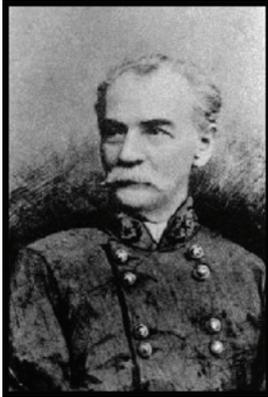


Volume 7, Number 5
May 2015

Officer's Call



Sesquicentennial Series Article #52 *William H. Parsons & His Brigade*

By Larry Wilhoite

In the spring of 1861, crowds from all over Ellis and surrounding counties began gathering at Camp Beauregard, located northeast of Waxahachie near Rockett Springs, to watch their brave husbands, fathers and sons train for the upcoming struggle. They were preparing to defend their homes and way of life against an invasion by Lincoln's hordes of blue invaders. William Henry Parsons had advocated States' Rights and suggested that if Lincoln was elected, the Texans should arm themselves for the inevitable.

William Henry Parsons was born 23 April 1826 in New Jersey to Samuel and Hannah (Boardwell) Parsons. His parents moved the family to Montgomery, Alabama when William was young where they opened a grocery store. The family prospered and bought slaves. William himself never owned any slaves. Parsons was an ardent secessionist and was proponent of States' Rights. He became a very skilled horseman and marksman.

Parsons attended Emory College in Oxford, Georgia. With the outbreak of the Mexican War, he left school and volunteered to fight with Zachary Taylor.

After the Mexican War, Parsons moved to Texas and worked as a newspaper editor. On 18 February 1851, he married Louisa Dennard. Louisa came from a very prominent family in Jefferson, Texas. She bore him five children.

At age 26, Parsons bought the *Tyler Telegraph* which he edited. Later he sold the paper and moved to Central Texas. There he lectured and wrote articles for newspapers on local, state and national issues. He favored reopening the slave trade and a trans-continental railroad through the South.

In 1860, Parsons founded the *South West* in Waco. This paper was very pro-Southern and he supported Southern causes, despite never owning any slaves himself. Louisa had "Aunt Ester" who was more family than slave.

When it became evident that war would come, Governor Edward Clark appointed Parsons Colonel of the 4th Texas Dragoons. English Colonel James Fremantle observed "it was found difficult to raise infantry in Texas as no Texan walks a yard if he can help it."

Parsons immediately set about recruiting. He raised 10 companies as follows:

- Co. A: Hill County Volunteers from Hill County
- Co. B: The Freestone Boys from Freestone County
- Co. C: Johnson County Slashers from Johnson County
- Co. D: The Bastrop Cavalry from Bastrop County
- Co. E: The Ellis Grays from Ellis County
- Co. F: The Ellis Rangers from Ellis and Parker Counties
- Co. G: Kaufman Guards from Kaufman County
- Co. H: Ellis Blues from Ellis County
- Co. I: Williamson Bowies from Williamson County
- Co. K: Eutaw Blues from Limestone County

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

The members of the MOS&B are descendants of the Confederate Officer Corps, elected government officials, and appointed governmental 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

Like most of you I am fascinated by the life of Robert E. Lee. His accomplishments in life were unmatched by those of other famous Americans. But my interest in REL extends to several generations of the Lee family as well. The subject of this discourse is his father, Henry Lee III, better known as *Light Horse Harry Lee*. Henry Lee became famous for his exploits as a cavalry officer during the Revolutionary War. He was a former Governor of Virginia and a member of Congress as well.



Several years ago I made a presentation to the local UDC Chapter about *The Last Days of Robert E. Lee*. It is the story about REL's life after the war, his career as the President of Washington College, and his death in 1870. In particular, my talk focused on the sentimental journey that REL embarked upon just before his death. Lee had hoped that such a trip would restore his declining health. In taking such a journey he would visit with old friends and pay his respects at the gravesites of his daughter, Annie, and his father, Light Horse Harry Lee. REL's journey would ultimately take him to his father's grave on Cumberland Island in Georgia.

Henry Lee III was born on January 25, 1756 and died on March 25, 1818. REL barely knew him. In fact, he only saw him a few times in his own lifetime, the last time being at age six. Henry Lee did not begin to have the same business skills or discipline as his son Robert. He was perpetually in debt and always had numerous angry creditors looking for him. He even served time in jail for not paying his debts. At the same time his health was failing.



In 1813, Henry Lee III left the United States bound for Barbados. His hope was that he could restore his health and become wealthy again in the Caribbean. Instead, he wandered from island to island growing deeper and deeper in debt. With a premonition of death, Henry left Nassau for his home in Virginia in March 1818. But he would never see home again.

During his homeward journey Henry Lee was overcome by pain and decided to seek refuge on Cumberland Island in the state of Georgia. It was there that the family of Revolutionary War hero, General Nathaniel Greene, had built a large country estate named *Dungeness*. Nathaniel Green was no longer alive at that time, but his daughter

Louisa and her husband James Shaw took Lee into their home and cared for him. He lingered for perhaps two weeks before dying. Thereafter, Light Horse Harry Lee was buried at the family's Greene-Miller Cemetery on Cumberland Island. His son, REL, was just 11 years old at the time.

Henry Lee III would remain buried in the Greene-Miller Cemetery for 95 years. In 1913 his remains were removed and placed in the Lee Mausoleum at Lee Chapel in Lexington, Virginia. But Lee's original tombstone is still standing today on Cumberland Island! My challenge was to visit Cumberland Island, find Lee's tombstone, and pay my respects. That trip became a reality for me in 2014.

Robert E. Lee only saw his father's grave on two occasions. The first instance was in 1862. His final trip was in 1870 when he took a steamship from Jacksonville, Florida to reach the island. Today, the remains of father and son are united at Lee Chapel in Lexington.



To reach Cumberland Island you must take a ferry from St. Marys, Georgia. In most cases, this will require getting a reservation well in advance of the actual trip. It takes about 40 minutes to get there on the ferry. The National Park Service limits the number of people who can be on the island at any one time to just 300 individuals. Still, you can book a day trip that will give you either 2 hours or 4 hours on the island. To comfortably see everything I would recommend the 4 hour trip.

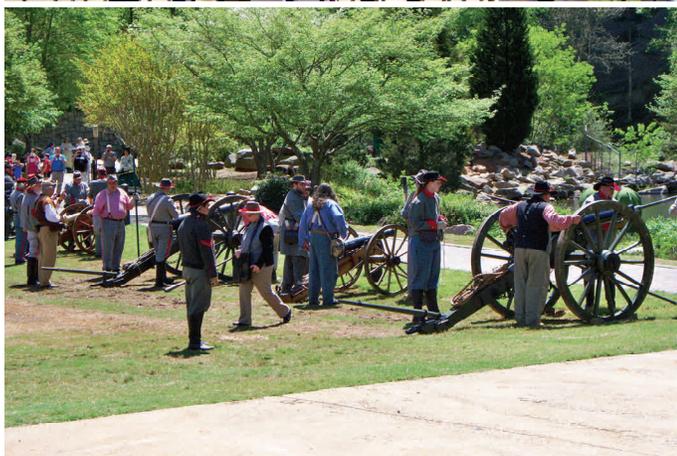
Cumberland Island is quite scenic. The *Dungeness* mansion was built and rebuilt three times – always in the same location. The last owner of the mansion was Thomas Carnegie who brought his large family there in 1884. The mansion was eventually destroyed by arsonists but its rustic remains are still quite visible. It is surrounded by extensive lawns and wild horses who feed off the same grass. The original gravesite of Light Horse Harry Lee is a little bit difficult to find but a friendly park ranger can point out the way. I will leave the details of the history of *Dungeness* and the people who lived there to your own pursuits. You will find that a trip to Cumberland Island is most rewarding. **Deo Vindice**

Wm. Howard Jones

Commander General

Annual Stone Mountain Confederate Memorial Service

At this year's Confederate Memorial Service, various members participate in the service itself along with honor guards from throughout the State of Georgia along with 9 cannons to send off the gun salute. It is also interesting to note that there was over 400 people in attendance. Herein are some pictures from this year's Confederate Memorial Service at Stone Mountain, GA.





