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July 2016

Officer's Call

SANTOS BENAVIDES - Texas Patriot

By Ewell Loudermilk

Santos Benavides was a Confederate Colonel during the American Civil War and was the highest-ranking Tejano soldier in the Confederate military. Benavides was born in November of 1823 to José Jesús and Margarita (Ramón) Benavides in Laredo, Texas. He was the Great-Great-Grandson of Tomás Sánchez de la Barrera y Garza, the founder of the city of Laredo.

In the civil strife that marked the life of Texas border towns of the 1830's and 40's Benavides sided with the Mexican "Federalists," who desired a Mexican state and local autonomy against the "Centralists" who wanted all power in Mexico to reside in the capital at Mexico City.

He joined with and cooperated with the Texas forces under Mirabeau B. Lamar who occupied Laredo during the Mexican-American War (1846 – 1848). At this time he was also an active military leader, leading successful expeditions against the Lipan Apache and other tribes that were harassing the outlying ranches near Laredo. During these campaigns he earned a reputation as a strong military leader and courageous soldier.

Benavides was also a successful merchant and rancher and in 1856 at the age of 33 he was elected mayor of Laredo and three years later in 1859, shortly before the outbreak of the War Between the States he was elected Chief Justice of Webb County.



Benavides opposed the annexation of the Laredo area by the United States, as called for by the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo after the Mexican-American War, because he feared it would compromise the independent character of northern Mexico. So it isn't surprising that when Texas seceded from the Union, Benavides and his brothers supported the Confederacy, whose States'-Rights principles were so close to their own beliefs of regional autonomy.

Shortly after Texas seceded from the Union on February 1st, 1861, Benavides was commissioned a Captain in the Confederate army and given command of the Texas 33rd Cavalry stationed in Laredo. Two of Santos' brothers, Cristobal and Refugio, were also commissioned as officers in the Confederacy and served under him in the 33rd throughout the war. On May, 22nd of that year Santos successfully repelled an attack into Texas from Northern Mexico by the Union sympathizer Juan Cortina at the Battle of Carrizo about 50 miles south of Laredo, near modern day Lake Falcon and Zapata, Texas. Cortina's troops suffered 18 casualties and never again raided in numbers across the border.

In November of 1863 Benavides was promoted to Colonel in the Confederate States Army and authorized to increase the number of the Texas 33rd Cavalry to that of a

- Continued on Page 14 -

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Article Submittal Request

If you have an article that you would like to be considered for publication, please send your submittal to Jeff Sizemore (Editor General) at swampeditor@yahoo.com.

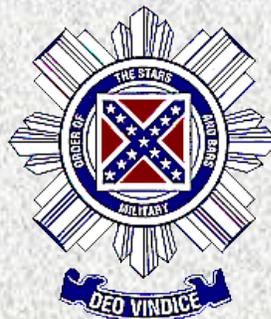
Chapter and Society News is also welcome. Please email to the address. The preferred submittal is one in which the articles are in MS Word format and that all pictures are in jpeg format as this makes it easier to format to the proper scale within this publication.

Note that references and footnotes are requested to support where the original information is acquired as it is up to the article writer to provide such material.

If there is any questions, please feel free to contact me. Thanks.

2016-2018 General Executive Council

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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. Address all general business or advertising correspondence to MOS&B IHQ, P O Box 18901, Raleigh, NC 27619-8901.

Commander General's Message

At the National Convention in Fairhope, Alabama, a motion was passed for me to write a letter to each member of the House and Senate concerning legislation that would limit the displaying of Confederate flags in National Cemeteries. And also make the letter available to individual members of the Order to use as a template to write letters to their own House and Senate representatives. Adjutant General J.J. Smith, III took on this project. I want personally to thank AG Smith for all his hard work on this worthwhile endeavor. Letters have been sent to all members of both the House and Senate. Copies of both letters will be included in this edition of the Officer's Call.

On May 19, 2016, Representative Jared Huffman (D-CA) offered an amendment to the Military Construction, Veterans Affairs and Related Agencies Appropriations Act that would prohibit the use of funds for displaying Confederate battle flags in national cemeteries. This amendment was voted on and passed by a vote of 265-159.

