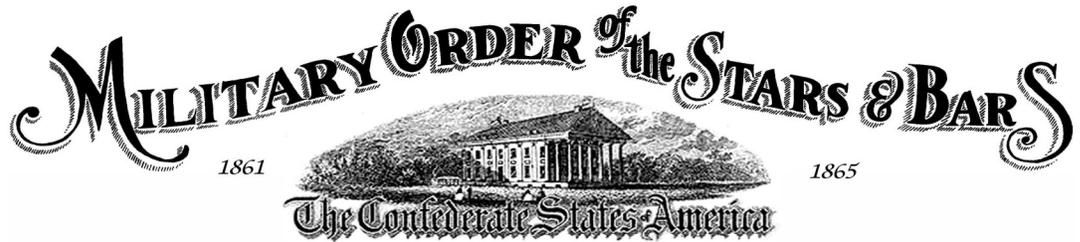




Volume 7, Number 7  
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## Officer's Call

### Sesquicentennial Series Article #54 Memories of Mansfield

By Pam Wilhoite

The first taste of battle sears unforgettable images in the mind of a young soldier. After more than 40 years, Private Thomas Henry Beaver could still hear the cannons and see the dead and dying. Thomas was born in Henderson County, Tennessee in 1844. After his mother's death and father's remarriage, the family migrated in 1852 to Freestone County, Texas. His father and their slaves cleared and fenced a large farm in the river bottom and began to raise cotton.

Thomas was educated in a school house built of rough logs, covered with boards and had dirt floors. Split post oak logs served as seats. While at the boarding school, Thomas discovered a pretty little black eyed, black haired young lady, Susan Galbreath, who would become his wife after the war. Like most young Texans, Thomas regularly rode out on horseback. He frequently hunted with his two dogs, his rifle, a six shooter and a hunting knife. Thus he developed all the skills that would be needed by a Confederate cavalryman.

In 1862, Thomas, at the age of seventeen, enlisted in Company D of the Tenth Texas Infantry. However he was soon discharged due to illness and returned home. Later, he joined Company I, Wood's 3<sup>rd</sup> Texas Cavalry. His unit was ordered to Virginia Point on Galveston Bay. They were then assigned to Louisiana to oppose the federal army which was marching toward Texas. Many of the men in Thomas' unit stopped off at home for short furloughs to see their families. Thomas headed directly to Louisiana and arrived with five of his compatriots, just in time for the Battle of Mansfield on April 8, 1864. "Our army was formed along at the edge of a field in the pine timber; the field was a mile or more across it; it extended south as far as I could see across the fields and open piney woods. Our cannon was placed on the hill behind us."

"About 9 o'clock in the morning of that awful day we heard the bugle blow. Our officers told us that they were going to charge us and to shoot low and wait until they got in four or five hundred yards and to hold our position. In a very short time I could see them as they came through the open pine woods. They then struck a lope across the open field and ran up in, I suppose a hundred yard of us and fired a volley; it seemed to me ten thousand shots. Hail could not come any faster. This did not last any more than a moment or so."

"Our army did not shoot. If there was a man killed I never heard of it. They shot too high. They wheeled and went back faster than they came, while the shots from our cannon killed some of them."

"I thought that the battle was over. Some of our officers said that they only came out that time to see the position of our army. It seemed that where I was was the hardest part of the battle. In a short time they charged us again with their infantry, their guns glistening in the sunlight; as far as you could see in that direction was one solid mass of soldiers, while the drum beat which echoed in the death to human creatures."

"As they came to the edge of the open field they halted. The horrors at that moment of my feeling no tongue can tell; away from my father's home and from dear friends; a wild reckless boy, without God or hope in the world, in the very jaws of death itself."

"They marched slowly across the open field, while our cannons were shooting grape shot, cutting lanes through them. They would close up in a few seconds. They marched on until, I suppose, within a thousand yards of us. Some of the soldiers said six hundred. I know one thing, they were closer than I wanted them to be."

"They stood there for one-half an hour, or perhaps longer. The woods rang with the cannon balls and bullets. It seemed to me that not a human being would be left to tell the tale. I will not attempt to do so, for language would fail me."

"Our army held its position: the northern army retreated slowly from off the battle field, leaving the dead and dying there. I am satisfied that the matchless goodness and mercy of Almighty God was the only thing that saved a single man on that awful day. All through the rugged journey of life, that was the awfulest scene that I have ever witnessed."

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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

### THE GREAT SEAL OF THE CONFEDERACY

The Great Seal of the Confederacy is a thing of beauty. When I first decided to write about it my intentions were to discuss its history, design features, and the factors that led to the creation of our motto: *Deo Vindice*. However, as I began to research the topic I discovered that there was much more to this story. In fact, the seal became the object of a mystery with international intrigue. Its story is reminiscent of the search for the Holy Grail.



The creation of a Great Seal was authorized by the Confederate Congress in 1862. No one is more responsible for its final design than Thomas J. Semmes. He was the junior Senator from Louisiana, as well as the Chairman of the Joint Flag and Seal Committee of the Confederate States. He is the person considered most responsible for the selection of *Deo Vindice* as our motto. The final design of the Great Seal was approved by the Confederate Congress on April 30, 1863.

The Great Seal was engraved in London, England in 1864 by the same firm used by the Royal family. The job of bringing the seal to the Confederacy was entrusted to Lt. Robert T. Chapman of the Confederate Navy. The routing for his journey would take him first to Halifax and then to Bermuda. The final leg of his mission would take him through the Federal blockade to the Confederate capitol in Richmond. At great personal risk, Lt. Chapman successfully delivered the dies to Richmond. However, the embossing press had to be left in Bermuda. Today, that same press is still in Bermuda and on display in a local museum.



Thomas Jenkins Semmes  
where he practiced law.

In April, 1865 Petersburg fell to the Union army. As a result, President Davis and the Confederate government were forced to abandon Richmond. When the occupying forces reached Richmond they discovered that all of the Confederate archives – including the Great Seal – were missing. At this point, there are a number of conflicting theories about what happened to the seal. I will follow the theory that appears to be most plausible according to my research.

As Richmond was about to fall, Secretary of State Judah P. Benjamin directed diplomat William Bromwell to transport all of the archives to Charlotte, North Carolina for safekeeping. Bromwell's wife later revealed that the seal was hidden in her bustle as it was secreted out of Richmond. Once outside the city she gave the seal to Col. John Thomas Pickett. Pickett was a diplomat at the State Department as well as the former Ambassador to Mexico. After the war Pickett would move to Washington D.C.