- Sesquicentennial Article # 52 - From Page 1 -

The 4th Texas Dragoons gathered at Camp Beauregard near Rockett Springs for training. Waxahachie resident Emory W. Rogers, owner of the Rogers Hotel, was elected Major. The Dragoons were ordered to Hempstead near Houston to guard the railroad and telegraph lines.

On 28 October 1861, the Dragoons were mustered into Confederate service as the 12th Texas Cavalry. They remained at Hempstead at their guard duty. Boredom set in as the boys wanted action. Discipline was somewhat lax as noted by James J. Frazier who wrote "Some of the boys got drunk and ran through town firing off pistols and broke into a grocery and took the man's whiskey and done other things unbecoming of a civilized soldier."

Parsons and his regiment were ready for a good fight. One soldier expressed the feelings of the regiment, "Surely we are as contented as any body of soldiers, all that troubles us is the fear that the Yankees will not give us a chance to flog them outright decently."

Following his victory at Pea Ridge (Elkhorn Tavern) in the spring 1862, Federal Major General Samuel R. Curtis began his White River Campaign against Little Rock, Arkansas to take Arkansas out of the war. His force totaled some 22,000. Confederate General Paul O.

Hebert ordered the 12th Texas Cavalry to the eastern theater, but on arrival at Memphis, was stopped by Major General Thomas C. Hindman and ordered them to Arkansas. Hindman sent the 12th on a scouting mission to determine the federal position. Refugees reported the Federal army had 30,000 troops while Hindman had only 1,200 Texas cavalry to confront them.

Several companies of the 12th Texas Cavalry had arrived at Searcy Landing awaiting the opportunity to strike a superior force. Curtis's army was in dire need of supplies and he sent a portion of his force out to local farms to secure some. They approached two farms along Whitney's Lane. This move was reported to Major Emory Rogers who commanded about 150 Texas cavalymen and some local volunteers. Rogers decided to attack, despite being outnumbered. The Confederates initially drove the Federals back but had to retreat as federal reinforcements arrived. The Federals suffered 51 killed or wounded while Confederates suffered 10 casualties. This lifted the spirits of the people of Arkansas and gave hope to the Confederacy. The result of the battle was that Curtis retreated toward the Ozark foothills and abandoned his campaign.

The 12th Texas Cavalry next saw action at the Battle of Cotton Plant on 7 July 1862. Curtis decided to move his command toward Helena, Arkansas, hoping the U. S. Navy had arrived with his desperately needed supplies. Confederates skirmished with the Federals as they made their way toward Clarendon where the flotilla awaited. General Hindman ordered them stopped at the Cache River. Brigadier General Albert Rust commanded the combined Confederate forces, but did not arrive at Cache River in time.

Contact with the Federals occurred on Parley Hill's plantation near Cotton Plant. Colonel Parsons made some poorly organized attacks which were beaten back by troops from Illinois and Wisconsin. Parsons was forced to retire when Federal reinforcements arrived. On 3 August 1862, Parsons attacked Curtis's supply lines at L'Anguille Ferry, destroying about \$500,000 of supplies. This earned Parsons' Texans a reputation for hard fighting, leaving them a mounted regiment while other Confederate cavalry were dismounted. Federals referred to them as "Swamp Fox Regiment" because of their habit of travelling at night through swamps and attacking after dark.

The brigade's next action occurred in June 1863, at the Battle of Goodrich's Landing. Goodrich's Landing was a cotton plantation owned by Henry Goodrich of East Carroll Parish, Louisiana. This landing was used to ship cotton for area cotton planters. This area was invaded in early 1862 by Federal forces to be used as a base of operations against Vicksburg. With General Grant now besieging Vicksburg, the Confederates in Arkansas and Louisiana hoped that by raiding Goodrich's Landing, Grant's supply line would be disrupted and relieve their fellow soldiers in Vicksburg.

The Federals had constructed fortifications on top of an old Indian mound about five miles northwest of Goodrich's Landing to guard a military supply depot. Confederates planned an attack on June 29, but decided first to demand an unconditional surrender. The Federals accepted. Later that afternoon, Parsons' Brigade met and routed some companies of the 1st Kansas Mounted Infantry. On orders from the Governor of Louisiana, the Confederates began burning all cotton in the area to keep it from falling in Federal hands.

Heavy Federal reinforcements arrived and pursued the Confederates. Being outnumbered and outgunned, Parsons chose to take the captured supplies and retreat. The raid was successful in capturing much needed supplies but failed to relieve Vicksburg.

Parsons' Brigade, in coordination with John G. Walker's Texas Infantry, continued to raid near Milliken's Bend and Lake Providence in northeast Louisiana in a vain effort to relieve Vicksburg from Grant's grasp.

After Vicksburg fell on 4 July 1863, Parsons took his brigade to southeast Arkansas. There they continued to serve as scouts and raiders on the west bank of the Mississippi River from Missouri to Louisiana.

In the spring of 1864, Major General Nathaniel Banks began his Red River Campaign into Louisiana with 30,000 men. His objectives were to destroy the Confederate army of General Richard Taylor; to capture Shreveport (Confederate headquarters of the Trans-Mississippi Department) thus controlling the Red River and invade Texas; to confiscate cotton from plantations along the Red River; and to organize pro-Union governments in the states of Texas and Louisiana.

To oppose this force, General Richard Taylor had no more than 15,000 troops, probably less. This campaign culminated in Federal defeats at Mansfield and Pleasant Hill in April 1864. Parsons' brigade arrived too late to participate in these battles but did join in the pursuit of Banks' army as he retreated toward New Orleans.

On 12 April, the Confederates, under Brigadier Tom Green, attacked the Union fleet at Blair's Landing. Parsons' Brigade participated in the attack. However, the Federals, with gun boats, proved too strong and General Green was killed in the fight.

The brigade's last action was at the Battle of Yellow Bayou on 18 May 1864. Yellow Bayou was located in Avoyelles Parish, Louisiana. General Taylor's Confederates, in harassing the Federal retreat, had reached Yellow Bayou. Banks ordered Brigadier General A. J. Smith to stop their advance. Smith then ordered Brigadier General Joseph A. Mower to meet Taylor's force. The battle lasted several hours of back-and-forth charges and counter-charges. The intense fighting caused the ground cover in the area to catch fire, causing both sides to break off and retreat. This was the last battle of Banks' Red River Campaign. The Confederates had accomplished their objective and stopped the Federals from taking Shreveport and invading Texas.