Most Republicans voted against this amendment, but Speaker Paul Ryan (R-WI) and Majority Leader Kevin McCarthy (R-CA) both supported the measure. Ryan was commended for allowing a vote on the controversial measure, but has since limited what amendments can be offered on the floor. In negotiations to reconcile the House funding measure with the Senate bill, the confederate flag provision was dropped. The bill passed the House 239-171. Of the eight House Republicans Ryan appointed to the conference committee that ultimately stripped the measure, four had voted against the ban on the floor. It is my sincere hope that our letter writing campaign influenced this positive outcome.

There is also other legislation under consideration in the House and Senate concerning the Confederate flags. I am including information on each of these for your consideration.

S.1689 — 114th Congress (2015-2016)

S.1689 - A bill to amend title 23, United States Code, to reduce the funding available for a State under the national highway performance program and the surface transportation program if the State issues a license plate that contains an image of a flag of the Confederate States of America, including the Battle Flag of the Confederate States of America.

This bill is sponsored by Sen. Sherrod Brown (D-OH) and has been read twice and referred to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

H.R.3007 — 114th Congress (2015-2016)

To amend title 38, United States Code, to prohibit the display of the Confederate battle flag in national cemeteries.

This bill is sponsored by Rep. Ruben Gallego (D-AZ) and has been referred to the House Veteran's Affairs Subcommittee on Disability Assistance and Memorial Affairs.

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H.Res.344 — 114th Congress (2015-2016)**Urging the discontinued use of the Confederate battle flag, which represents pain, humiliation, torture, and racial oppression, in remembrance of the Emanuel 9.**

This resolution is sponsored by Rep. James Clyburn (D-SC) and has been referred to the House Judiciary Subcommittee on the Constitution and Civil Justice.

I urge each and every member of the Order to write to their respective member of the House and to both of their Senators. Demand that they vote against all of these bills and resolutions. We need to let them know that we will not tolerate the denigration of our Confederate forefathers. We support the truth of their honor and courage. We support the preservation of their flags, memorials, monuments and naming of streets, parks, and buildings in their honor.

You can find the contact information for your member of the House at:

<http://www.house.gov/representatives/find/>

You can find the contact information for your Senators at:

http://www.senate.gov/general/contact_information/senators_cfm.cfm?Name=Capito&nState=WV

I know that I can count on each and every member of the Order to support me in our efforts.

Thank you all in advance.

Deo Vindice!

Harold F. Davis, JJJ

Commander General

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Military Order of the Stars and Bars

Harold F. Davis, III, Commander General
705 Leader Lane, Mount Pleasant, South Carolina 29464-8152

June 15, 2016

The Honorable Alma S. Adams
222 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515-3312

Dear Representative Adams,

The Military Order of the Stars and Bars was founded in 1938 to honor the Confederate Officer Corps and the government officials of the Confederacy. Our members are all lineal or collateral descendants from these two groups. The majority of our members have also served in the armed forces of the United States. We are loyal Americans whose mission is to honor our ancestors and our heritage.

It is with increasing dismay that our organization watches across the nation the dishonoring of our families' and ancestors' contributions and devotion to the building of this nation.

Currently in consideration is House Resolution 344: *Urging the discontinued use of the Confederate battle flag, which represents pain, humiliation, torture, and racial oppression, in remembrance of the Emanuel 9*. This resolution is in direct conflict with Public Law 85-425

I am sure you do not need to be reminded that many years ago Congress in Public Law 85-425 declared that Confederate veterans have the same status as all American veterans. I am not a Constitutional scholar, but it seems to me that Resolution 344 may very well violate the First Amendment and, in addition, is in direct contradiction to existing law.

We join every decent citizen in condemning the action of the deranged individual that murdered nine innocent souls in Charleston last year. How this heinous act translates into condemning the Confederate battle flag is beyond rational explanation.

Although the photograph of the murderer shows him with a Confederate battle flag, which some believe may have been photo-shopped in, it also shows him in a Gold's Gym tee-shirt and Nike sneakers. We hear no outcry to condemn Gold's Gym and Nike.