Lt. Robert. T. Chapman

As the war progressed, the archives were moved from Charlotte to the Danville Female College in Danville, North Carolina. But it does not appear that the Great Seal was with them. It is likely that the Great Seal was still in the possession of Col. Pickett. In fact, copies of the seal were produced and sold by a District of Columbia jeweler after the war. Proceeds from the sales were for the benefit of Confederate widows and orphans. Pickett's involvement in these sales is likely because he lived in Washington at that time.

Later, Secretary of State Benjamin directed Col. Pickett to transport all of the archives from North Carolina to Canada for safekeeping. The evidence suggests that Pickett took the Great Seal with him at that time to reunite it with the rest of the archives.

In 1868, William Bromwell and Pickett contacted U.S. Secretary of State William Seward about selling the Confederate archives - now called *the Pickett Papers* - to the U.S. Government. The asking price was \$500,000, but the amount was quickly negotiated down to \$75,000. The deal was finally ratified by Congress in 1871. At that point, Secretary Seward directed Lt. Thomas O. Selfridge to accompany Pickett to Canada. Their task was to authenticate the documents and to arrange for the shipment of the archives to Washington D.C.

When the shipment was received in Washington it was discovered that the Great Seal was not included, nor was it mentioned in the inventory records. But both Pickett and Selfridge knew that the Great Seal was there when they examined the records. Yet, neither of them could account for it not being a part of the shipment. Thus, the mystery of the missing seal continued.



Col. John Thomas Pickett

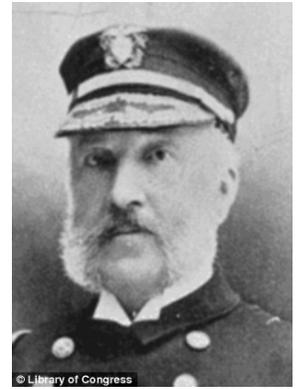
But in 1912 – 47 years after the war – the truth finally emerged. The Library of Congress conducted another review of the Confederate archives and concluded that the Great Seal had been taken by Selfridge. At first Selfridge denied it but later recanted his story and said that Pickett had given him the seal as a gesture of goodwill. Threatened with disgrace, Selfridge agreed to sell the seal to the Museum of the Confederacy for \$3,000. One has to wonder why he was able to keep any proceeds from the sale.

And so the mystery surrounding the Great Seal of the Confederacy was finally solved. It had taken nearly 50 years to do so.

**Deo Vindice.**

*Wm. Howard Jones*

Commander General



Thomas O. Selfridge

## *The Chaplain General's Thoughts*

By Raymond Holder

### **Hallowed Ground**

This second week in July, we will be gathering in Alexandria, Virginia to conduct and celebrate our MOS&B Order. Overlooking our nation's Capital is the once pre civil war home of Robert E. Lee. If our nation has hallowed/sacred ground, it is the national cemetery of Arlington. I will not go into the history of how the U.S. government acquired the Arlington property, but only to say emotions ran strong against the Lee family with the estate finally being settled in 1874. It is considered an honor for a person to be interred here at this most hallowed place in our United States of America.

The word, hallowed means being set aside as being revered, sacred and most respected. For me, hallowed also means sacred/holy. We revere our cemeteries as visibly reminding us of those who have gone before us, and there is not a more revered place which represents the cost of freedom as Americans and the pinnacle of spiritual and moral leadership of our Robert E. Lee as that of the once estate of this great man.

The most sacred and hallowed ground for me is found at the foot of the cross of Jesus Christ. When I find myself at the foot of the Cross, I have found a surrendered life in faith to my risen Lord. This is where Robert E. Lee found himself as he lived out the remaining five and one half years of his life after surrendering his army at Appomattox. The following words are those of Edward Ward Carmack, from Tennessee.

Carmack's Pledge To The South

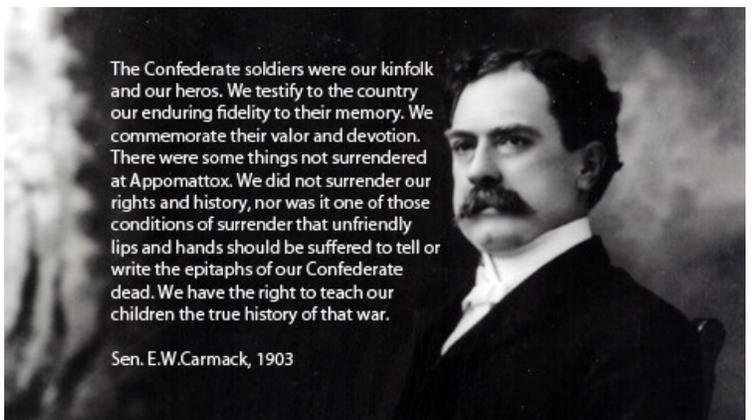
The South is a land that has known  
Sorrrows; It is a land that has  
Broken the ashen crust and

Moistened it with tears; A land  
Scarred and riven by the plowshare  
Of war and billowed with the graves  
Of her dead; But a land of legend.  
A land of Song, A Land Of Hallowed  
And heroic memories.

To that land every drop of my blood,  
Every fiber of my being, every pulsation  
Of my heart, is consecrated forever.

I was born of her womb, I was nurtured at her breast; and when  
My last hour shall come, I pray  
God that I may be pillowed upon  
Her bosom and rocked to sleep  
With her tender and encircling  
arms.

Very unfortunate it is that there is a movement, seemingly, throughout our nation and even in our southland to remove all vestiges of our Confederate heritage. I call for all of us to take a stand against this genocide of political correctness to erase the written history, statues and the flag of our ancestors. Let us, each one of us, take this time to renew our faith at the foot of the Cross, our hallowed ground.



The Confederate soldiers were our kinfolk and our heroes. We testify to the country our enduring fidelity to their memory. We commemorate their valor and devotion. There were some things not surrendered at Appomattox. We did not surrender our rights and history, nor was it one of those conditions of surrender that unfriendly lips and hands should be suffered to tell or write the epitaphs of our Confederate dead. We have the right to teach our children the true history of that war.

Sen. E.W. Carmack, 1903

- Sesquicentennial Article # 52 - From Page 1 -

One of Thomas' companions was killed and two wounded. His horse was shot in the leg. As his horse could not travel on to Pleasant Hill he was left with the wagons. The next morning he went over to the battlefield.