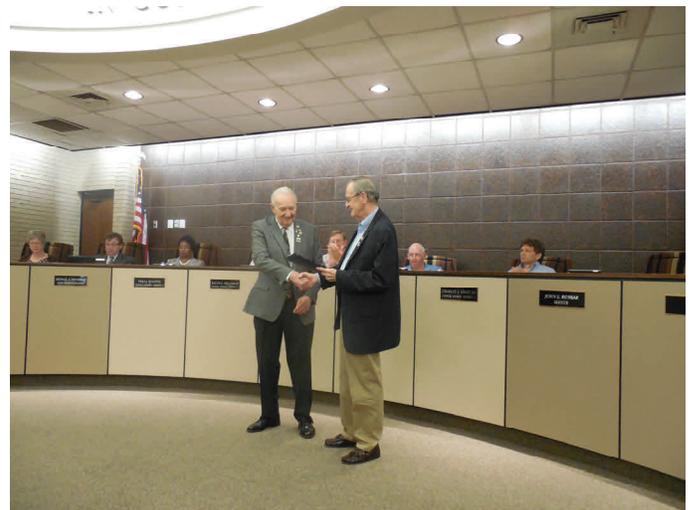
Parsons' Brigade was ordered back to southern Arkansas where it continued its scouting and raiding. In early 1865, they were ordered to Texas and eventually disbanded 23 May 1865.

After the war, Colonel Parsons thought of establishing a Confederate colony in British Honduras but decided against it and returned to Texas. He was elected to the state senate. In 1871, President Grant appointed him centennial commissioner and he moved to New York.

Colonel Parsons died 3 Oct 1908 at his son's home in Chicago. He was then buried in the Mount Hope Cemetery at Hastings-On-the-Hudson in New York.

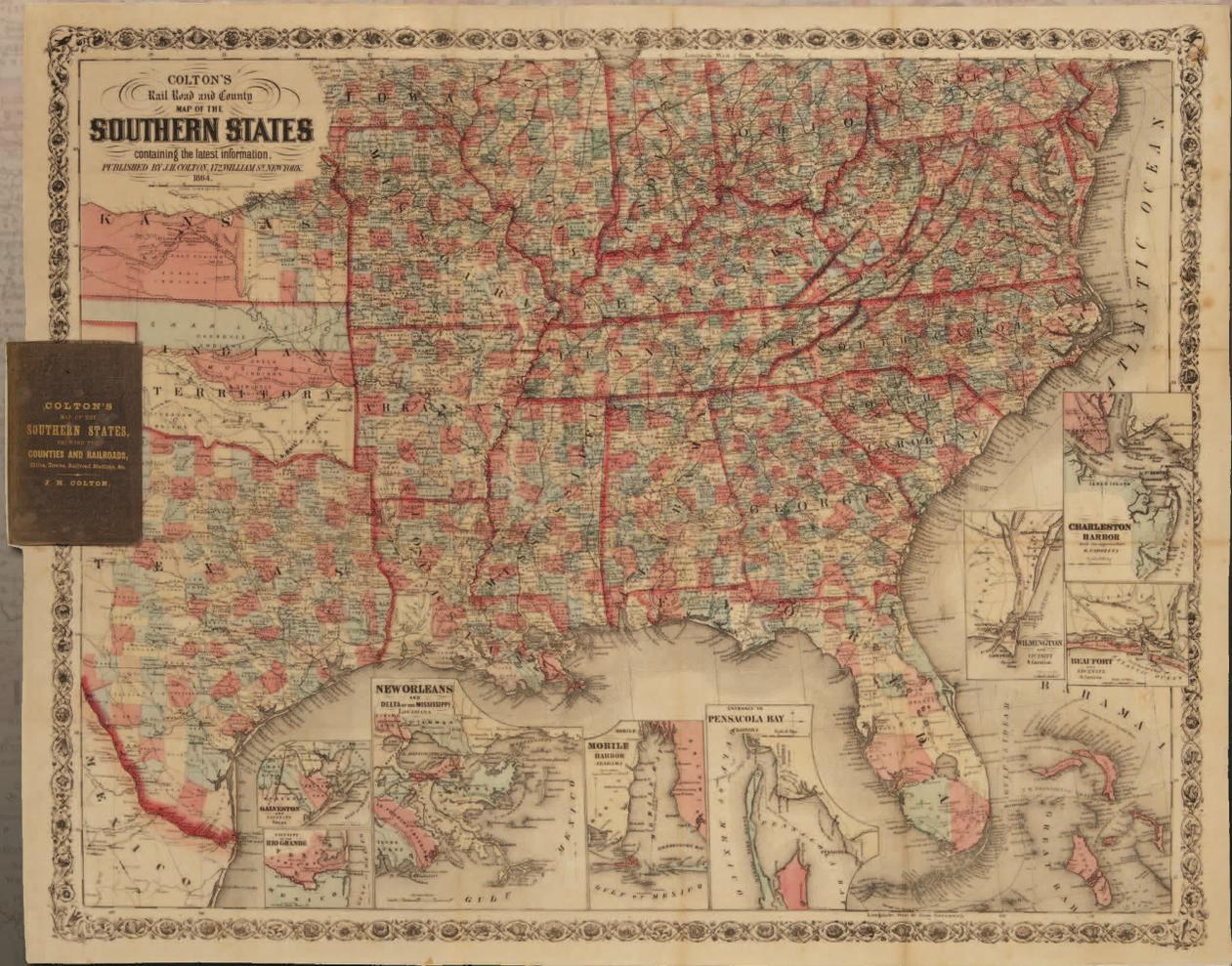
Larry Wilhoite holds a BS degree in history from Stephen F. Austin State University and is an avid student of the War Between the States. He is Past Commander, Texas Society, Military Order of the Stars & Bars; Commander, Col. W. H. Parsons' Chapter 273, MOS&B.

Confederate Heritage & History Month Proclamation In Foley, Alabama



Compatriot Herman Doster (Left) of the Brigadier General St. John Richardson Liddell Chapter 271 is pictured with the Mayor of Foley, Alabama during the April Foley City Council meeting. The Mayor and Council placed their signatures on the document proclaiming April 2015 as Foley Alabama Confederate Heritage and History Month.

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Patrick Cleburne Prints For Sale

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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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

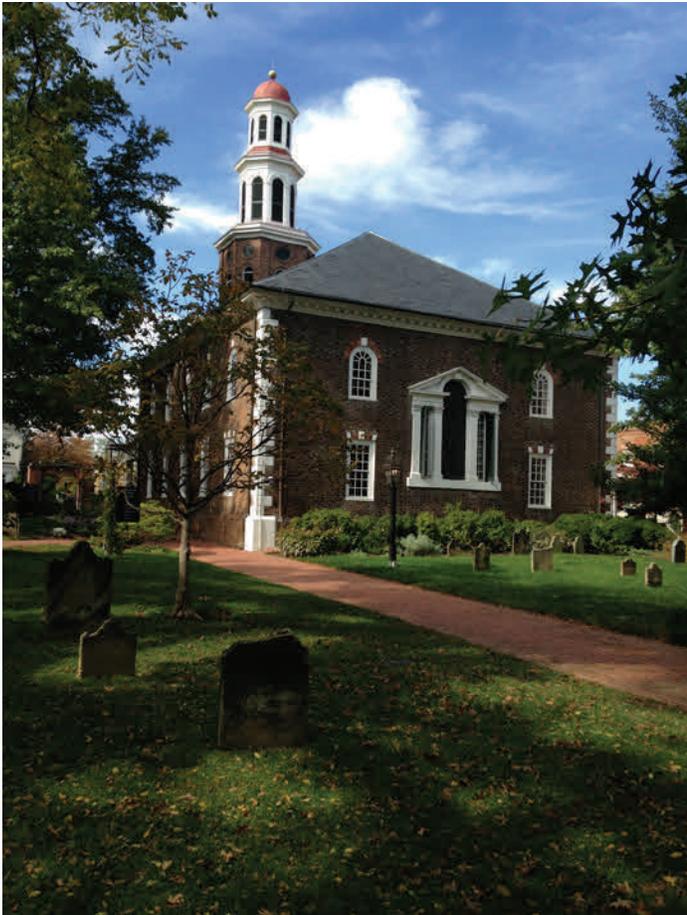
Hotel Reservations:

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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.