Intrusion into the personal matters of over 70,000,000 American decedents of Confederate soldiers by banning a tradition of more than 100 years is unacceptable. All patriotic Americans honor the valor, fidelity, fortitude, love of home, family, and country that was exhibited by Confederate soldiers.

"Personal matters" include such activities as placing Confederate battle flags or ceremonies honoring these Americans with honor guards carrying United States and Confederate States of America flags. Many of these ceremonies take place in National Cemeteries in which Confederate Americans are buried.

Those that feel the Confederacy "represents pain, humiliation, torture, and racial oppression" need an education in our country's history, not to be pandered to.

We urge you to drop House Resolution 344 from consideration. Its passage may very well lead to unintended consequences to which ill-conceived legislation often leads.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Harold F. Davis, III". The signature is written in a cursive style with a clear "III" at the end.

Harold Franklin Davis, III
Commander General

843-412-0600

Harold.franklin.davis3@gmail.com



Military Order of the Stars and Bars

Harold F. Davis, III, Commander General
705 Leader Lane, Mount Pleasant, South Carolina 29464-8152

June 15, 2016

The Honorable Ralph Lee Abraham
417 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515-1805

Dear Representative Abraham,

The Military Order of the Stars and Bars was founded in 1938 to honor the Confederate Officer Corps and the government officials of the Confederacy. Our members are all lineal or collateral descendants from these two groups. The majority of our members have also served in the armed forces of the United States. We are loyal Americans whose mission is to honor our ancestors and our heritage.

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Harold Franklin Davis, III
Commander General



Military Order of the Stars and Bars

Harold F. Davis, III, Commander General
705 Leader Lane, Mount Pleasant, South Carolina 29464-8152

June 15, 2016

Senator Lamar Alexander
455 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510-0001

Dear Senator Alexander,

The Military Order of the Stars and Bars was founded in 1938 to honor the Confederate Officer Corps and the government officials of the Confederacy. Our members are all lineal or collateral descendants from these two groups. The majority of our members have also served in the armed forces of the United States. We are loyal Americans whose mission is to honor our ancestors and our heritage.

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Currently passed by the House for your consideration is H.R. 4974 - *Military Construction and Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2017*.

Added to H.R.4974 and passed was an amendment that will prohibit large-scale displays of the Confederate Flag in National Cemeteries at Confederate graves. We feel this amendment is ill advised and should be redacted from the legislation to which it is attached.

In addition, let me bring to your attention now under consideration in the House: House Resolution 344: *Urging the discontinued use of the Confederate battle flag, which represents pain, humiliation, torture, and racial oppression, in remembrance of the Emanuel 9*. We are writing to every member of the House to vote against this.

We feel House Resolution 344 is ill advised and should be rejected forthwith. We join every decent citizen in condemning the action of the deranged individual that murdered nine innocent souls in Charleston last year. How this heinous act translates into condemning the Confederate battle flag is beyond rational explanation.

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And in the event H.R. 344 does reach the Senate, we urge you to vote it down as well.

Those that feel the Confederacy "represents pain, humiliation, torture, and racial oppression" need an education in our country's history, not to be pandered to.

Passage of either or both of these pieces of ill-conceived legislation may very well lead to unintended consequences.

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Harold Franklin Davis, III
Commander General

843-412-0600

Harold.franklin.davis3@gmail.com



Military Order of the Stars and Bars

Harold F. Davis, III, Commander General
705 Leader Lane, Mount Pleasant, South Carolina 29464-8152

June 15, 2016

Senator Kelly Ayotte
144 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510-0001

Dear Senator Ayotte,

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Harold Franklin Davis, III
Commander General

843-412-0600

Harold.franklin.davis3@gmail.com

From the Chaplain General

Dr. John H. Killian, Jr.

As lovers of our Confederate heritage, our sensitivities were wounded by an erstwhile ally on cultural issues as the 2016 Southern Baptist Convention passed Resolution 7 urging that Baptists discontinue use of the Confederate Battle Flag. This resolution was sad for members of our Order for several reasons:

1) Many members of the Order are also members of Southern Baptist churches.

