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2014-2016

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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*
NASH FARM BATTLEFIELD
~ **GEC MEETING** ~



I would like to thank the members of the Georgia Society for hosting our recent General Executive Committee (GEC) Meeting at Nash Farm Battlefield. The meeting took place on Saturday, October 24, 2015. The battlefield is located about 30 miles south of Atlanta near the town of McDonough.

Georgia Society Commander, David Denard, was instrumental in securing the battlefield site for our meeting. In fact, we were able to meet in the same room that the Georgia Civil War Commission uses for its own meetings. I would also like to thank Debra Denard who did all of the planning for our fantastic *tailgate luncheon* that followed the meeting.

We had over 20 people attend our festivities including six of our ladies. Our meeting began informally with a group dinner at the Longhorn Steakhouse on Friday night. We also had two special guests at our meeting. The first was Jack Dyess, Commander of the Texas Society. There were two items on our Agenda that were of particular interest to the Texas Society. As a result, we really welcomed Jack's participation and contribution to our meeting. We were also privileged to have Commander Martin Bell of Chapter 306 in Macon in attendance at our meeting. One of Martin's areas of interest is the naval aspects of the *War Between the States*. Martin gave everyone a brochure containing pictures of his collection of naval prints from the WBTS. He also provided a beautiful floral arrangement for our head table. We really appreciate both gentlemen taking the time to attend and make contributions to our meeting.

Each year the GEC meets three times to conduct its meetings. One of those occasions is the day before our annual convention. There is also a Spring meeting and a Fall meeting as well. In effect, the GEC is *the Board of Directors* for the Order. We had over 23 items on our Agenda for this particular meeting. All of these items are timely and vital to the Order.

Nash Farm Battlefield is a 204 acre public park located in the western portion of Henry County. It is all that is left of the larger battlefield called "Lovejoy" or "Lovejoy's Station". On August 20, 1864 Union Cavalry forces under BG Judson Kilpatrick raided Confederate railroads and supply lines at or near this location. Scattered Confederate infantry units from Patrick Cleburne's Division defended the battle site. Over 4,700 Union cavalry charged the defenders with sabers drawn. It was the largest cavalry breakthrough charge in Georgia's history. Our Confederates were forced to retreat as darkness fell. Although Kilpatrick had destroyed supplies and track at Lovejoy's Station the railroad was back in business in just two days.

Nash Farm Battlefield is owned by Henry County and administered by *the Friends of Nash Creek Battlefield*. As members of the MOS&B we were proud to support the volunteers in their efforts to preserve this battlefield site. In a special presentation, Commander David Denard of the Georgia Society made a donation on our behalf to do just that. We are all grateful to *the Friends of Nash Creek Battlefield* for their efforts.

Deo Vindice.

Wm. Howard Jones
Commander General

The Chaplain General's Thoughts

By Raymond Holder, M'Div., B.C.C.

The Confederate Battle Flag

Do you know what our Confederate Battle Flag stands for? It can represent the Christian Faith. I found this a few weeks ago and thought I would share it. First picture in your mind or look at the Confederate Battle Flag.

The red field represents the blood of Christ The white border represents the Protection of God. The blue "X" represents the Christian Cross of Saint Andrew, The first disciple of Jesus Christ and the patron Saint of Scotland.

Thus, the message in the Confederate Battle Flag is: "Through the Blood of Christ, With the Protection of God, We, the Thirteen States, Are united in our Christian fight for liberty."

The one symbol of the Christian Faith is that of the Cross where Jesus died for our sins and was raised on the third day to a glorious resurrection. John 3:14b says so as the Son of man be lifted up, He will draw all men to Him, Jesus Christ. That glorious Cross which is the symbol that Jesus Christ died on is to be lifted up as who we are in Christ Jesus.

1st Corinthians 1: 18 says "For the preaching of the Cross is to them that perish, foolishness; but unto us which are saved, it is the power of God". These are the written words of the apostle

Paul, a Jewish Christian of the first century who quiet literally walked from one end of the Roman Empire centered on the Mediterranean Sea preaching the good news of the Gospel and establishing churches along the way. After the War of Northern Aggression, which I think is the more applicable name of this very tragic conflict, our Confederate ancestors continued to take that Cross that Jesus died on as the principle symbol of our Christian faith and have marched around the world with the message of the Cross.