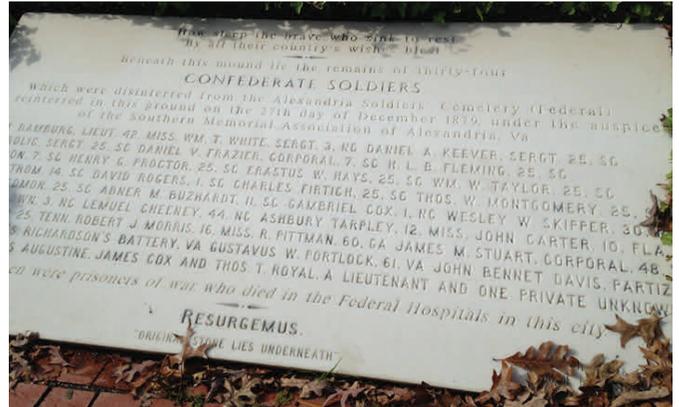
Optional Tour Scheduled for Friday Afternoon, July 10

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."

The Chaplain General's Thoughts

A Surrendered Life

By Raymond Holder, Chaplain General

"When a man's ways are pleasing to the Lord, He makes even his enemies to be at peace with him." Proverbs 16:7

This April we acknowledged the 150th anniversary of the surrender of the Army of Northern Virginia by Robert E. Lee at the McLean home at Appomattox, Virginia. Good Friday, April 7th, was also the day we of our Christian faith acknowledge the death by crucifixion of Jesus Christ. Our Lord surrendered His life as a ransom for the redemption for all who so ever will accept the Lordship of God through His Son, Jesus Christ. A surrendered life is that of a life of Faith, knowing that God holds our future. Robert E. Lee walked down the steps of the McLean house at Appomattox as a surrendered man who was a true soldier of the cross as many years earlier he surrendered his life to the Lordship of Jesus Christ.

Peace with God means a surrendered life to God. The southern armies had surrendered, but not its soul and spirit. The door which represented an independent Confederate States of America was closed as

Robert E. Lee surrendered his forces on that fateful day. Most often we represent surrender with giving up and in a real sense it is. The Confederate States of America apparently was not to be as the southern armies began to surrender, as this page of American history was turned and the door on the life of the government of the Confederacy was closed. If the progress for southern independence was a drama or play, the curtain closes on the first act as the commander of Southern armies, Robert E. Lee walks down the steps of the McLean house at Appomattox and rides away on his horse, Traveller.

General Grant's terms of surrender to the Confederate armies was summed up in four words, stop fighting-go home. Indeed our Confederate ancestors did just that. The south reinvented itself through surrendered lives of faith. We southerners have through our individual churches and faith denominations have and still are sending and supporting missionaries throughout the world telling people in foreign lands about the love of God through Jesus Christ. We are doing this through relief efforts, building and operating hospitals, schools, and in the process being Ambassadors for Christ.

The south consumes and exports what I would call the southern gospel of which I just described. In my native Mississippi the two main crops are still cotton and soybean, which also represents a static population meaning a higher percentage of the population stay put than the rest of the nation. The south as a whole population has maintained their family roots including their faith in the God of their fathers. As stated in Romans 1:17, the righteousness of God being revealed from faith to faith, so a higher percentage of the South's population consumed the overflowing love of God in their heart, so overflowing, they sent missionaries around the world to tell other people in foreign lands of that love of God. A surrendered life makes this possible. The Confederate soldiers, many of them, walked home hundreds of miles, after the surrender at Appomattox and other places the Confederate armies surrendered. This is exactly what my two great-grandfathers did.

The second act on this great drama of American history begins as the curtain rises on the lone figure of Robert E. Lee as he goes home and starts a new life, eventually, in Lexington, Virginia as the president of Washington College which was renamed later in his honor, Washington and Lee College. He and his family had lost all of his inherited family estate of Arlington. His last official act of any kind was that of a promise to pledge a difference in the stipend to be paid to the minister of the Episcopal Church of which he was one of its leaders. On his way home on that early October day of 1870 he became ill and later suffered a stroke which ended his iconic life. This soldier of the cross, Robert E. Lee, led a surrendered life to his Lord and to his principles of the character we so much admire. The surrendered life of faith will cost the Christian who takes up the cross of Jesus the Christ, will cost much and those who do not surrender

their life to the call of our Lord Jesus Christ, it will cost even more. When you and I view the Arlington estate which was once the home of Robert E. Lee and his family, it represents to me the surrendered life of Robert E. Lee. He showed through his example, about how the south might go forward in the future. The curtain of this drama comes down as a musical interlude of Dixie plays with soft orchestration.

We are living the final act and drama of our South. Our pillars of our faith is not only being played out in our communities, but also around the world through Christian missionaries and those of us who represent a surrendered life to our Lord. God has a plan for the life of each of us, and that is the surrendered life of Faith through the love of God in Jesus Christ.

ACTION AT SWIFT CREEK ON APRIL 12, 1865

The following two paragraphs are found in former 1st Lt. Wiley Chandler Howard's Sketch of Cobb Legion Cavalry and Some Scenes and Incidents Remembered (<http://docsouth.unc.edu/fpn/howard/howard.html>), which he wrote in August of 1901. I have edited the original text from Mr. Howard's sketch for clarification purposes. I have also added a note concerning the identity of Lt. Jeffries of the Jeff Davis Legion Cavalry. Lt. Howard was the second in command of company C of Cobb's Legion Cavalry when the action at Swift Creek took place. Lt. Dunnahoo, even though he was a second lieutenant, had been the acting commanding officer of company H of Cobb's Legion Cavalry since mid-1864 until his death. The captain (Jeremiah E. Ritch) and 1st lieutenant (Isham H. Pittard) of company H had been prisoners of war since being captured in June of 1863 and February of 1864 respectively. Both of these companies were mustered into service at Athens, GA.