"What a scene of destruction of human beings was there! Something I had never seen before or since. There was a long trench dug about two or three hundred yards long and seven feet wide and three feet deep. The men that were there told me that they had got eight hundred of our dead men and were still bringing them in off the battle field. They were placed in that ditch and covered with dirt."

Thomas then walked over to the center of the battle field. "Here is the place where you can see the dead and the dying, crying for water to cool their parched tongues and groans and prayers of hundreds calling upon a God that they never knew. Here is the place that human blood covers the earth. Oh, the horrors and misery of war!"

Like other Confederates, Thomas returned home at the end of the war "ragged, half-starved and heavy hearted." Thomas' father gave him 20 acres and he began to farm. "When we arrived home after war, we gathered up the old plows and gears that could be found and began to make a crop. God surely did bless us, for such crops of corn, oats, wheat and cotton as was made four or five years after war was never known since the world began."

On October 2, 1865, Thomas and Susan Galbreath were wed. About 500 attended the wedding where Thomas described his bride as "dressed in a long white dress with a wreath of flowers around her head. She looked like a young queen."

Shortly thereafter an elderly bachelor uncle died leaving Thomas and his brother \$600. They built a gin. "We made a great deal of money and soon had everything around me that I needed in the way of horses and cattle. Year after year I seemed to prosper."

Seven children were born to the couple. In 1881, Susan died ten days after the birth to a son. After ten months Thomas realized he and his seven young children under age twelve "got along very badly." He interviewed three potential wives. "I thought if I could get some good woman, one that would be good to my children and I could live with peace, it would be the best thing I could do." Thomas "asked Miss Liza what about keeping house for me?" To that union, four children were born.

Thomas was an active member of the Baptist church and the Masonic Lodge. In 1906, he applied for a Confederate pension and was rejected due to his financial status. He later reapplied and was granted a pension. Mr. Beaver died in 1922 and was buried in the Salem Cemetery in Freestone County.

*Pam Wilhoite, a retired CPA, is immediate past president of Parsons' Rose #9 in Waxahachie, Texas and currently coordinates 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.*

## *The MOS&B Welcomes these new Chapters*

Four new Chapters of the Order have been chartered and reactivated since January 1, 2015. These new chapters are as follows.

### *Waul's Texas Legion Chapter No. 194*

*Azle, TX*

The Waul's Texas Legion Chapter No. 194, Azle, Texas, has reactivated. MOS&B Genealogist General Larry D. Martin will serve as the new Commander. Other officers include Robert "Rusty" Haynes, Lt. Commander; Don Brannon, Adjutant; and Devin Lindsey, Chaplain. Other charter members include Nic Brannon, Charlie Gillespie, and Wyatt Savage.

### *Maj. Gen. W. H. C. Whiting Chapter No. 305*

*Wilmington, NC*

The Maj. Gen. William Henry Chase Whiting Chapter No. 305, Wilmington, North Carolina, chartered March 22, 2015 with 6 charter members. Donald Watson will serve as Commander. Other officers include Lt. Commander George Valsame and Adjutant Glenn Kye. Other charter members include Larry T. Brown, John H. Talley, III, and Charles F. Green.

### *Lt. Gen. James Longstreet Chapter No. 306*

*Macon, GA*

The Lt. Gen. James Longstreet Chapter No. 306, Macon, Georgia, chartered January 8, 2015, with nine charter members. Martin Bell will serve as Commander. Other officers include Lt. Commander Michael D. Harrell and Adjutant William Gifford. Other charter members include Charles Clements, III, James Gaston, Jr., Jackson Grubb, Jr., Kurt M. Taylor, Thomas Clarke, and Henry Hunt.

### *Gov. Zebulon Baird Vance NC Headquarters Chapter No. 307*

The Governor Zebulon Baird Vance NC Society Headquarters Chapter No. 307 chartered May 13, 2015 with 14 charter members. Larry E. Beeson will serve as Commander and PGC Albert D. Jones, Jr., will serve as Lt. Commander. Other charter members are Charlie D. Alston, Timothy W. Berly, Michael H. Byrd, Edward L. Harding, James M. Kennedy, III, Michael Latta, Stanley M. Latta, Kenneth C. Luckey, Carlton Mansfield, William D. Pruden, V, Paul Teem, and Haywood E. White, Jr.

## *Excerpts of REMINISCENCES OF THE CIVIL WAR*

by Judge Eustace Conway Moncure  
of Caroline County, Virginia

I entered the war in April 1861 as a private in the Caroline Light Dragoons, afterwards Company B 9<sup>th</sup> Va. Cavalry. I served as a private until 1864 when I was promoted to a second Lieutenancy.

### A RIDE WITH GEN'L ROBERT E. LEE

It was in May of 1864 our cavalry had been operating on the right flank of General Lee's army at the battle of Spotsylvania C.H. The 22<sup>nd</sup> of May 1864 we were guarding the road leading from Guiney's, Page's, and Bowling Green. There we had a pair of stove pipe laid across axles to resemble artillery.

About 2PM Saturday evening an order was received by my captain to send several men well acquainted with the country and roads, at once to Spotsylvania C.H. to report to General Lee as he wanted them as guides to his troops on the march. We found General Lee at Southworth' house. We reported to Col. Taylor, Gen. Lee's adjutant general. I recollect that there were present Gen's A.P. Hill, Early, Anderson, W.H.F. Lee and others. I asked Col. Taylor where in the group I should ride. Gen. Lee hearing my question, said to me "you and your comrade, (Mr. W.G. Jesse of Hanover County) come here and ride by my side." He asked Jesse and myself our names and were we acquainted with the roads and country around Spotsylvania C.H and back through Caroline, and I responded I was.

Gen. Lee road out to where many men were lying down and very kindly spoke to them, saying "that he knew they did not want to be taken prisoners and that he knew they were tired and sleepy, but the enemy would be along before daybreak and if they did not move they would be taken." Then some of the men seemed to recognize him, and I heard them say "Marse Robert," and immediately every man rose, and I never heard such a shout and the voices saying, "Yes Marse Robert, we will move on and go anywhere you say, even to hell itself." We then moved on to the northside of Steven's mill, four miles from Carmel Church.

