradually forced Pyron's troops back. Further pursuit was abandoned when darkness fell and Chivington returned to Pigeon's Ranch to camp for the night. Major Pyron sent word asking for time to bury the dead and care for the wounded and Chivington agreed to a truce until 8:00 am on the next day.

During the first skirmish, Major Pyron had sent a courier to Colonel Scurry, camped at Galisteo, to ask for help. Scurry's troops and supply wagons joined Pyron at Johnson's Ranch 3:00 a.m. on the 27th.

On the morning of March 28, Colonel Scurry decided to move ahead and attack the Union forces since an expected attack on the 27th had not occurred. Because the supply train would impede progress, it was left behind with a small guard at Johnson's Ranch. Scurry commanded an estimated 600 to 1100 men. He halted his troops about one mile west of Pigeon's Ranch and arranged them in battle formation.

Spies had informed the Union officers that a strongly reinforced Confederate force was approaching. Major Chivington and 430 men moved in a circuitous route across Glorieta Mesa to reconnoiter the Texans and harass them from the rear. Colonel Slough and the remainder of the troops (700 to 900 men) were to move against the Confederates directly in the pass.

Before the men could form into battle formation they were shelled by the Confederates. The fighting was among the rocks and trees and rifle and small arms fire was deadly. The battle raged for more than six hours. Col. Scurry deployed his men across the canyon with Pyron on the right, Ragnet in the middle and Scurry on the left. The artillery under Lt. James Bradford took a position on Windmill Hill.

Lt. Col Samuel Tappan, commanding the Colorado Volunteers, sent two batteries under Captain Ritter and Lt. Clafin to the left of the road 400 yards in front of the Texas line. They were supported by Co. C under Sopris and Co. K under Clafin. Co. D under Captain Downing was deployed to the left and Co. I under Lt. Kerber deployed to the right.

Captain Downing's company was fiercely attacked and fell back. The Union officers ordered their troops to fall back about 400 yards near to Pigeon's Ranch. Another line was formed across the valley. The Texans advanced, and again opened fire for three hours. Two of their three guns were disabled and the Confederates were compelled to rely on repeated charges to win the day. The Texans gained possession of Sharpshooters Ridge and repeatedly fired upon the Union artillery. They made one last charge upon the Union guns, hoping to reach their supply train, but were driven back. About 5:00 p.m. Colonel Slough ordered his Union forces to gradually fall back to the camp at Kozlowski's.

The Texans' joy at their win turned to defeat when word was brought to Colonel Scurry that his supply train at Johnson's Ranch had been completely destroyed. Major Chivington's men, led by Lt. Colonel Manuel Chavez, New Mexico Volunteers, had reached a height on the other side of Glorieta Mesa overlooking the Confederate supply train and troops were lowered by ropes to the base of the cliff. The surprised Confederates were almost defenseless.

All the heavily loaded wagons, enough supplies for a small army, were destroyed along with all the animals. Chivington's group then returned to support Colonel Slough at Kozlowski's.

March 29 was spent burying the dead. Casualty figures vary: an estimated 38 Union soldiers killed, 64 wounded and 20 captured; 36 Confederate dead (including Major Ragnet and Shropshire), 60 wounded and 25 captured. Pigeon's Ranch was once again used as a hospital but this time for the Confederates.

After two days and nights at Pigeon's Ranch, the Texans retreated to Santa Fe without food or supplies and eventually took a long, dangerous march back to Texas. By July 1862, all Confederate Troops had vacated New Mexico Territory and for the duration of the Civil War, New Mexico remained under Union control.

GEC MEETING – VICKSBURG, MS MARCH 14, 2015



Above Picture: Group picture of the GEC at the Vicksburg, MS meeting.

Seated (L to R): Byron Brady, Harold Davis, Howard Jones, Wayne Snodgrass, Cain Griffin.

Standing (L to R): Troy Massey, Anthony Hodges, Beau Cantrell, Tarry Beasley, Toni Turk, Max Waldrop, David Floyd, Michael Farr, Ed Cailleteau, Robert Turk



Above Picture: Group picture of the GEC that gathered for the Vicksburg Battlefield Tour.