Ed Rowe

April 11, 2015

Great-Great Grandson of Lt. Thomas Jordan Dunnahoo



Our command participated in the last great battle at Bentonville, NC (March 19-21, 1865) and done its share helping to beat back the resistless rush of Sherman's host. Until the last day we fought and fell sullenly back towards Raleigh, being constantly under fire and the baptism of blood. On April 12, 1865, the command being away from the brigade and defending a crossing of a stream (Swift Creek – located approximately ten miles south of Raleigh) until well up in the day, it fell to my lot as the ranking officer to command a few who had been detached the previous day to protect a position deemed important. Under orders of our Adjutant, J. T. Norris, we attached ourselves to the Jeff Davis Legion Cavalry (MS) temporarily. While awaiting an expected onslaught, gallant Lt. Tom Dunnahoo broke away, in spite of my protestations, and joined in a charge of the Phillips' Legion Cavalry (GA), a little to our right and front, but returned in time to participate in one of the hottest encounters in the range of my experience. The enemy was in great numbers and rushing like a resistless torrent over Col. Waring and his brave Jeff Davis Legion, whose flank Adjutant Norris endeavored to protect with my little band mounted in the edge of the woods near the road. According to author Mark L. Bradley, in his excellent book This Astounding Close: The Road to Bennett Place, the Yankees the Confederates were fighting on this fateful day at Swift Creek were men of the 92nd Illinois Mounted Infantry, who were part of Col. Smith D. Atkins' Brigade. Bullets from the Illinoisans' seven-shot Spencer repeating rifles rained like hail, but not a man wavered, until Norris, seeing the futility of attempting to stay longer, ordered a retreat. Lt. Jeffries of the Jeff Davis Legion, who was with us, Lt. Dunnahoo, Adjutant Norris and myself were the last to leave. As we descended into the road, it was like plunging into the jaws of death under the concentrated fire of the enemy, who was now rushing along close to us. Jeffries and Dunnahoo kept straight in the road, while Norris and I dashed across it and clung to the bushes on the other side for several hundred yards. Both Jeffries and Dun-*

nahoo were shot, but were carried quite a distance before falling off their horses. After coming back into the road, I came across Dunnahoo as he was lying on the ground with his horse standing beside him. I halted, leapt down and raised his head upon my lap as he gasped his last breath. The blood flowing from his chest had bespattered the picture of his little motherless daughter which he carried there.

Our men had rallied up the road some distance and having that morning pledged to my friend to stick to him, I called to a belated soldier just coming out from the range of the enemy's fire to assist me. It was Sergeant Elisha Umphries (Humphries), of Phillips' Legion Cavalry, whom I knew. With his assistance I got Dunnahoo's body across his saddle and mounted my horse. While Humphries held his body on, I led my dead friend's horse behind my own. As we started out, we were subjected to the fire of the advancing foe, but we succeeded and got Dunnahoo's body in an ambulance with that of Jeffries, who had also been killed. Both were taken to Raleigh and late that evening were buried in the same grave, wrapped in blankets furnished by a lady as no coffin could be had. I gladly pay just tribute to the memory of my warm friend, the brave and fearless Lieut. Tom Dunnahoo, of Company H. We had been through much together and I saw much of him in camp and in numerous encounters with the enemy. I loved him as a brother. On one occasion, while retreating over ugly ground on foot, when I was exhausted, he took me on his stout shoulders and literally bore me to a place of safety. I shall ever cherish his memory and am pleased to have been of service to his child since the war in securing a teacher's place for her.

Lt. Dunnahoo is buried in the Confederate soldier section of Oakwood Cemetery in downtown Raleigh. To my knowledge, no one in my present-day family knew the location of his grave until I found it in February of 1994. I provided the correct spelling of Lt. Dunnahoo's last name and his birth date to the late Charles Purser of the Garner, NC Sons of Confederate Veterans, Camp 1486, after finding out that he was in the process of ordering and placing headstones on the graves of the Confederate soldiers buried in Oakwood Cemetery. Lt. Dunnahoo's name can be found among the other Confederate dead from Clarke County inscribed on the Confederate monument in downtown Athens, GA. After learning of the death of her youngest brother, Tom's sister (Amanda Jane Dunnahoo Sims of Maysville, GA) raised his orphaned daughter as a child of her own.

*Note: There was never a Lt. Jeffries in the Jeff Davis Legion Cavalry. I had originally thought there was a strong possibility that the man identified as Lt. Jeffries in Howard's sketch may have been Lt. Thomas A. Jeffers of the 2nd SC Cavalry Regiment and that he

had possibly been assigned as a scout for the Jeff Davis Legion during the Carolinas Campaign, because many men of Jeffers' regiment had actually served as scouts during the war. Other reasons for my thinking that Lt. Jeffers may have been the man killed at Swift Creek, along with Lt. Dunnahoo, were because there is nothing found in the compiled military service record of Lt. Jeffers indicating he had surrendered or if he had survived the war, plus he also didn't appear in any post-war censuses. In September of 2011 I discovered that Mr. Jeffers had survived the war and was living in the Maryland Line Confederate Soldiers' Home near Baltimore, according to the 1900 United States Federal Census. Jeffers also wrote a sketch of himself that was included in a book titled The Maryland Line Confederate Soldiers' Home and Confederate Veterans' Organizations in Maryland. This sketch identified Lt. Jeffers as the man I had been searching for. The only officer from the Jeff Davis Legion reported as being killed during the action at Swift Creek on April 12, 1865 was Lt. Charles Metcalfe, according to the diary of Col. Joseph Frederick Waring, who was the commanding officer of the Jeff Davis Legion Cavalry. Since Mr. Howard wrote his sketch of the Cobb Legion Cavalry in 1901 and was probably relying only on his memory of the action that had taken place thirty-six years earlier, I believe he had simply misidentified Lt. Metcalf as Lt. Jeffries.

Additional Info about Thomas Jordan Dunnahoo

Thomas Jordan Dunnahoo was the youngest son of James and Jane Jordan Dunnahoo, both formerly of Virginia. He was born on October 30, 1838 in Clarke County Georgia. He married Florillah Catharine Finch on December 18, 1860 and on October 21, 1861; they had their one and only child, Amanda Jane. After a brief illness, Florillah died on January 9, 1862, not long after giving birth to their daughter.

On March 3, 1862 Tom, as he was called, enlisted as a private into company B of the Georgia Troopers, a local cavalry unit, in Athens, GA. On April 29, 1862, his company was mustered into the Confederate States Army as company H of Cobb's Legion Cavalry Battalion and sent north where they would eventually be assigned to the Army of Northern Virginia Cavalry under the command of Maj. Gen. J. E. B. Stuart. Before leaving home, Tom left his little daughter under the guardianship of his oldest sister. The Legion cavalry was led by Col. Pierce Manning Butler Young for most of the war and was initially in Brig. Gen. Wade Hampton's Brigade, along with Phillips' Legion (GA), the Jeff Davis Legion (MS), the 1st and 2nd South Carolina Cavalry Regiments and the 1st North Carolina Cavalry Regiment. Wade Hampton was eventually promoted to Maj. Gen. and commander of his own division and P. M. B. Young was promoted to Brig. Gen. and commander of Hampton's old brigade, which then became known as Young's Brigade.

On September 1, 1863, Pvt. Dunnahoo was elected to the rank of 2nd lieutenant by several other men in his company. At the end of 1864 or early 1865, Robert E. Lee ordered Cobb's Legion Cavalry south to Georgia and the Carolinas, along with the rest of Young's Brigade (now made up of the Jeff Davis Legion, Phillips' Legion and the 10th GA Cavalry Regiment) and Maj. Gen. Matthew Calbraith Butler's Brigade (both under the command of Lt. Gen. Wade Hampton), to help try and stop, or at least slow down, Gen. William T. Sherman and his troops on their northward march from Georgia to join forces with Gen. U. S. Grant in Virginia.

Olustee

By Phil Leigh



Although Florida contained less than two percent of the Confederacy's population,(1) by 1864 evolving circumstances made the state sufficiently important to justify a Union invasion.