Gen'l Lee's camp equipage had preceded him. And two tents had been erected, one with a cot upon which the General was to rest and the other a clerk's tent and dining saloon combined. I could see Gen'l Lee then in his tent lying down. I think I got a doze, and sure I lost consciousness for the nonce, when I heard my name called it was after daybreak. I went immediately to Gen. Lee's tent. He handed me a yellow envelope unsealed and directed to Gen'l Wade Hampton.

He gave me the dispatch and told me to take it to Gen'l Hampton and not let the enemy take me for they were all about the country; to destroy the dispatch if I saw that I would be taken, but under no circumstances to let the enemy know where he was. I opened the dispatch and read it. It was about as follows:

*"Gen'l Hampton will hold the enemy in check, falling back gradually, the troops will mostly be on the southside of the*

*North Anna by this evening".*

*I saw Gen. Dearing and his cavalry brigade at the forks of the Bowling Green and Carmel Church road and showed him the dispatch and he told me that Gen'l Hampton was at Athens, on the Carmel road. I then saw Col. Wright at the advance of our own pickets and a skirmish line of the enemy were having quite a little fusillade and the balls flew thick and fast through the woods about us.*

*I went to Athens and found Gen'l Hampton mounted and about to move to the front, I gave him the dispatch and asked if he had one in return. He took the dispatch and wrote at the bottom the hour it was received by him, acknowledging receipt and signed it. I then left on the road to Carmel Church on the way to find Gen'l Lee; passed right by my mother's residence and told her the enemy would be there certainly on the next day. I gave her directions and advice, and she gave me something to eat; with benedictions I departed. At Carmel Church I found all the troops had passed, so I continued my journey to Hanover Junction and reached there about 11 or 12 o'clock. There I saw many tents and wagons Gen'l Lee's tent, a walltent with the walls turned up, and Gen'l Lee and some other gentleman who seemed to be civilians, were in the tent, and they seemed to be very intently looking over a large map which was spread on a table. I went up to Col. Taylor, who was standing a little way off, and handed him the dispatch I had from Gen'l Hampton, and Col. Taylor told me to go right into the tent where Gen'l Lee was and hand him the dispatch, "that was Gen'l Lee's orders that when a dispatch was sent him the courier who bore the dispatch should put it himself in Gen'l Lee's hands."*

The men in the tent looking at the map with Gen'l Lee were President Jefferson Davis, Gen'l John C. Breckenridge, and Secretary of War, Mr. Seddon. I was told who they were before I went into the tent. On going in, Gen'l Lee turned and I handed him the dispatch which he had given me that morning for Gen'l Hampton which he had acknowledged receiving. It is needless to say that I thought the ground upon which I was standing was holy ground.

I then asked Gen'l Lee if he had use for me, and he told me no; to get three days rations for myself and horse and report to Gen'l Hampton for duty. I did as he directed and reported to Gen'l Hampton that same Sunday evening about an hour by sun.

*This article is the first of a series of excerpts from my great grandfather's account of his part in the civil war which was published July 1927 in the Bulletin of the Virginia State Library. The title of the book he published and gave to all of his children and grandchildren was "Reminiscences of the Civil War ". I did not attempt to dictate this entire book, but present what I felt to be most appropriate.*

Conway B. Moncure, CPA, DCA, Comptroller General.  
(cmonway@verizon.net)

## *Jacob W. Whisenant* *2<sup>nd</sup> Alabama Cavalry*

By Louis W. Glayre

Jacob William Whisenant was born April 2, 1836 on Rosenant Plantation in the Northwestern most part of St. Clair Co., near Steele. He was the 4th of 7 children of William Jenkins and Lucissa Green Whisenant. Both of his grandfathers and his father were veterans of the War of 1812 and pioneers of St. Clair Co., settling in 1818. His grandfather, Jacob Green, founded the town of Greensport, Al and started a ferry across the Coosa in 1834. He obtained a license to transport the mail at that time.

We have to assume that Jacob lived the life of a normal citizen of substantial means at the time. His combined families, Green-Whisenant owned most of St. Clair & Etowah Counties. In court records for 1850-1860, Jacob, his father and brother are sued by a neighbor for an altercation over a pothole in the road.

On November 26, 1858, he married Elvira Ann (Liza) Blackburn, the granddaughter of a King's Mountain Patriot. In the 1860 Census they are living at Cove Creek, Calhoun Co, Alabama. No children.

The histories and rosters of the 2nd Ala Cav give the formation date as May 1, 1862. But a pay voucher states; Company organized 9th February, 1862. Mustered 24 Feb. 1862 and received marching orders the same day Mustered by: A J Walker.

He first was listed under J W Whisenant as 1st Lt. on March 12, 1862 and retained this rank until May 27, 1863 when promoted to Captain. The 2nd Ala Cav served in W Florida for 10 months engaging in several skirmishes. It was ordered to N Mississippi under the command of Gen Dan Rugles

It fought Union forces under Lt. Jesse J. Phillips @ Mud Creek, Miss on June 30, 1863, losing 8 men. They fought with General Grierson at Okalana. His presence is confirmed by a requisition, signed by him on Nov 25, 1862. They were in Mississippi until 1864. The unit was in the Atlanta Campaign on June 10, 1864.

The histories of the 2nd Ala Cav show that Capt Whisenant was wounded at the Battle of Kennesa. However there is some question about that because on his pay voucher #85, dated June 7, 1864, he was a patient in St Mary's hospital in Birmingham. (The date could be incorrect). He did rejoin the unit and it is stated that the 2nd was part of the escort transferring Jefferson Davis southward to the Trans- Mississippi. According to Jacob's pension application, he surrendered with his unit at Forsythe, Ga.

After the war, he ran his farm in Calhoun County until 1874. He and Elvira had 3 children, Minnie born 1868, Peter born 1873 and Jacob C. born 1873. Shortly after the birth of Jacob, they moved to Northwest Florida. They purchased land in Fla from 1876-1894. Ending up at Bayport, on the coast of Florida where he purchased a hotel that was bombarded during the war. (It still had the Minnie ball imbedded when it burned in 1944) He and Elvira ran a boarding house there.

His sons moved to Cuba in 1874 and Jacob and Elvira remained in Brooksville, Hernando, Florida. Elvira died February 9, 1902 and is buried in Old Brooksville Cemetery.

At the time of Elvira's death, daughter Minnie placed an ad in the Confederate Veteran asking for anyone who had fought with her father under Forrest to come forward. This was to confirm his service, as he was seeking a pension. It was approved on April 30, 1902 and the last application for an increase was April 15, 1911.