(L to R): Tour Guide #1, David Floyd, Pat Floyd, Tour Guide #2, Harold Davis, Cain Griffin, Michael Farr, Tour Guide #3, Howard Jones, Tour Guide #4, Wayne Snodgrass, Tarry Beasley, Troy Massey

Forgotten Son of Texas Brigadier General Tom Green

By Ewell Loudermilk

Tom Green was born in Amelia County, Virginia on June 8, 1814 but like so many young men of his generation he came to Texas as soon as he could. Green attained a law degree from the University of Tennessee at Knoxville in 1834. In 1835 at the age of 21 he heard about the Texicans fight for independence and patriotically travelled to Texas to answer the call to arms. He enlisted with General Houston's troops in January of 1836. During the April 21 Battle of San Jacinto Green helped operate the famed "Twin Sisters" cannon, the only artillery present in Sam Houston's army. A few days after the decisive victory, Houston rewarded Green with a commission as a lieutenant. In early May, he was promoted to major and assigned as the aide-de-camp to General Thomas J. Rusk. With hostilities over, Green resigned on May 30 and returned to Tennessee to resume studying law.

In 1837 Green returned to Texas to claim a land grant in Fayette County near La Grange offered by the Republic of Texas to veterans of the War of Independence. Green served in various civil service posts for the young Republic of Texas but managed to find time to fight the Comanche in the fall of 1840. He raised a company of Texas Rangers as part of the First Texas Regiment of Mounted Riflemen to fight in the War against Mexico; helping to capture the

city of Monterrey, Nuevo Leon in September of 1846. In the years of peace between the Mexican War and The War for Southern Independence, Green married Mary Wallace Chalmers and five daughters and one son were born to them.

In 1861, when Texas seceded from the Union, Green, at the age of 47, was elected Colonel of the 5th Texas Cavalry. The 5th Texas joined General Sibley and "The Army of New Mexico." In 1862 Sibley left from San Antonio with approximately 2,500 rugged Texans and the strategic plan to conquer the Territories of New Mexico and Arizona and the vital port cities of southern California. They travelled the 800+ miles into New Mexico via Forts Lancaster (Ozona), Davis (Alpine) and Bliss (El Paso).

General Sibley fought a life long battle with alcoholism so much of the command was left to Colonel Green. Green led the troops in a stunning Confederate victory at Val Verde, New Mexico. In this battle on the afternoon of February 21, 1862 the Confederate forces, trying to cut off Union Fort Craig in southern New Mexico from its communications and supply lines to Albuquerque and Santa Fe in northern New Mexico, attempted to cross the Rio Grande near Val Verde north of the fort. The Confederates were much in need of water and the Federal forces had set up their defenses on the east side of the Rio Grande to deny the Southern Troops access to the river. General Sibley, who during the morning had remained with the wagons in camp south of Fort Craig, relinquished command of the brigade and Green took over. Around 2:00 pm, Green authorized a lancer company to attempt a charge on what they thought was an inexperienced New Mexico militia company on the Union extreme right. However, the Union soldiers turned out to be a Colorado company which was able to defeat the charge without breaking. Twenty of the lancers were killed and wounded during the charge, with almost all of the horses disabled or killed as well. When it returned to the Confederate line, the lancer company rearmed itself with pistols and shot-guns and continued fighting in the battle. This was the first and last lancer charge of the War Between the States.

The reorganized Confederates then sent three waves of dismounted cavalry attacks against the Union left flank. The Union line broke and under a white flag the Federal forces asked for a truce to recover their dead and wounded. The Confederate gentlemen granted them the truce and the Union soldiers retreated south to Fort Craig as night fell. The Confederate victory at Val Verde led to the capture of the towns of Albuquerque and Santa Fe. And although the Confederate troops attained another victory at Battle of Glorieta Pass the Texans lost most of their mules, horses and supply wagons during this fight and were forced to make a very long and difficult retreat in the face of a reinforced Federal presence all the way to Fort Bliss.