First, after the fall of Vicksburg the previous summer federal gunboat patrols on the Mississippi River often prevented Texas beef from reaching hungry Rebel armies on the left bank. Florida cattle became a prime substitute for Texas beeves. Second, the lightly defended state was a promising area to recruit emancipated slaves into the Union army. Third, an occupying federal army would give Lincoln justification to readmit the state into the Union on terms almost assuring him of Florida's delegate and electoral votes in the 1864 presidential nominating convention and subsequent general election.(2) A December 1863 Lincoln proclamation authorized former Confederate states to be readmitted into the Union once a mere ten percent of their 1860 voters signed a new allegiance oath.(3) In response a small contingent of Union-loyal Floridians invited Lincoln's private secretary, John Hay, to become the state's Congressional representative should it gain readmission.(4)

On February 7, 1864 a 6,500-man federal army

under General Truman Seymour occupied Jacksonville after arriving in transport ships. Although two-thirds were white soldiers from the northeast about one-third were blacks including the Hollywood-famed 54th Massachusetts, as well as a regiment of former North Carolina slaves, and the 8th United States Colored Troop (USCT) regiment from Pennsylvania. To oppose them the Confederate commander in east Florida, General James Finegan, had only about 1,500 troops.(5) Prompt movement would likely have enabled Seymour to secure a portion of the state comprising more than ten percent of its population, control much of the 165-mile railroad from Jacksonville to the state capital of Tallahassee, and cut-off cattle supplies to Rebel armies further north.(6)

Instead, during the first ten days Seymour launched a series of raids to destroy provender and other government-owned supplies at various depots within sixty miles of Jacksonville. Although most of the forays were isolated successes(7) the raids also gave General Finegan time to draw reinforcements from Georgia. By the time the two armies met in battle their numbers were about equal at 5,500, since some of Seymour's soldiers were required to garrison outposts captured on the raids.(8)

Believing Floridians ready to rejoin the Union, General Seymour began a march westward along the Jacksonville-Tallahassee railroad on February 17th intending to destroy the bridge over the Suwanee River because he believed it would prevent the enemy from promptly getting reinforcements. On the morning of the 20th his leading mounted troops met scattered resistance until confronting heavy fire two miles short of Olustee Station about fifty miles west of Jacksonville around two o'clock in the afternoon. (9)

Armed with Spencer repeaters the 7th Connecticut infantry regiment advanced to aid the Yankee troopers. Initially their superior rifles devastated an opposing Georgia regiment, killing all of their field officers.(10) However, due to a logistics failure the Connecticut soldiers could not promptly replace their soon exhausted ammunition and had to withdraw. As the 7th New Hampshire and the 8th USCT regiments replaced them, a pattern of Union errors began to emerge. Evidenced by their modest casualties, the mounted troopers were only lightly engaged and General Seymour added infantry units in a piecemeal fashion that insured each would be outnumbered if they could not hold their ground until reinforcements came up.(11)

In contrast, the Confederate field commander General Alfred Colquitt rapidly deployed new units forwarded by General Finegan from Olustee Station. He

organized the perimeter in a slight concave shape that enabled shooters to focus a concentric fire on the hapless Yankees. The 7th New Hampshire quickly disintegrated partly because some of the members had been issued defective rifles and partly because of a confusing deployment order. The 8th USCT regiment stood longer but mostly only to absorb Rebel bullets. The recently formed regiment did not have enough target practice to reply effectively.(12)

After the 7th New Hampshire and 8th USCT regiments were driven from the field or collapsing, the unprotected federal artillery began rapidly falling prey to Confederate small arms fire. Arriving to save them, a brigade of three New York regiments advanced to positions where they too became victims of convergent Rebel fire. Soon thereafter the 7th Connecticut rejoined the fight after replenishing the cartridges required for their repeaters. When it appeared that the New Yorkers and 7th Connecticut could take no more, black soldiers of the 1st North Carolina and 54th Massachusetts entered the battle. Both advanced to the front, but the Carolina ex-slaves were more vulnerable near the center of the enemy's convergent fire whereas the 54th Massachusetts was on the left (south) end.(13)

Although its concave firing line was generally a Confederate advantage, it also had a weakness. Given the equal size of the respective armies, the geometry resulted in fewer Confederate soldiers per unit length on the perimeter thereby inviting a Yankee counter-attack to focus superior numbers on a potential breakthrough point. The flaw was amplified during a thirty-minute period of inactivity when the Rebels had depleted their ammunition. One brigade commander helped relieve the shortage by sending his own staff members to Olustee Station with orders to return with replenishments themselves.(14)

Around six o'clock in the evening General Seymour's army began a mostly well-ordered retreat, but not before suffering about 1,900 casualties as compared to only 950 Confederates. At 34% of the troops employed, the casualty rate at Olustee was one of the highest endured by a Union army during the war. The comparative rates at better-known battles such as Stones River, Chickamauga, and Gettysburg, were 31%, 27%, and 25%, respectively. Less than 10% of federal Olustee casualties were among the mounted and artillery units, while over 90% were infantry. Like the composition of the army, about two-thirds of casualties were whites and one-third blacks.(15)

Rebel infantry pursued the retreating federals for a few miles but halted after nightfall. Although criticized for failing to continue the chase, Colonel Caraway

Smith who commanded the Confederate cavalry brigade claimed a nighttime pursuit by mounted troopers would have been more confusing than effective. Nonetheless, the Rebels captured five of the Union army's sixteen cannon. The road back toward Jacksonville was strewn with Yankee guns, knapsacks, and blankets.(16)

General Seymour reported that 158 black soldiers were missing as compared to 346 whites.(17) Missing soldiers of a defeated army are normally captured because they are often too wounded to join a retreat. Several reports indicate that black combatants remaining on the field were murdered. There are even accounts that slaves accompanying the Rebel army participated in the slaughter.(18) However, when questioned by an investigating Congressional Committee, General Seymour's chief of staff testified that he did not believe there were any outrages and stated that white and black captives were treated equally. Nonetheless, given similar complaints at other battles later in the year such as Fort Pillow and Poison Springs, it seems likely that about 25 – 50 captured black soldiers were killed. Some Confederate soldiers considered ex-slaves in Union army uniforms to be one step short of participating in a slave insurrection.(19)

Ultimately the Union invasion accomplished little. It failed to disrupt the flow of cattle and other supplies from Florida to Confederate armies further north. Fewer than a hundred ex-slaves joined the Union army. (In point of fact, by the end of the war more white Floridians fought for the Union than did blacks.)(20) Politically the campaign failed to wrest Florida from the Confederacy. Near the end of the war Union forces landing from the Gulf of Mexico were defeated in an attempt to take Tallahassee from the opposite direction. The town was the only Confederate state capital east of the Mississippi River to avoid capture.(21)

The Northern press blamed Olustee on President Lincoln's political ambitions. The *New York World* wrote, "[N]o military purpose took an army into Florida...as...it would...no more...put down the rebellion than would the occupation...of Coney Island." The influential *New York Herald* concluded, "[T]he Florida expedition was undertaken to bring the state back into the Union so that Mr. Lincoln might have three more delegates...in the nominating convention and Mr. Hay might go to Congress."(22)

1. Randall, J. G. & Donald, David, The Civil War and Reconstruction p. 5, (Boston, D.C. Heath & Co. 1961)

2. *Official Records of the Union and Confederate Armies, Volume 35, Part One*, page 279. Letter from Union Major General

Gillmore to Union General-in-Chief Henry Halleck on January 31, 1864

3. Donald, David Lincoln pp. 471 -472 (London: Jonathan Cape, 1995)

4. Nulty, William H. Confederate Florida pp. 71-72 (Tuscaloosa: University of Alabama Press, 1990)

5. *The Battle of Olustee*, Historical Documentary Video, Olustee Battlefield State Park, Olustee, Florida (Viewed October 25, 2013).