All listings for the death of Jacob states that he died in Brooksville on October 9, 1915 and is buried next to her. This is incorrect. We researched Fla death records and the cemetery records from April 15, 1911 until December 25, 1925 (the death of Minnie, where he is not listed as a survivor). There are no records for Jacob. This error could have occurred because the gravestone has his name and birth date but not a death.

A footnote to the history of the war: Rousseau's Raid at Janney Furnace on July 13, 1864. Some of Rousseau's men crossed the Coosa on the Greensport Ferry (my 5th Great grandfather's ferry and land). They went 4 miles South and crossed at Ten Island Ford (The same spot Desoto, and Jackson crossed) and met the Confederates under General Clanton at William Jenkins Whisenant's plantation. (My 4th Great-grandfather, Confederate Postmaster at Ten Islands)

## *Alabama Society Workshop* *At the Confederate Memorial* *Park in Marbury, Alabama*



Recently five members of the BG St. John Richardson Liddell Chapter 271 participated in a Alabama Society Workshop held at Confederate Memorial Park in Marbury, Alabama. Pictured L-R are Army of Tennessee Commander Bert D. Blackmon, III DCS, Adjutant David W. Myers, Commander Thomas B. Rhodes, III LTC USA (Retired), Philip Davis, John Land and Alabama Society Commander John Land.



# The Place To Go When You Want To Know About the War Between the States

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We saved the historic house General James Longstreet used as his headquarters during the winter of 1863 – 64 from demolition and are developing it into a museum, (See [www.longstreetmuseum.com](http://www.longstreetmuseum.com)), and historic Bethesda Church which was used as a hospital by both armies, and battlefield preservation.

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## *Member Opinion Articles Requested*

Over the next couple month, the Officer's Call would like to publish opinion articles on some specific topics that members could give their view/opinion on them based on what they know happened by studying history or by what your ancestors may have went through that you have been able to document. When providing these articles, please include your name, chapter, and city location.

The topics of discussion are limited at this time to the following: (1) the life and struggles of the common man and his family during the 19th century, (2) State's Rights - advantages and disadvantages of it, (3) Slavery - from an economic view to a social view, and (4) Reconstruction - was assistance really provided like other periods in time or was it a period of punishment.

Please limit your submittals to these four areas of discussion and get your friends to submit articles also as these opinion articles are an excellent tool to help others understand more about this time in American

history. Please send your submittal to Jeff Sizemore (Editor General) at [swampeditor@yahoo.com](mailto:swampeditor@yahoo.com).

## *Request for Historical Based Articles for the Upcoming 2015 Officer's Call Magazine*

If you have an article on a Confederate Officer or soldier, please consider sending an article that can be included in future issues of the *Officer's Call*. Historical articles about the period from 1860 to 1865 are welcomed. Send your articles to the attention of our Editor General, Jeff Sizemore, whose email is [swampeditor@yahoo.com](mailto: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.



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

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

## *AOT National Awards Presentation to Alabama Members*

Pictured below (L-R) are Adjutant David W. Myers, Commander Thomas B. Rhodes, III, LTC USA (Retired) and Lt. Cmdr. Price Legg of the BG St. John Richardson Liddell Chapter are shown after being presented National Awards by Army of Tennessee Commander Bert D. Blackmon, III.



## *NC Society Convention held in Raleigh*

The Confederate Officers of North Carolina Society MOS&B held their annual convention in Raleigh on Saturday, June 13, 2015. The site of the convention was the NC UDC HQ building. The convention was hosted by the Capt. James I. Waddell Chapter No. 32, Raleigh who also sponsored a coffee hour prior to the business session.

Capt. Waddell Chapter Commander James Izzell opened the convention and welcomed those in attendance to

Raleigh. He then introduced Karen Powers with the NC UDC who welcomed everyone to their headquarters building and explained its history. Commander Izzell then introduced NC Society Commander David M. Edwards.

There were 17 members present representing all seven active Chapters within the Society. Reports were presented by all chapters.

Commander Edwards presented new chapter charters to North Carolina's two newest chapters: The Maj. Gen. W.H.C. Whiting Chapter No. 305, Wilmington; and the Gov. Zebulon Baird Vance NC Headquarters Chapter No. 307.

Major discussion during the convention was planning for the upcoming National MOS&B Convention set for Wilmington in July 2017 and new possible wayside markers on Confederate history placed through the NC Department of Cultural Resources. Commander David M. Edwards and Society Lt. Commander Harry Watt were reelected for two more years.

Following the convention adjournment, a tour of the Confederate section of Raleigh's Oakwood Cemetery was given by the Capt. Waddell Chapter.

## *ROGER PETER THORNTON, DCS (1946-2015)*

Honorary Commander General (2010 - 2015)  
Aide-de-Camp International Liaison (2010 - 2014)  
Life Member # 3803  
1946 - 2015  
Niddre, Melbourne, Australia

Roger was born in Christchurch, New Zealand on August 29, 1946 where he attended Christchurch Boys' High School and Westport Technical College graduating in 1963. He served for five years in the New Zealand equivalent R.O.T.C, program. His interest in military history remained a strong passion for him throughout his life. Tragically, while on a 27 day tour of Europe, Roger fell ill with pneumonia and within 2 days "crossed over to the other side of the river" in Boppard, Germany on May 27, 2015.

Roger joined the Military Order of the Stars and Bars on June 21, 1990 as a collateral descendant of Colonel Henry Kyd Douglas of General Thomas J. Jackson's staff. Later in the War, Colonel Douglas was the Commander of the 13th and 49th Virginia Regi-



ments Consolidated. Roger also claims a collateral relationship with General Robert E. Lee and was approved for supplemental membership in 2011. He became a Life Member of the Order on September 16, 2011. Roger was appointed Aide-de-Camp in 2010 as International Liaison with assigned responsibilities for building our international outreach

and supporting those Compatriots who lived outside the United States. Even though, Roger lived in Melbourne, Australia, he faithfully maintained daily written and telephonic communications with the IHQ Staff and Commander General. In recognition of his efforts and success in representing the Order on several continents, he was awarded the Distinguished Commander Status (DCS) Award in 2011 at the Jacksonville, FL Convention. The following year, he was unanimously elected to the distinguished position of Honorary Commander General by the General Executive Council at the 2012 San Antonio, TX Convention. Roger and Carol were in attendance at this Convention and it is my personal honor to have been able to personally present the HCG plaque to him.