By the spring of 1863 Green was back in Texas. In May of that year he was promoted to Brigadier General and given command of the First Calvary Brigade. His cavalry quickly became the scourge of the Federal forces west of the Mississippi. After the battles of Brashear City, Kock's Plantation, Stirling's Plantation and Bayou Bourbeux, all in Louisiana and all victories for General Green and the South, he was given command of all cavalry units in the Trans-Mississippi Department of the Confederate Army. His troops had inflicted over 3,000 Union losses while suffering only 600 of their own during this hard fighting. At the battle of Kock's Plantation alone General Green's men defeated a much larger Union force inflicting 430 casualties on the Federal troops while suffering only 33 of their own and driving the Union army back six miles to the protection of the cannon at Fort Butler and preserving the interior of Louisiana for the South.

Green then rushed his cavalry division north to help General Taylor thwart the Federal push on Shreveport, Louisiana in what became known as The Red River Campaign. At the Battle of Mansfield on April 8, 1864 Green's cavalry troops helped secure the decisive Confederate victory. The next day the Confederates fought an inconclusive battle at Pleasant Hill but the Union forces were demoralized and began a retreat along the river in gunboats. The Confederate cavalry harassed the gunboats from the shore as they withdrew up the river. The musket fire from the Confederates along the river bank was so intense it forced the Union naval commanders to keep their gun ports closed.

But on April 12, 1864 at Blair's Landing, Louisiana in what was a calculated risk General Green was exhorting and cheering on his men along the river bank on horseback, making a conspicuous and tempting target for the naval gunners. They opened a gun port and fired one shot of canister that exploded directly over General Green's head, mortally wounding him. The loss of their beloved General paralyzed his troops for a while allowing the Union forces to slip away to fight another day.

General Green led an adventurous life, was one of the founding fathers of the Republic of Texas and he died a hero's death. Today he has an obelisk monument over his grave in The Oakwood Cemetery in Austin and the County of Tom Green in west Texas is named after him. But other than these mementos he is little remembered by the people of Texas.

Ewell L. Loudermilk has been active in Confederate Heritage groups for 20 years and is an avid reenactor with the 7th Texas Confederate Infantry. He is a founder and currently Adjutant of the "Major John Loudermilk" MOS&B Chapter

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A print such as this one is available for sale for \$100.00 each. The print is drawn by Samuel J. Massey and the proceeds from the print sales go to fund the Arkansas Society Scholarship Fund.

Please send your inquiries to purchase a copy of this print to mosbcg@cox.net. Your participation in this worthwhile project is greatly appreciated.

Request for Articles for the Upcoming 2015 Officer's Call Magazine

Please consider writing an article that can be included in future issues of the *Officer's Call*. Send your articles to the attention of our Editor General, Jeff Sizemore, whose email is swampeditor@yahoo.com.

Confederate Legacy Fund

The Legacy fund gives our members the opportunity to make a real difference. There is no better time than right now to make a statement for our values and our cause. The Confederate Legacy Fund is the vehicle that assures our relevance for generations to come.

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.

MOS&B is a non-profit 501 (c) (3) corporation. As a result, all donations to the Legacy Fund are 100% tax deductible. In addition, many corporations will match the charitable donations made by its employees. Donating stocks is another excellent strategy for charitable donations. You can receive an income deduction for the full market value of a particular security. At the same time, you will avoid all capital gains tax on the transaction. There is no brokerage fee for this type of transaction.

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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.

***78th Annual MOS&B
General Convention
Alexandria, VA
July 9th - 11th of 2015***

Plan on arriving Wednesday or Thursday and leaving Sunday, July 12. The convention will be held at the Monaco Hotel in the heart of Old Town Alexandria, George Washington's hometown and Robert E. Lee's boyhood home. The Monaco offers free shuttle service to and from Ronald Reagan National Airport about four miles away. The hotel stands on the site of the Marshall House famous for one of the first hostile encounters of the War for Southern Independence.

We have obtained a special rate for the convention. The Washington area is loaded with history and places to visit. Consider coming early or staying late to take advantage of the many attractions here. If you make your reservations early, the special rate will extend pre- and post-convention as well, if rooms are available.