The message of the Cross is the message of the Gospel of good news of Jesus Christ. John 3:16-17, "For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that who so ever believes in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life. For God sent His Son into the world not to condemn the world but the world through Him might be saved". Hence, this is the central message of the Cross, of which our Confederate ancestors came back to their broken land and continued their Faith which was that of sending this message of the Cross around the world. The genuineness and integrity of the character of our ancestors even into this present time is being shown as they and we have risen from the ashes of defeat to create our legacies of Faith here and around the world. This is one way I view the Confederate Battle Flag, not of defeat, but as the Message of the Cross.

**MERRY CHRISTMAS
& HAPPY NEW YEAR
2015**



A Letter from the Homefront

Camp Jackson, July 25th, 1861

My dear Wife,

It has been a long, long time since I have received a letter from you. I know that it is not your fault, but that makes me the no less anxious to hear from you directly. I went to the Junction [Manassas] last night & was informed that the mail wouldn't be opened until this morning & when I sent this morning was informed it would not be ready before 10 o'clock. John went in this morning & I am in hopes that he will bring me a letter from you. I know I am anxious. You were & are still to hear from me. I have done my part to communicate with you and have written daily. Some of my letters must have reached & relieved your mind on my account. We have been comparatively quiet for three days now, and we are down to our usual drill daily, & our orders has just come in to cook three days rations which does indicate a movement somewhere, though we may stay here for a week or so yet. Our forces are pressing on towards Alexandria. It seems now that Lion is to be herded in his den, and I think we may yet see the White House & Lincoln before we return to the Valley. Nothing would afford me so much pleasure. The newspaper accounts of the dead, wounded & prisoners of the enemy are moderate, also of wagons & army stores. It is almost incredible one can hardly believe their own eyes at the extraordinary sights. This has been a terrible disaster for them & will take millions of money for them to replace, if they even can their heavy losses. The results of this battle must change the face of the war. Their forces cannot penetrate into the State with a victorious army pressing on Washington & ready at a moment's warning to be hurled on the rear of them. Such a course on their part would be fatal & render their destruction more than certain. I have no fears now for the final result of the contest. We have proven our superiority over even their Regular forces. Don't think I am too confident. God is on our side. His finger is pointed direct to the late battlefield and speaks in tones of thunder his approval of our great cause & dare could it be otherwise. Are we not fighting for all we hold dear on this earth, and what is life worth, if we fail. I would not give a fig for it, but enough of this. Long before this you have seen Asher, Graham & Stafford & they have given you all the particulars from this Quarter & about me.

Tell Willy he ought just to see the dead Yankees & Yankee prisoners. Father's boys slayed a lot of them too & fought like wild cats. I am very anxious to hear from Michael. I want by all means to go into his regiment if I can get there. I think he has influence enough to have me there. William is especially anxious to go too. I hope we will all be together. When the horse gets home, if you need him, which I don't think you do, as two horse plow teams will do the work, keep him, if not, Michael will dispose of him for me again. Bagly will let you have another hand if you need him. You will know best. Tell William or Mr. Dull to have the wheat land ploughed early & the land put in fine order so that the wheat will have a good start. I meant for you to get the Mediterranean wheat from Michael. Only seed as much in white wheat as will make bread for ourselves, say 8 or 10 acres. Sew our own Bouten wheat & the Med. [iterranean] from Michael. I am so anxious to get a letter from you, it seems like a mighty long time. Bearing the water, we are getting on very well, that is miserable & scarce [water]. We suffer for it, but hope to be moved soon to a better place. Did we make much hay. How does the stock look. I hear that we have had a fine season and that the corn looks well. Hope our fall pasture will be good. Try & make a clover seed enough for ourselves. The Timothy seed you will have to buy. There is two bushels at home & five bushels more will do. Don't sew the new ground in grass this fall. Leave it until next fall. Keep all stock off of the young grass except the colts & calves & don't let them stay on in wet weather. Do with the wheat just as Michael advised. Remember me to the servants. How does Albert, Ned, Marshall, Fanny & Philbert come on. Hope they are all good. Mind me to Miss Sally & Mr. Dull. Good bye. God bless you. Kiss my darling babies for me. Love to Lucy. Kind regards to Mrs. Donaghe. Love to Mary, Betty, Fanny & Corey. Hoping to get a letter from you soon.

I am as ever your fond & devoted Husband,

Asher W.H.

Have you seen my wounded men. I tried to send Doyle home this morning but could not. He has typhoid fever. Will send him up tomorrow. No news. Tom ate dinner with me today & is here now. Will & I are both well. Tom Gates is coming to stay with me.