During his tenure as ADC – International Liaison, Roger successfully established relationships with several groups in Australia; notably, the American Civil War Roundtable of Australia, the Military Historical Association of Australia, and the SCV Camps for Australia and New Zealand. In Europe he enjoyed considerable support from Colonel Heinrich Wirz of Switzerland and Hubert Leroy of the Confederate Historical Association of Belgium. Associated with this assistance, he built an enduring relationship with the SCV Europe Camp # 1612 and the support from Commander Aschim “Archy” Bansch. He also became a member of the 290 Foundation of Liverpool (290 is the hull number of the Confederate commerce raider CSS Alabama.) Also, he continued to research and solicit engagement with the South American descendants of the Confederates who immigrated to Brazil and Argentina. He helped to plant the seeds for the establishment of a Chapter in Scotland under the auspices of Compatriot Stuart Morris who lives in Balgonie Castle, by Markenich, Fife, Scotland. Further, Roger proposed and submitted timely and informative articles for the Officer's Call section entitled “International Dispatches”.

The Order has suffered a significant loss in Roger's passing. For those of us who knew him well, it is a privilege to call him “friend”. His love for the Order is without question and he will be difficult to replace. Please join me in lifting up his wife Carol, daughter Crystal, and granddaughter India in the loss of their loved one.

Below is a picture from my initial personal meeting with Roger and Carol at a restaurant in Salt Lake City on December 12, 2010. Our hosts for this meeting were Genealogist General Toni and Barbara



Turk. Commander of the Provisional Colorado Society Bill Caynor and his wife also made the trip to Salt Lake City from their home in Colorado. This is another special memory of Roger which is my honor to treasure forever.

Participants of the Salt Lake City visit by the Thorntons are beginning from the left and going around the table to the right are: Barbara Turk, Commander and Mrs. Bill Caynor, Carol Thornton, ADC International Liaison Roger Thornton, CG Max Waldrop, and GG Toni Turk.

For those in the Order who wish to extend their condolences to Carol Thornton and family, please send your cards and letters to:

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Australia

Or you may email her at: [carolthornton486@gmail.com](mailto:carolthornton486@gmail.com)

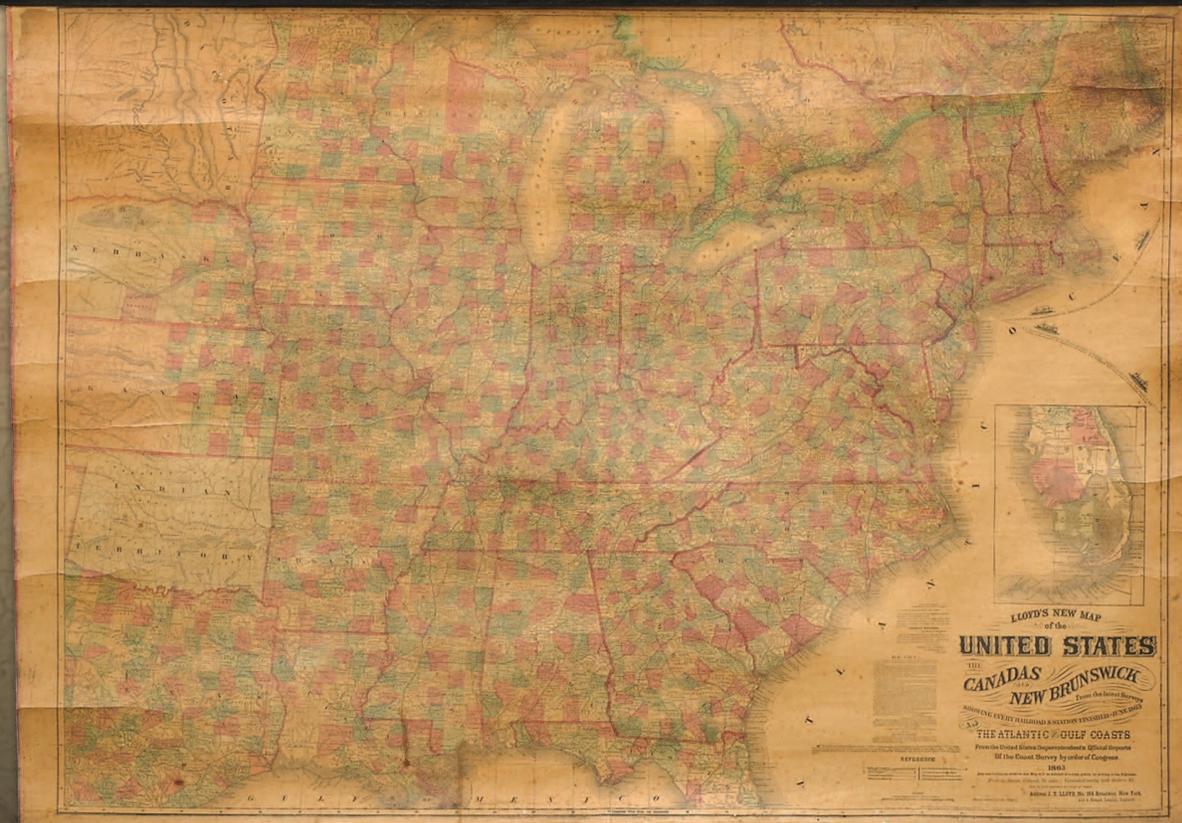
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## *Brooklyn in Charleston*

By Phil Leigh

*"The only way to win a war is to prevent it."*(1)

Gen. George Marshall

Among casual Civil War students many wrongly assume the first shots were those forcing the Federal garrison at Fort Sumter to surrender on April 13, 1861. Although MOS&B readers probably realize that Charleston witnessed cannon fire in early January 1861 many may not appreciate that the episode was potentially far more consequential than generally supposed.

Six weeks after Lincoln was elected President, South Carolina became the first state to secede on December 20, 1860. Yet there were Federal troops routinely stationed in the state, including seventy-five artillerymen at Fort Moultrie located at the mouth of Charleston harbor. Moultrie faced the water from the mainland's north shore and wasn't designed to withstand attack from the landward side.