***Tour Scheduled for
Friday Afternoon, July 10***

On Friday afternoon, two optional tours are offered. The first is to visit Christ Church within walking distance of the Convention Headquarters and the other tour is a visit to Arlington National Cemetery. We shall visit the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier, watch the changing of the guard, Jackson Circle, and Arlington House, where Robert E. Lee made his momentous decision to resign his commission from the United States Army on April 12, 1861.

At Arlington National Cemetery, a short ride from our headquarters hotel, is Jackson Circle, the burial site of over 400,000 military heroes and their families, including 482 Confederates: 46 officers, 351 enlisted men, 58 wives,



15 southern civilians, and 12 unknowns. They are buried in concentric circles around the Confederate Monument designed and sculpted by the world-renowned Moses Ezekiel, a VMI graduate who as a cadet fought with the Cadet Corps at the Battle of New Market. The graves are marked with headstones that are distinct for their pointed tops. Legend attributes these pointed-top tombstones to a Confederate belief that the points would "keep Yankees from sitting on them."

And of course Lee Mansion is located on the grounds of Arlington National Cemetery as well as the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier.



The Changing of the Guard at the Tomb is an experience never to be forgotten. An impeccably uniformed relief commander appears on the plaza to announce the Changing of the Guard. Soon the new sentinel leaves the

Quarters and unlocks the bolt of his or her M-14 rifle to signal to the relief commander to start the ceremony. The relief commander walks out to the Tomb and salutes, then faces the spectators and asks them to stand and stay silent during the ceremony.

*Military Order of the Stars & Bars 78th Annual General Convention
Alexandria, Virginia July 9-11, 2015*

Convention Registration Form

Name & Title _____ Chapter _____
 Address _____ City/State/Zip _____
 Email: _____ Phone #: _____
 Guest(s) _____

Regular Registration through May 31 _____ @ \$85.00 \$ _____

Late Registration after May 31 _____ @ \$105.00 \$ _____

Thursday, July 9

Commander General's Reception _____ @ \$60.00 \$ _____

Friday, July 10

Forrest Cavalry Corps Breakfast - pay at the door

Luncheon with Speaker – see supplemental information page _____ @ \$50.00 \$ _____

Arlington National Cemetery Tour – Arlington House, _____ @ \$40.00 \$ _____

Confederate Memorial, Tomb of the Unknown Soldier,

Changing of the Guard

or **Christ Church Tour** – church of George Washington and _____ @ \$15.00 \$ _____

Robert E. Lee

Saturday, July 11

Prayer Breakfast _____ @ \$35.00 \$ _____

Awards Luncheon _____ @ \$50.00 \$ _____

Commander General's Banquet _____ @ \$100.00 \$ _____

Ancestor Memorial (See Supplemental Information Sheet) _____ @ \$15.00 \$ _____

Total Enclosed (Check) \$ _____

Special dietary restrictions? - contact J.J. Smith 703-299-1725

Make check payable to: 2015 National Convention MOS&B

Mail to: J. J. Smith III, Adjutant, Virginia Society MOS&B, 401 Wilkes Street, Alexandria, VA 22314

Military Order of the Stars and Bars 78th National Convention

Alexandria, Virginia July 9-11, 2015

Thursday, July 9

Hotel Monaco Alexandria	
General Executive Council meeting	1:00-3:00 pm
Registration in the Lobby	5:00-6:00 pm
Commander General's Reception – open bar, hors d'oeuvres	6:00-7:30 pm
Dinner on your own - Enjoy one of Alexandria's fine restaurants	

Friday, July 10

Hotel Monaco Alexandria	
Registration in the Lobby	7:30-9:00am
Forrest Cavalry Corps Breakfast	8:00-9:00 am
Convention Opening Ceremony	9:00-9:30 am
Business Meeting	9:30-11:30 am
Luncheon with speaker	12:00 noon-1:45 pm
Arlington National Cemetery Tour	2:15-6:00 pm
Christ Church Tour	2:15-3:30 pm
Dinner on your own - Enjoy one of Alexandria's fine restaurants.	