Affec.[tionately],

Asher

Asher Waterman Harman, was born near Waynesboro, Va., on June 24, 1830. The 5 foot, 9 inch tall Harman, had a dark complexion, blue eyes, and black hair, and before the war he operated a stage line in Staunton. Soon after the War Between the States broke out, he enlisted at Staunton, and was commissioned Captain, of Co. G, 5th Virginia Infantry, on April 28, 1861. He was promoted to major of the 5th Virginia Infantry, in February 1862; and on June 21, 1862, he was commissioned colonel of the 12th Virginia Cavalry. He was wounded in action on June 9, 1863, at Brandy Station, Va., the largest cavalry battle ever fought on U.S. soil; was captured at Bolivar Heights, near Harpers Ferry, on July 14, 1863; and spent the rest of the war as a P.O.W. He was first sent to Fort McHenry, Baltimore, on July 18, 1863; was transferred to Fort Delaware Prison, on July 20, 1863; was then moved to Johnson's Island Prison, on July 29, 1863, and remained confined there until he was transferred to Fort Monroe, on January 27, 1865; he was paroled at Staunton, Va., on April 30, 1865. After the war he was an executive of the Staunton Railroad. He died on April 9, 1895 [the 30th anniversary of the Lee's surrender at Appomattox] and is buried in Thornrose Cemetery, Staunton, Va.

(Submitted by Adam Gaines)

Brigadier General

Joseph R. Davis:

The President's Nephew

The Constitution of the Confederate States was adopted by the first seven seceding states of the lower south on March 11, 1861, and subsequently adopted by the seceding states of the upper south. Article II, Section 2, Clause 2, of the Confederate Constitution provides that the President shall have the power to appoint, by and with the advice and consent of the Senate, officers of the Confederate States of America. Under this section of the Constitution, a formalized procedure was established through congressional action for the appointment of General officers to the military services.(1) The processes were essentially the same for both the United States and the Confederate States. At the conclusion of hostilities, 383 different men had held the rank of General in the Confederate States Army. Of these, there were thirty-nine Confederate officers that were proposed to become General officers, whose appointments, confirmations, or commissions were incomplete. The reasons for the failure of these candidates to achieve the rank of General are many and varied, some, as in the case of Colonel Turner Ashby, were felled in battle before Senate confirmation. Others such as Ashby's cousin, Colonel Henry Marshall Ashby, were Acting Brigadier Generals at the close of the war, but their commissions were never delivered. Some nominees were rejected by the Con-

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federate Senate, such as Colonel Phillip H. Robertson, and one candidate, Thomas T. Fauntleroy refused the appointment. Moreover, the appointments by President Davis that were not formalized are categorized as follows: incomplete appointments; unconfirmed appointments; refused appointments; posthumous appointments; and, undelivered appointments.(2)

One of the Presidential nominees to hit a snag in the Confederate Senate was Colonel Joseph R. Davis, a nephew of President Jefferson F. Davis. Joseph R. Davis was a Mississippi legislator and lawyer, who entered Confederate service as a Captain of Mississippi Militia. Soon, however, on April 12, 1861, he was with the 10th Mississippi Infantry, where he was elected to the rank of Lieutenant Colonel. On August 31, 1861, Joseph Davis was advanced to the rank of Colonel, and for the next year served in Richmond, Virginia, as an aide on President Davis' staff.(3)

It was while serving on his uncle's staff that his name was forwarded, on September 28, 1861, to the Senate for confirmation as a Brigadier General. The Senate balked at the nomination, and it was initially rejected on the assertion of nepotism by the President's opponents. The nomination was again submitted, and the matter thoroughly aired on the Senate floor, where confirmation finally occurred on October 8, 1861.(4)

As a newly confirmed Brigadier General, with an effective promotion date of September 15, 1862, Davis, with neither formal military training nor combat experience, was given command of a newly formed Brigade in the Army of Northern Virginia (ANV), which he led in some of the most bitter fighting of the war. Davis' Brigade, the 4th Brigade, was a component of Major General Henry Heth's 2nd Division, in the 3rd Corps of Lieutenant General Ambrose P. Hill. The brigade comprised four Mississippi infantry regiments, the 2nd, 11th, 26th, and 42nd, and the 55th North Carolina Infantry. The Brigade was heavily invested in the major battles of the ANV, beginning with Gettysburg.