2) No religious denomination still maintains the links to the Confederacy as does the Southern Baptist Convention. The Southern Baptist Convention Publishing arm is Broadman Press named for John Broadus and Basil Manly, key supporters of the Confederacy. Rev. Dr John Albert Broadus was Chaplain in General Lee's Army of Northern Virginia. Broadus was known to speak to Confederate Reunions and Memorials after the War, including an 1883 speech at Cave Hill Cemetery where Broadus declared that the Confederate soldiers had not died in vain. Dr Broadus' materials on Sermon Delivery are classic in the study of Preaching. Broadus was the second President of Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, where a building remains named in his honor. Basil Manly was a dedicated Confederate; his father gave the inaugural prayer for President Jefferson Davis in 1861 in Montgomery.

James P Boyce was also a Confederate Chaplain and even ran for a seat in the Confederate Congress. The undergraduate department on the Southern Seminary Campus is named Boyce College, after James P. Boyce.

The annual international missions offering among Southern Baptists is the Lottie Moon Offering for International Missions. Charlotte Diggs "Lottie" Moon died as a missionary to China. The Lottie Moon offering has raised \$1.5 billion to send the Gospel across the globe. Lottie Moon of Virginia was a devoted Confederate who tended to wounded Confederate soldiers in Charlottesville, VA during the War and was outspoken in her support of the Confederate cause. In her letters, Lottie Moon spoke of the Union soldiers who looted her family's property in Virginia and told of her disdain for the invading Yankee soldiers.

3) Southern Baptists have historically resisted the political correctness movement

Yet, in the face of such rich Southern heritage, the one major denomination keeping their identity as the Southern branch of that denomination has, by an overwhelming vote, gone on record calling for a discontinuing of the use of the Confederate Battle Flag. As introduced on the floor by the Resolutions Committee, the proposed reso-

lution called for limiting the use of the flag and acknowledging that many Baptists will see the flag as a symbol of heritage. But an amendment from the floor offered by Dr James Merritt of Georgia, and overwhelmingly passed, struck any conciliatory language and the end result is a resolution which--if followed--would oppose using the flag in a re-enactment, a museum, or marking a Confederate veteran's grave.

As a loyal Southern Baptist, I am not happy with the resolution. In fact, I was one of only two messengers who were able to speak against the resolution at the 2016 annual meeting of the Southern Baptist Convention. As lovers of our Confederate heritage, what should we do?

- 1) We must regain the moral high ground of argument in defending our cause. We must emphasize the Christian faith of our Confederate leadership. We must tell the story of the mighty revivals that swept the Confederate army with mass conversions and baptisms. Christians must be reminded of the sacredness of the St Andrews Cross, chosen by the Celtic people due to the conversion of their ancestors through the preaching of St Andrew. The design is founded upon Andrew's alleged heads-down crucifixion. Such is the high and lofty standing of our heritage.
- 2) Baptists should lovingly and respectfully (Matthew 18, Galatians 6) confront those messengers from their respective churches who attended the Convention. Those who supported this hideous resolution must be held accountable.
- 3) Grassroots Baptists should seek to become messengers from their respective local churches to vote against any similar resolutions that come before the several state Baptist Conventions held in the Fall. Granted, we may not see these resolutions offered on the state convention level, but grassroots Baptists should be alert.
- 4) Educate the local churches that these resolutions are non-binding. Baptists are governed from the bottom-up. Already, I have had calls asking if this resolution will preclude Confederate Memorials from being held in Baptist Church-related cemeteries. Clearly, this resolution will only have power of influence and this writer hopes that the local churches simply ignore this resolution.

God bless Christians of all stripes who love the Lord and who are not ashamed to honor our Fathers and Mothers. May God keep the memory of our Confederate forebears as pleasant and honorable.

- From Page 1: Santos Benavides: Texas Patriot -

full regiment. By now this unit was known as "Benavides' Regiment".

During the War Between the States, Laredo was most important to the South as a port. Cotton could be brought by wagon from all over Texas to Laredo, loaded on boats and shipped down the Rio Grande to Brownsville/Los Brazos de Santiago (modern day Matamoras, Mexico, immediately across the Texas border from Brownsville). There the cotton could be transferred to ships bearing the neutral flag of Mexico and sent past the Union blockade of Texas ports to Europe to raise money for the cash strapped Confederacy.