Saturday, July 11

Hotel Monaco Alexandria	
MOS&B Prayer Breakfast	8:00-9:00 am
Business Meeting	9:30-11:30 am
Awards Luncheon	12:00-2:00 pm
Free time in the afternoon.	
Commander General's Banquet	
Reception – open bar	6:00 pm
Dinner	7:00-9:00 pm

Hotel Reservations:

Call 1-800-368-5047. Ask for special rate for Military Order of Stars and Bars or

On-line: Go to their website - <http://www.monaco-alexandria.com> Click on *Reservations* - Select your dates - Key in 11580104146 in the *Meeting/Group Code* block - Click on *Check Availability*

You will be redirected to our exclusive reservations page with our Military Order of Stars and Bars rates

If you want to come earlier or stay later, you may be able to get the Stars and Bars rate depending upon availability. If are planning a pre or post attendance this summer, the sooner you make your reservation, the higher the likelihood you will receive the special rate for your entire stay.



Optional Tour Scheduled for Friday Afternoon, July 10

An option to the Arlington National Cemetery tour is offered: a tour of Historic Christ Church, located 3 blocks from Convention Headquarters. Both George Washington and Robert E. Lee were members and worshipped here. John Carlyle supervised its construction from 1767 to 1773. James Wren designed the church in the colonial style. Franklin Roosevelt and Winston Churchill visited the church on January 1, 1942, to commemorate World Day of Prayer for Peace.

General Samuel Cooper, his father, and son are all buried in the Christ Church Cemetery, but not in the churchyard. Christ Church also maintains a cemetery adjacent to the Alexandria National Cemetery, as do many other churches in Alexandria.

During the War, Lincoln sent a detachment to preserve the church. Only Union officers were able to worship there. It is probably the only church in the area that the Union did not gut. However, all the silver was missing when

the Union finally relinquished the church, and most of the headstones were gone and have never been found.

Among the burials in the church cemetery is the mass grave of thirty-four Confederate prisoners of war who died in local prison camps during the American Civil War. A memorial stone in the churchyard commemorates their deaths. The marker depicted was designed, built, and placed by the General Samuel Cooper Chapter of the Military Order of Stars and Bars.

Friday, July 10 Convention

Luncheon Presentation

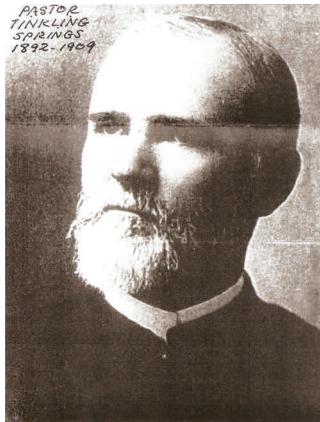
Meet George Finley and march with him and his men into the mouths of the Union guns at Gettysburg. Pickett's Charge was the most dramatic event in the most dramatic battle of the most dramatic war in American history. Finley's story captures all the drama and illustrates the highest principles of leadership, courage, and character.



George Finley was a native Virginian who was one of a handful of Southerners who got over the stonewall at Cemetery Ridge. Finley noted that *“one company, a little to my right, numbering 35 or 40 men, was almost swept, to a man, from the line by a single shell”*. Finley's men tore down a snake rail wooden fence and fought their way to the infamous “angle in the stonewall” and held it for less than 30 minutes.

Historians have termed this brief moment in time the “High Tide of the Confederacy.” Here at the wall Finley took a musket and captured several Union artillerymen. While charging towards the cannon he captured, Finley could *“distinctly feel the flame of the explosion.”*

Gradually, the weight of Union reinforcements overwhelmed Finley's men so he ordered them to surrender. While being led to the rear, Finley came upon Confederate General Lewis A. Armistead on whose staff he had previously served. Presuming Armistead to be dead, Finley never stopped to console the dying Armistead and was filled with regret. While being held as a POW at Hilton Head South Carolina, as one of the “Immortal 600”, Finley consoled many a fellow POW and made his decision to become a Christian Minister after the war. He eventually returned home and became the pastor of Tinkling Springs Presbyterian Church in Fishersville, Virginia.