6. Nulty pp. 76 - 84

7. Davis, William W. The Civil War and Reconstruction in Florida p. 284 (New York: Columbia University, 1913)

8. Johns, John E. Florida During the Civil War p. 196 (Gainesville, University of Florida Press, 1963); Nulty pp. 107 and 123

9. Nulty pp. 115-116, 127 and 131

10. *Historical Marker*, Olustee Battlefield State Park, Olustee, Florida

11. Nulty, pp. 216 - 217

12. Nulty, pp. 137 - 145

13. Nulty, pp. 145 - 158

14. Nulty, pp. 167 – 169 and p. 205

15. *Official Records of the Union and Confederate Armies, Volume 35, Part One*, page 298. "Return of Casualties in Engagement Near Olustee", Florida on February 20, 1864; Johns, p. 198

16. Nulty, pp. 161, 170, 178 and 205

17. *Official Records of the Union and Confederate Armies, Volume 35, Part One*, page 298. "Return of Casualties in Engagement Near Olustee", Florida on February 20, 1864.

18. Coles, David J "Shooting Niggers, Sir", pp. 75 – 76 in Black Flag Over Dixie ed. Urwin, Gregory

19. Coles, p. 77; Nulty, pp. 210 – 213

20. Johns, p. 213

21. Taylor, Paul Discovering the Civil War in Florida p. 88 (Sarasota, Florida: Pineapple Press, 2012)

22. Davis, pp. 293 - 294

Phil Leigh is a citizen historian who has authored twenty-three articles for the New York Times Disunion series, which has been commemorating the Civil War since late 2010. He is also the author of three Civil War books:

Lee's Lost Dispatch and Other Civil War Controversies

Trading With the Enemy

Co. Aytch: Illustrated and Annotated

Battle for Corpus Christi

by Pam Wilhoite



Early in 1862, the Union blockade of the Texas Gulf Coast was tightening. Lieutenant John W. Kittredge, USN, was assigned to close the Texas coast from Pass Cavallo to Aransas Pass. A career merchant officer from New York, Kittredge knew the coastal waters from Galveston to Brazos Santiago.

If the Federals could take control of the waters, the Confederacy would be deprived of lead and coffee from Mexico and salt from the lakes below Corpus Christi. Exportation of the cotton sold by the South to finance the war would be greatly limited. By controlling the waterway, the Union could also force supplies distributed across Texas and Louisiana to be transported only over "miserable roads."

Kittredge arrived in the Gulf on a converted merchant ship which carried an eighty man crew, one Parrott and six 32 pound guns. He soon realized his ship's 14 foot draft prohibited him from effectively patrolling the shallow channels used by blockade runners. Over the next few months the Federals captured three schooners and converted them to gun boats.

Corpus Christi was a town of mixed political loyalties. Although the area had raised seven Confederate companies, a sizable group which included Mayor Henry Berry supported the Union. While coming



ashore to confer with the mayor, Kittredge also interacted with the Confederates. He warned the Southerners that although his orders were to stop their trade rather than fight them, he would not hesitate to retaliate if fired upon.

Concerned about the city's ability to defend itself, the provost marshal ordered the sinking of three small schooners, filled with concrete, in the ship channel to prevent the enemy's entrance. On July 20th, Major Alfred M. Hobby arrived in Corpus with his 300 men of the 8th Texas Infantry Regiment.

On August 12, 1862, Kittredge used steam power to raise the sunken vessels. The next morning he landed at Corpus Christi. He waved a white flag of truce from his launch. Hobby stood on the wharf to challenge Kittredge. He told Hobby that his orders were to inspect all US government buildings and property. Hobby replied there were no such buildings in Corpus, and he would not allow the Federals to enter the city. An angry Kittredge announced he would invade after a negotiated 48 hour truce to allow for evacuation of the civilians. Many left by wagon or on foot, taking with them food, water and even furniture and cooking utensils. They slept in tents made of blankets. Due to an ongoing drought, the residents suffered greatly from heat, thirst and insects.

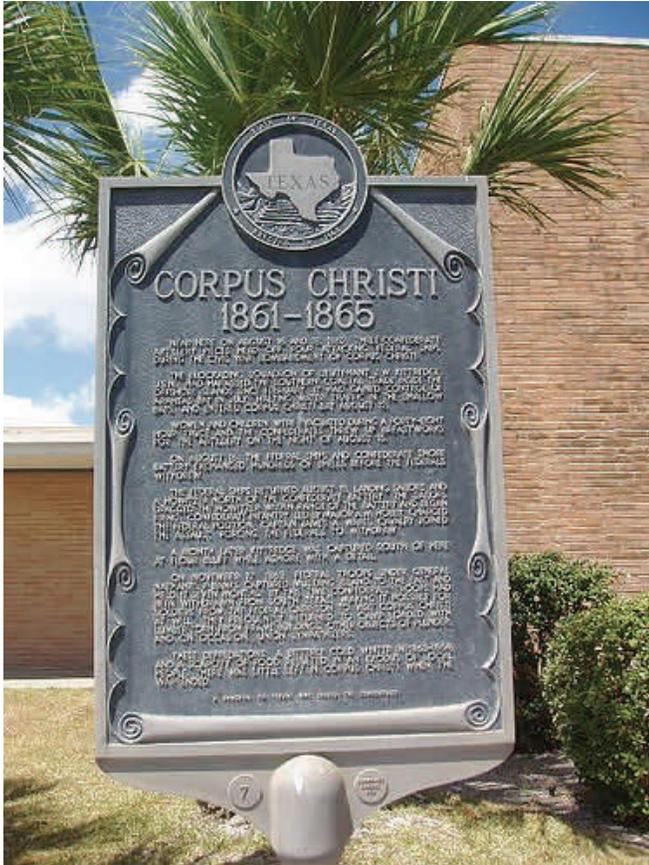
Untrained in the use of artillery, Hobby prepared for battle by positioning his three cannons on a bluff overlooking the city. Two of the cannons are believed to be "condemned" cannons left behind by General Zachary Taylor in 1846. Lacking powder, the inexperienced men were unable to practice the use of their cannons.

Hobby's only experienced artillerist was 22 year old Billy Mann, a Corpus Christi native who had fought at Island No. 10. Mann attempted to convince Hobby that the cannon should be moved to a fortification built on the north end of the city in 1845. Hobby did not have time to move them since the truce was scheduled to end at 5 p.m. At that time, Kittredge moved his ships close but did not attack. Hobby realized they had a chance. Working silently through the dark night, the Confederates moved the cannons and waited. Hobby concealed his cavalry and infantry behind the earth works and in ravines. A Confederate flag stitched the previous day by a local woman was raised.

At daybreak, the Confederate guns surprised the Federals. Returning fire, the Union pounded the city for four hours. After his yacht and steamer were hit, Kittredge moved his fleet out of range, inspected and repaired his ships, and then resumed his attack until his ammunition was depleted. On the next day, a Sunday, Kittredge halted the attack. The defenders were reinforced with volunteers from the surrounding area who had heard the battle noise.

Lacking gunpowder, the Confederates retrieved the large number of unexploded enemy shells lying around the city. Upon removing the caps, they found that most of the shells contained whiskey. Kittredge later admitted that before the battle a barrel of his special bourbon whiskey had been stolen. He suspected his crew, but was never able to find it. Apparently, the men had emptied the powder in the cannon balls and replaced it with the stolen whiskey.