At Gettysburg, the Brigade was engaged in the first day of battle, July 1, 1863, clearing Union forces from its front, and sustained major losses when it occupied the railroad cut, which was too deep and steep for defense. The unfinished railroad cut had tempted the Confederates with what appeared to be ready made breast-works, but instead ensnared over 200 of the men in gray. The federals also suffered grievous losses on this day, as Davis' Brigade inflicted heavy losses

on them. The 14th Brooklyn lost 128 men, while the 95th New York lost 115, and the 6th Wisconsin lost 170 of their 420 men. The Iron Brigade, of which the 6th Wisconsin was a part, lost 1,212 of 1,883 men on July 1st alone.(5)

On the second day Davis' Brigade was held in reserve, but on the third day of battle it suffered catastrophic losses in Longstreet's assault as it advanced to the stone wall in support of Pickett's Charge. The Brigade entered the Gettysburg battle with approximately 2,000 soldiers, and during the three day campaign suffered 1,397 casualties, of which 180 were killed, 717 wounded, and 500 missing.(6)

The devastating defeat at Gettysburg severely diminished the Davis Brigade. Moreover, General Davis himself fell ill, and was temporarily relieved from duty. General Robert E. Lee considered breaking up the Brigade, and although the Brigade subsequently participated in the Overland Campaign, Davis missed the Battle of the Wilderness, but then took an active roll in the other major battles, including Spotsylvania Court House, Cold Harbor, Petersburg, and Appomattox.

Brigadier General Joseph R. Davis was paroled on April 9, 1865, upon the surrender of General Lee and the Army of Northern Virginia. Thereafter, he returned to his native Mississippi, where he resumed his career in the practice of law. The latter years of his life were spent at his uncle's residence, *Beauvoir*, in Biloxi, Mississippi, where he died on September 15, 1896, the 34th anniversary of his effective date of rank to Brigadier General.(7)

Footnotes:

1. Yale Law School, Lillian Goldman Law Library, The Avalon Project. "Constitution of the Confederacy; March 11, 1861," (<http://www.avalon.yale.edu>).
2. The Military Secretary's Office, War Department, *Memorandum relative to the Appointment of General Officers Appointed by the President in the Armies of the Confederate States, 1861-1865*. Government Printing Office. Washington, D.C. 1908.
3. Geni. Brigadier General Joseph R. Davis (CSA), (<http://www.geni.com>, accessed on July 30, 2015).
4. Ibid.
5. The American Civil War: The Battle of Gettysburg, (<http://www.brotherswar.com>, accessed Sep-

tember 10, 2015.

6. Virtual Gettysburg, Confederate Brigade Marker - Davis' Brigade, (<http://www.virtualgettysburg.com>, accessed July 30, 2015).

7. Geni.

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(Submitted by Scott D. Barker)



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The Battle of Dove Creek

By Ewell Loudermilk

When one thinks of the battles fought in the War Between the States, one generally thinks of gallant charges by "Johnny Reb" at Gettysburg, Sherman's march to the sea or the brave men in blue and gray facing off on some battlefield "back east". But here in Texas during the war, the Home Guard and Militia also did their share of fighting to keep the frontier safe from Indian raids.

The frontier of Texas in the 1860's was pretty much anything west of current day Interstate Highway 35. And one of the largest battles of the war in Texas was fought approximately 200 miles west of that border on Dove Creek near the modern day city of San Angelo. This battle was fought not between "Johnny Reb" and "Billy Yank" but between the boys and older men of the Confederate Home Guard and Militia troops who weren't able to leave home to fight in the larger theaters of the war and the entire nation of the Kickapoo Indians who were trying to flee the conflict by escaping to Mexico.

The story of this battle starts sometime in the late, very cold winter of 1864 in Southern Kansas or Northern Oklahoma. The Kickapoo nation, originally from Minnesota but driven south by the westward expansion of the United States, decided to move further south. Whether it was to find better hunting, warmer climates or to evade the conflict of the War Between the States we can only speculate. There are rumors that Federal troops in Oklahoma armed them with repeating rifles and sent them south to depredate the Texas frontier but these rumors have never been substantiated.

Regardless of why the Kickapoo were on the move, in early December of 1864 scouts from Texas Home Guard units discovered evidence of about a

two day old camp of the Kickapoo along the Clear Fork of the Brazos near Fort Phantom Hill (about 20 miles north of modern day Abilene, Texas). The scouts estimated there were about 500 Indians in this party but they were mistaken. This was the entire Kickapoo nation and the population would have been nearer 1,500, with probably about 300 to 500 of those being young men of fighting age. It should be noted that the Kickapoo had been peaceful since being driven from their homeland in Minnesota but that didn't mean they didn't know how to fight or wouldn't fight if cornered. There was also concern that this might be a large band of Kiowa or Comanche Indians and they were known to be hostile.