Bill Young, our speaker-presenter on July 10, portrays Lt. Finley as he looked in the early 1900's. Not only is his outfit authentic, but also most of it is original. The black beaver top hat, black frock coat, vest, trousers, suspenders, high top shoes, and pocket watch are all from the 1890-1910 period. Finley's walking stick was a popular item of his day. It is topped with

a pewter head of John Bull, the British equivalent to Uncle Sam, and bears the inscription, "Lt. George W. Finley, 56th Va. Inf. Rgt."

MOS&B on Facebook

The national Military Order of the Stars and Bars has an official Facebook page that is available for all active MOS&B members to join. Anyone who requests membership will be approved after national membership is ascertained as the site is closed except to current official members. The site is not open for the general public to avoid misuse by those wishing to do harm to Southern heritage groups such as the MOS&B. The site is not a recruiting tool, but simply another communication tool for individual members and local Chapters and State Societies to keep in touch, share photographs and provide relevant information. In addition, up-to-date information about upcoming national meetings will be provided.

If you are interested in participating, simply go to Facebook, search *Military Order of the Stars and Bars* and then request membership through the simple directions on the site. We look forward to your participation.



The Chaplain General's Thoughts - Peace with God: The Southern Experience

By Raymond Holder

I am a Southerner, born and reared in the deep environment of south Mississippi. Natchez was that magical place, with its beautiful old antebellum homes. I was an eye witness of the civil rights era in my home state. I saw and experienced the social surface changes which were made. The most profound changes happened to me as my parents and sister were part of the Christian faithful. The reasons I mention these reflections, is to reflect on the seldom told story of my beloved Southland and my native Mississippi, even though now I am a naturalized Texan.

Fox News recently showed a poll recently taken which listed the most church going states in the USA. First on the list was Utah which the principal faith is Mormon. This state's founding purpose was that of Mormonism or the Church of Jesus Christ of the Latter Day Saints, and the two are separate now in the separation of church and state. The state is an anomaly in this respect. I must mention that Toni Turk and his family are excellent representatives from Utah in the MOS&B. In second place is Mississippi. Following Mississippi is almost the rest of the southern states. Analyzing the statics of the Pew foundation tell us that for over a century, the majority of Christian missionaries sent around the world are from the churches of the south. This, in my opinion, is a direct reflection of the South's continuing journey of peace with God.

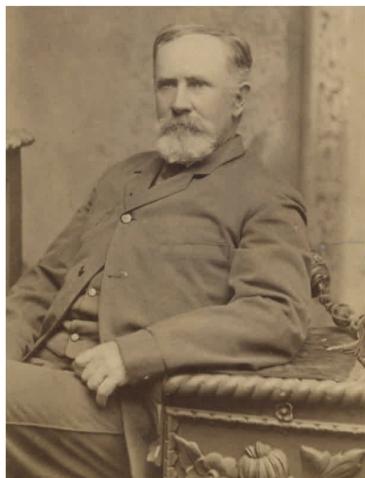
An excellent example of what I am trying to communicate of what I might call the southern gospel experience is the ministry of our own Stephen Clay McGehee. He and his wife are a part of the Fragments Bible Missions. Their role in this their ministry is to act as a mission board meaning they handle the stateside matters of the missionaries they send to the African country of Sierra Leone. Stephen's involvement in his mission work is multiplied by others involved in missions throughout our country, and most of this effort comes from our south land from people like Stephen Clay McGehee and his family. Those of us who are involved in ministries and missions do this from an overflowing heart of what God is doing for us through his son, Jesus Christ.

I would love to hear from those of you who are involved in such ministries and also I know that many of you might not like the publicity but I would love to mention your serve in the proclamation of the good news of

Jesus Christ. An old hymn I occasionally sing to myself is "Let Others See Jesus In You", and keep telling the story, Let others see Jesus in you.

CSA Assistant Surgeon

Robert L. C. Barret



ence.