Accordingly, the day after Christmas 1860 her troops quietly disabled their artillery and secretly boarded boats for unoccupied Fort Sumter. Although still under construction, Sumter was more defensible. It was on an island near the harbor's center on the edge of the main shipping channel. Sumter's artillery was also far more powerful than anything available to South Carolina's military forces.(2)

Lincoln would remain President-elect until March 4, 1861 because the current January 20 inauguration date was not adopted for another seventy-two years.(3) Thus, the South Carolina crisis was initially in the hands of Lincoln's predecessor, Pennsylvania's James Buchanan.

About thirty years earlier President Andrew Jackson faced a similar crisis with the Palmetto State when it attempted to nullify US tariffs within its borders. Other southern states held similar objections but unlike South Carolina they had not yet defied Federal authority. Jackson promptly got a bill through Congress moderating the tariff but also authorizing him to use military force against the Carolinians.(4) In response the state repealed the offending nullification ordinance thereby unintentionally demonstrating one of President Jackson's maxims, "One man with courage makes a majority."(5)

Buchanan had a similar opportunity. His military adviser was Lieutenant General Winfield Scott who had led US troops victoriously into Mexico City fourteen years earlier during the Mexican War. Scott advised that Sumter be reinforced with an additional 200 troops and provisions. He recommended that the *USS Brooklyn* depart Norfolk, Virginia on New Year's Day to transport the aid to Sumter. She was a powerful warship with over twenty cannons using

nine and ten inch diameter projectiles. South Carolina had nothing approaching the firepower of either Sum-



ter or the *Brooklyn*.(6)

Scott later changed his mind and recommended the relief vessel be an unarmed merchant steamer. He reasoned the second choice would be less likely to provoke the Carolinians into an armed response thereby improving prospects for a peaceful settlement. The *Star of the West* was chartered and left New York on January 5. Arriving off Charleston harbor the night of January 8, her captain decided to make a run for Sumter at dawn.

Scott's messages informing Sumter of reinforcements were intercepted and never arrived. However, the Carolina governor learned of the plans and decided to resist. Artillery batteries were hastily set-up along the northern and southern shores of the harbor's mouth. The ship channel would require the *Star of the West* to first run the weaker batteries on the south side, turn west, and run the stronger ones on the north shore where Fort Moultrie was now occupied by Carolinians. A signal boat was put on patrol duty.

South Carolina's military unpreparedness was evidenced by the choice of Citadel cadets to "man" the first batteries. Shortly after dawn the signal boat launched flares. The cadet commander on the south shore scanned the channel and saw the *Star of the West* moving cautiously up the ship channel, sounding for the bottom as she came. He instructed that a cannon be aimed to place a shot across her bow and commanded sixteen-year-old George Haynesworth to fire. The cannonball skipped over the water and given enough propulsion would have fallen in front of the ship.(7)

Captain McGowan of the *Star* was hopeful that Sumter would retaliate against the rebellious fire. To encourage such intervention his unarmed ship was flying an oversized US flag. But the fort remained silent, even as the cadets repeatedly imperiled the ship with more shots. Eventually she was hit three times, but still Sumter made no reply. After the three hits,

McGowan realized he must soon turn westward and face dangers from Fort Moultrie as well. Instead he put the *Star* in tight turn and returned to New York.(8)

Following the cadets' first shot, drummers inside Sumter beat the long roll calling troops to battle stations. Cannons were loaded and the muzzles pushed through their firing apertures. Although *Star of the West* was under fire from points within range of Sumter's guns, the fort commander hesitated.

He had no orders telling him what to do. Scott's undelivered instructions would have told him that if the *Star* was taken under fire Sumter "may use its guns to silence such fire." Since those orders never got through the fort's commander was sensitively aware that retaliating fire could trigger a fratricidal war between the states. Such responsibility caused him to hesitate and the *Star* retreated before he took action.(9)

By sundown, Mississippi joined South Carolina in secession, followed by Florida the next day and Alabama the day after that. A week later Georgia seceded, followed the next week by Louisiana. On the first day of the next month Texas left the union. Three days later the seven states formed a Confederacy.

Thereafter, secession momentum stalled. After two months of stalemate the now-inaugurated Lincoln decided to send a second relief expedition to Sumter to restock provisions. Confederate President Davis and most of his cabinet concluded that Sumter must not be permitted to resupply. He authorized the bombardment that started on April 12 and led to the fort's surrender the following day. In response, Lincoln called for an army of 75,000 volunteers to invade the rebellious states and put down "combinations too powerful to be suppressed" by ordinary means.(10)

Governors were notified of their respective state quotas. Virginia, North Carolina, Tennessee and Arkansas refused the call and joined the Confederacy. Missouri, Kentucky, and Maryland also declined, but did not leave the Union. The Federal commander in St. Louis chased the Missouri governor and his militia to the southwest corner of the state. After foot-dragging by the governor, Maryland's legislature called itself into session in September to vote on secession. Lincoln prevented pro-session members from attending by arresting them, or threatening to arrest them if they didn't stay home. Otherwise the state probably would have joined the Confederacy according to Fred Seward who was the secretary of state's son and involved in the arrests and threats.(11) Kentucky resolved to remain neutral until Confederate General Leonidas Polk unilaterally invaded the state, thereby tipping the sentiment scales northward.(12 )

After the deaths of 620,000 American soldiers, the war ended four years later.(13) By comparison, 406,000 U.S. soldiers were killed in the Second World War in both Europe and the Pacific.(14) Furthermore, given the present USA population another war with a Civil War proportional death ratio would result in deaths of about 6.2 million.

But what if a warship like the *Brooklyn* had been sent as originally planned instead of the merchant steamer, *Star of the West*? While the *Brooklyn's* hull drew 16 feet of water and may have been difficult to maneuver in Charleston harbor, another warship such as the *USS Pawnee*, which drew only 10 feet of water might have been used.

Since Brooklyn (and presumably a substitute warship) was under orders to deliver supplies and two hundred soldiers to Sumter, she almost certainly would have returned fire to the Carolina batteries.(15) She had the strength to fight past them and relieve Fort Sumter. Furthermore, the warship's gunfire would likely have prompted Sumter to retaliate as well. The meager Carolina batteries available in early January had no chance against such combined firepower.(16)

Afterward, the warship could have sailed three miles upstream to the wharves of Charleston eliminating whatever resistance she might meet along the way. Once there she could demand the city's surrender under her frowning guns. That's how it happened a year later when a Federal fleet – including *Brooklyn* -- fought past two forts guarding New Orleans, the Confederacy's biggest city.(17)

Assuming a warship had left Norfolk on New Year's Day as planned it would have arrived in Charleston on January 3 – six days before any other sate was prepared to secede. If such a warship and Sumter had promptly forced Charleston to accept Federal authority, the rebellion may never have spread enough to take root. It could have been quickly crushed, as President Jackson had done about thirty years earlier.