Early on Tuesday morning, Kittredge moved his fleet about a mile south of the Confederate battery where he initiated a sea and land attack to outflank his enemy.



He fired continuous volleys while his men attacked on foot. The Confederate guns were facing the bay and could not be turned quickly. So Hobby, with his men and volunteers, moved forward on foot, firing their guns and yelling. The Federals turned and fled. One Texan was killed and Hobby received minor wounds.

Measures then were taken to further strengthen Corpus Christi's defenses. On August 27th, a Confederate company of well-trained artillerists arrived with six howitzers.

Kittredge continued to patrol the bay waters and on September 12th again landed under a flag of truce to request the transfer to his ship of a Union sympathizer's wife living in the city. Refused, he moved his fleet a few miles to the southeast and went ashore at Flour Bluff. There he offered citizens bacon, beans, coffee and sugar as a demonstration of the benefits of supporting the Union. He also took three Confederates as hostages. The next evening sixty-five men left Corpus to lay a trap at Flour Bluff. When Kittredge and seven men came ashore in the morning, they were captured by the Confederates without firing a shot. The prisoners were held in San Antonio for a month and then paroled to travel back to New York where they were exchanged.

Although the event was officially a Confederate victory, Kittredge succeeded in his major objective of stopping the southern Texas coastal traffic. The defenders were soon transferred to other stations and the city

was helpless when the Union established an outpost on nearby Mustang Island in 1863.

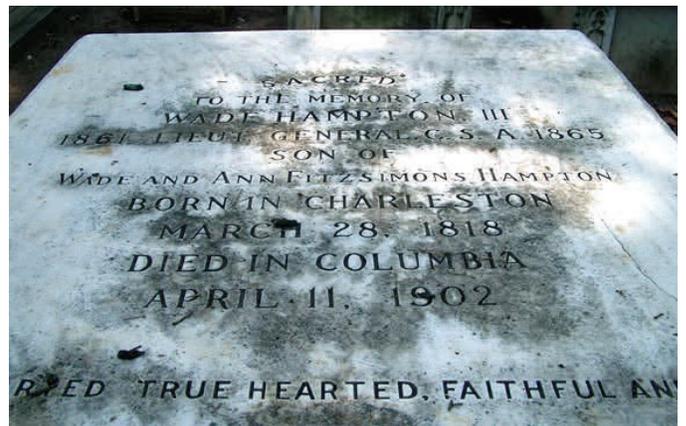
On April 10, 1864, Corpus Christi resident Thomas Noakes penned in his diary "There is nothing growing, and the country presents a sandy waste. There is nothing here that is fit for food. About half the people in Corpus have deserted to the Yankee and when you are talking to your most intimate acquaintance, you cannot tell whether you are addressing a friend or foe politically."

After the Federal withdrawal in 1864, the region remained bitterly divided and economically devastated.

Pam Wilhoite, a retired CPA, is immediate past president of Parsons' Rose #9 in Waxahachie and coordinated the Daily Light's "Spotlight on History" project. She is the recipient of the Varina Howell Davis Award from the Military Order of the Stars and Bars, the Lucy Pickens Award given by the Texas Division, Sons of Confederate Veterans and the Jefferson Davis Historical Gold Medal from the United Daughters of the Confederacy.

Correction

In the April issue of the MOS&B Officer's Call, the Wade Hampton, III article indicated that he was buried in Charleston, SC. Yet, Wade Hampton was buried at the Trinity Episcopal Church Cemetery in Columbia, SC.



ROBERT E. LEE AND TRAVELLER

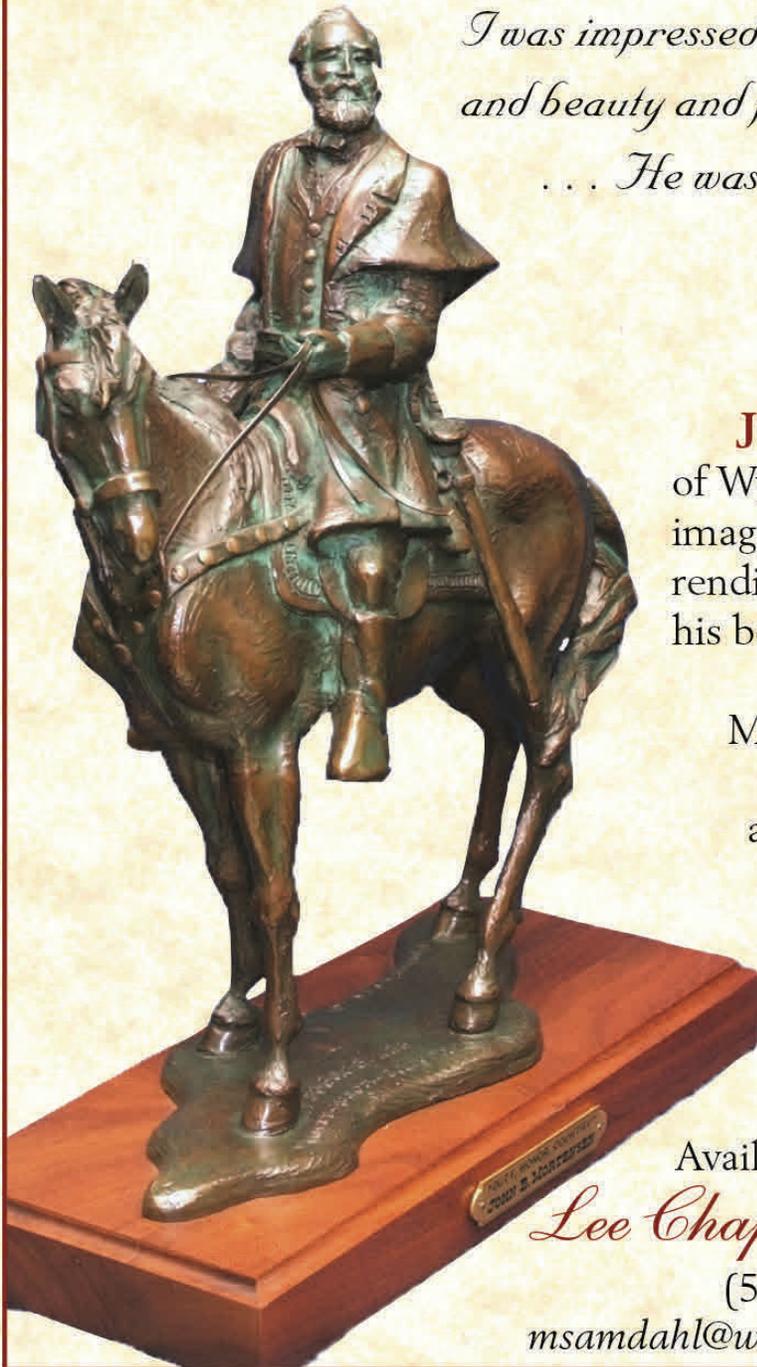
"Traveller moved as if proud of the burden he bore . . .

The horse was beautiful and majestic . . .

*I was impressed with the greatness
and beauty and power . . . of the man*

. . . He was every inch a king."

Written by a student at
General Lee's College in 1869.



JOHN B. MORTENSEN
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image in his beautiful bronze
rendition of Robert E. Lee and
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