Dr. Barret married Rosabelle Hunter in 1863, who only survived one year. In May, 1879, he was united to Annie V. Keene of Vicksburg, Mississippi.

Dr. Barret practiced medicine in Louisa County from the time he graduated from Jefferson Medical College in 1854, and served as assistant surgeon in the Confederate Service. He received his education at the Old Field Schools and at the University of Virginia, and in medicine at the UVA. He was a member of the Virginia Medical Society and of Day Lodge F. A. and A. M. of Louisa County. He and his wife were both members of the church.

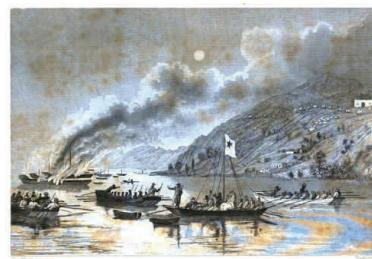
Submitted by Peter J. D'Onofrio, Ph. D., President, Society of Civil War Surgeons
www.civilwarsurgeons.org.

Battle of The Nueces River

By David Whitaker



This skirmish took place early on the morning of August 10th, 1862, when a group of German men heading to Mexico to avoid the draft by the CSA were attacked by mounted Confederate soldiers who considered these men to be Unionist. The Germans were camped on the Nueces River about twenty miles from Fort Clark in Kinney County when the attack occurred. The Confederate soldiers saw them as draft dodgers but the Germans felt they didn't come to America to get involved in a war and were heading for Mexico, however, their sympathies did lie with the Union. The Germans, mostly intellectuals led by a Major Fritz Tegener, had camped without posting a guard. Ninety-four Confederates, led by Lt. C.D. McRae, opened fire about an hour before sunrise killing nineteen of the sixty-eight Germans and wounding nine. The nine who were wounded were executed a few hours after the battle. Those not wounded or killed managed to escape. Two Confederates were killed and eighteen wounded, including Lt. McRae.



Of the Germans who escaped from the battle, eight were eventually killed on October 18, 1862, while trying to cross into Mexico. Most of the others did eventually make it across the Rio Grande River out of Texas. Some of the survivors and other Germans who were members of the Union League, a group of Union Sympathizers from around Comfort, Texas, who were mostly organized to protect several adjacent counties from Comanche Indian raids and also from Confederate actions, eventually did join Union forces headquartered in New Orleans.

Confederates regarded the Battle of the Nueces River as a military action against insurrectionists while many German residents viewed the event as a massacre. After the war the remains of the Germans killed in this conflict were interred at Comfort, where a monument commemorates the battle. It is the only German Language monument to the Union in the South where the remains of those Germans killed are buried and where an 1866 thirty-six star American flag flies at half-staff.

Notice

Due to some authorization mix-up regarding the article by Dr. Mark Baldwin, we apologize for printing the article "The Melancholy Journey of Robert Baldwin. Note that there will be no further follow-up series articles to this first article.

<i>(Confederate)</i>		
<i>B</i>	<i>13</i>	<i>Va.</i>
<i>Robert L. Barret</i>		
<i>Sgt. Capt. Henry W. Murray's Company (Louisa Blues), 13 Regiment Virginia Infantry.*</i>		
<i>Age 27 years.</i>		
<i>Appears on</i>		
<i>Company Muster Roll</i>		
<i>of the organization named above, from Louisa County, Va.,</i>		
<i>for April 17 to June 30, 1861.</i>		
<i>Dated June 30, 1861.</i>		
<i>Occupation Physician</i>		
<i>Enrolled for active service:</i>		
<i>When April 17, 1861.</i>		
<i>Where Louisa Co. Va.</i>		
<i>By whom H. W. Murray</i>		
<i>Mustered into service:</i>		
<i>When May 22, 1861.</i>		
<i>Where Harbor Ferry</i>		
<i>By whom M. McDonald</i>		
<i>Last paid:</i>		
<i>By whom</i>		
<i>To what time</i>		
<i>1861</i>		
<i>No. of miles to place of muster-in</i>		
<i>Remarks Discharged May 22, 1861, (over.)</i>		
<small>*This company subsequently became Company D, 13th Regiment Virginia Infantry. The 13th Regiment Virginia Infantry was organized May 9, 1861, and accepted into the service of the Confederate States July 1, 1861. It was mustered out of service January 17, 1862, and (1) Company B was disbanded November 8, 1861, and (2) Company B was mustered out of service January 17, 1862. (3) Company G was added to the regiment on March 1, 1862. Company G was a Maryland company and was mustered out of service May 26, 1862.</small>		
<i>Book mark:</i>		
<i>Junk</i>	<i>Copyist.</i>	<i>(442)</i>