Phil Leigh is a citizen historian who has written twenty-four articles for the [New York Times Disunion](#) series that commemorated the Civil War Sesquicentennial as well as three Civil War books. If you enjoyed the story above you make want to purchase one of his books. He is currently writing a fourth book, *The Confederacy at Flood Tide*.

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1. General Richard B. Myers (15<sup>th</sup> Chairman of Joint Chiefs of Staff), *118<sup>th</sup> Alf Landon Lecture*, Kansas State University, April 26, 2000.

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3. "Lame Ducks' Doom Sealed"— Missouri Is 36th State To Ratify 20th Amendment To Constitution", *Pittsburgh Post-Gazette*, January 24, 1933, 1
4. Edward L. Ayers, *American Passages*, 4<sup>th</sup> Edition (Boston: Wadsworth Cengage Learning, 2007) 220
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8. Bruce Catton 180
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11. Frederick Seward, *Reminiscences of a Wartime Statesman and Diplomat*, pp. 175-178, (Boston: G. Putnam & Sons, 1916) 175 - 178
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15. Maury Klein *Days of Defiance* (New York: Vintage Books, 1997) 191
16. James Chester – Captain 3<sup>rd</sup> Artillery, U.S.A, “Inside Sumter in ‘61”, *Battles & Leaders of the Civil War*, Volume 1 (New York: Thomas Yoseloff, Inc., 1956) 63
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## *Surgeon of the Month:*

### **Thomas Price Temple**

#### **Surgeon, CS Medical Staff**

Compiled by Peter J. D'Onofrio, Ph.D.

President, Society of Civil War Surgeons, Inc.

[www.socwsurgeons.org](http://www.socwsurgeons.org)

Thomas P. Temple was born about 1806 in Virginia, the third of four sons of Samuel and Molly Temple. From at least 1820 through 1860, Dr. Temple lived in Prince George, Virginia. On August 26, 1858, he married Neva M. Ann Crofts, of Petersburg, Virginia. Records are not clear, but it appears that he had been married previously to a Jane Crowder (1808-1860) and had a daughter, Elizabeth A. Temple with this marriage.

Dr. Temple enlisted on July 1, 1861 as Assistant Surgeon in the 53rd Virginia Infantry Regiment. He was promoted to Full Surgeon on October 16, 1862. Various records list his enlistment date as August 6, 1861 as Assistant Surgeon/1st Lieutenant; promoted to Full Assistant Surgeon on September 5, 1861 in the 56th Virginia Infantry Regiment. He is also listed a Surgeon of the 6th Virginia Regiment as of August 15, 1864. At some point during the conflict, he was the Surgeon-in-Chief of Howard's Grove Hospital in Richmond, Virginia. He was mustered out/paroled on April 9, 1865 at Appomattox Court House, Virginia.

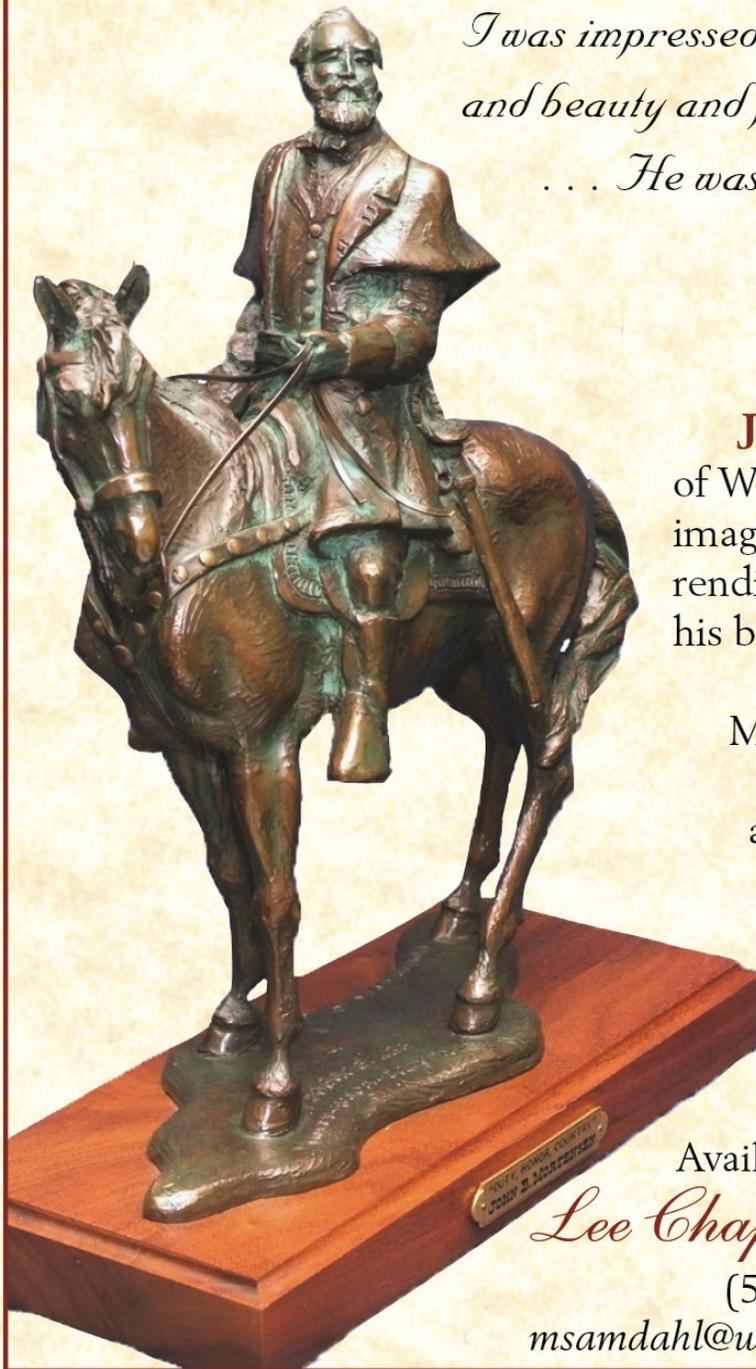
Nothing is known of him after the war other than he died in 1868 in Virginia at age 62.



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