Chief No-ko-aht of the Kickapoo

No matter whom these Indians were, the alarm went out along the Texas frontier and over 400 militia were gathered from Bosque, Brown, Comanche, Coryell, Erath and Hamilton counties. Overall command of the militia fell to their senior officer Captain S.S. Totten. The regular Confederate Army could spare few troops and sent only 50 soldiers and four Tonkawa scouts from Waco under a Captain Henry Fossett to assist the militia in tracking and capturing or routing the Kickapoo.

By December 20th the two bands of Texas soldiers met in deep snow about six miles north of Stephenville, Texas. The regular Confederate troops and militia proceeded separately at this point to find the Indians' trail but met up again at Fort Chadbourne (near modern day Bronte, Texas). It was New Year's Eve and the beginning of the last year of the War Between the States. An additional 60 regular Confederate soldiers joined the Texas forces at Fort Chadbourne, raising their numbers to a little over 500 troops. The Texas troops followed the Indians' trail for another week and on January 4th - 6th the soldiers camped on Elm Creek, Oak

Creek and the Colorado River near the modern day city of Ballinger.

On January 7th while camped on the North Concho River near modern day San Angelo, the Militia troops under Captain Totten got word from the regular Confederate troops that were scouting ahead. The regulars had located the Kickapoo's camp 35 miles west of the Concho on Dove Creek near the modern day hamlet of Knickerbocker, about 20 miles southwest of San Angelo. The Militia rode thru the night and made contact with Captain Fossett's men near Spring Creek, about ¾ of a mile from the Kickapoo's camp, around 9:30 on the morning of January 8th, 1865.

The two Captains decided to make separate attacks. Captain Totten's 400 Militia would dismount, wade the freezing waters of Dove Creek and attack the "lower" portion of the camp. Captain Fossett's 100+ Regulars and four Tonkawa scouts would attack the "upper" portion of the camp on horseback; capture the Indians' horses and round up any Indians trying to escape that direction.

The initial charge by the Militia caught the Kickapoo off guard. The Militia secured the lower portion of the camp. The Indians had retreated into brush and were "keeping up a rapid discharge of their arms, which were long range and of a good make". This gives credence to the rumor they had been equipped with repeating rifles by the Federal forces in Oklahoma. After about an hour of heavy fighting and after the loss of many of their officers and men, Militia Captain Totten called for his men to retreat back across Dove Creek. Captain Fossett's mounted men had fared better and captured over 1,000 of the Kickapoo's horses. But the Indians continued to sally forth from their stronghold in the brush on the other side of Dove Creek and were threatening to surround and annihilate the Confederate forces.

The fighting had lasted all day and by 10PM on the night of January 8th the Confederate commanders decided they needed to withdraw. They had lost 23 men killed, they had over 60 men severely wounded, had lost over 60 of their horses and all of their pack animals and supplies. On the morning of January 9th, 1865 in 8 or 9 inches of new fall-

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en snow on top of the 6 or 7 inches already on the ground, Captain Totten and his men decided to try and make it to the Chisolm Ranch at the mouth of the Concho River near modern day Trickham, Texas, just south of Brownwood. Captain Fossett took 25 men and went back to see if the Indians were still camped at Dove Creek.

The Kickapoo had succeeded in recapturing all but about 70 of their ponies during the days fighting on the 8th. After building huge fires where their camp had been, the Indians had retreated west on to the "Staked Plains" to continue their journey to Mexico on the night of January 8th-9th, 1865. The Kickapoo lost more people to exposure and starvation on the plains than they lost in the battle. It is estimated that the Kickapoo's loses were somewhere between 20 and 25 during the battle.

Captain Fossett and his men found and buried the Texas soldiers that had died in the fighting. They had not been scalped but most of their clothes had been taken.

The Texas troops straggling eastward were wounded, cold, exhausted and starving when they stumbled into Chisolm's Ranch on January 14th, 1865. The troops and Mr. Chisolm's men slaughtered 18 head of beef to feed them. From this point of relative safety the Militia soldiers broke up into bands to return to their respective homes and the Regular Confederate soldiers returned to Waco. The Kickapoo continued on their journey, founding the modern day city of Quemado, Texas between Eagle Pass and Del Rio on the Texas - Mexico border. But for the most part they live in northern Mexico today. They raided into south Texas for some years after the War Between the States, perhaps seeking revenge on those who attacked them at Dove Creek.

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

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Chapter and Society News is also welcome. Please email to the address. The prefer submittal is one in which the articles are in MS Word format and that all pictures are in jpeg format as this makes it easier to format to the proper scale within this publication.

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