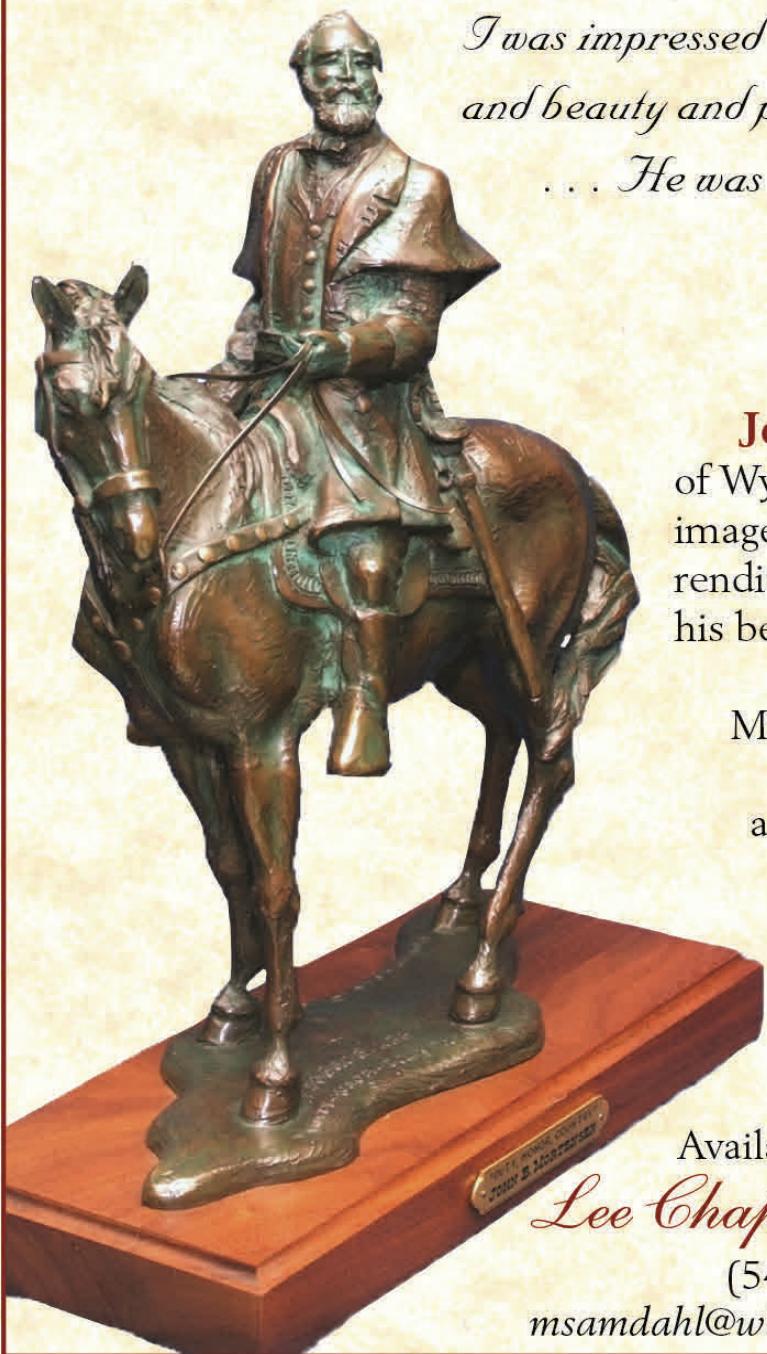
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