A battle ensued on March, 19th, 1864 when Union Colonel Edmund J. Davis ordered Major Alfred Holt and 200 troopers of the Texas 1st (Union) Cavalry to attack Laredo. Their mission was to destroy five thousand bales of cotton stacked at the San Agustin Plaza in Laredo. Colonel Benavides had only 42 soldiers at his disposal for this battle but on three separate occasions that day the 200 Union Cavalry troopers charged those 42 patriots of "Benavides' Regiment" at Zacate Creek just north of the Rio Grande on the south side of Laredo. Three times the brave men defending their city repulsed the attack. This defeat forced the Union troops to withdraw all the way to Brownsville. Benavides and his men had secured this vital cotton shipment and the commercial route to the Gulf of Mexico for the Confederacy.

On May 13th, 1865 Benavides and his men of the 33rd Texas Cavalry would fight in one last engagement for the Confederacy at the Battle of Palmito Ranch just east of Brownsville on the banks of the Rio Grande. Word had not yet reached south Texas that General Robert E. Lee had surrendered on April, 9th or that President Jefferson Davis had been captured and imprisoned just a couple of days before on May, 10th. As far as the brave soldiers of "Benavides' Regiment" knew the War Between the States was still going on and so they would participate whole heartedly in this engagement, considered the last battle of the horrific war.

The Battle of Palmito Ranch is rich with anecdote and legend. There was no real reason for the battle and rumors abound as to why the Union forces broke the gentlemen's truce that had existed there at the tip of Texas throughout most of the war. But break it they did and they left their fortifications and marched on Brownsville. There are also rumors that French Foreign Legion troops and artillery aided the Confederates and that Mexican Royalist troops also participated.

Those rumors aside, this much we know for fact about the battle. The Union forces under Lieutenant Colonel David Branson consisted of about 500 troops from the

2nd Texas Dismounted (Union) Cavalry, the 34th Indiana Veteran Volunteer Infantry and the 62nd Regiment U.S. Colored Troops (U.S.C.T.). They faced approximately 300 Confederates under Colonel John "Rip" Ford of the 2nd Texas (Confederate) Cavalry along with elements of Colonels' Anderson, Benavides and Giddings Cavalry Regiments.

The Union troops advance was stopped by the Confederates with the Union forces suffering the loss of 115 of their 500 men, with 105 of these being prisoners taken by the Confederates. The South lost only 3 or 4 men slightly wounded. Colonel Benavides and his men were in the center of the line that stopped this last Union advance of the war.

Santos Benavides went on to serve three terms in the Texas State legislature from 1879 to 1885, ably representing the wishes of the people of Laredo and Webb County. He was also appointed as a delegate to the United States during the reciprocity controversy of 1880. He was elected as one of the Texas delegates to the World Cotton Exposition of 1884. There is a historical marker, placed in 1995 by the Texas Historical Commission in the Catholic cemetery near where Santos Benavides is buried on Saunders Street in Laredo that honors this great Texans life and achievements. He died in his home on November 9th, 1891 leaving his family, his beloved Laredo and the state of Texas "Una Herencia de Honor" (A Heritage of Honor).

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.

MOS&B Recruitment Effort



Above: MOS&B Recruitment Table at the 121st National SCV Reunion in Richardson, Texas.

Confederate Memorial - Lt. Gen. James Longstreet Chapter #306



Culture, not Controversy

The "Lt. General James Longstreet chapter" sponsored event on April 30, 2016 bringing the "8th Ga. Reg. Band" to the Confederate statue memorial in down town Macon for "Confederate Memorial Day" was a success in more ways than one. For those of you that could not make it, you missed a great event that your family and friends would have enjoyed to!

Number one: We listened to this incredible band with their beautiful music played on original instruments and had a great time doing so. In between the songs they gave a history of the song and even did a history lesson on different bugle calls that the soldiers would have heard during the period. There was a great write up in the Macon Telegraph the morning of the event at the top of the State/Local page notifying people of the event. That was fantastic free advertising! An editor of the Telegraph and his wife also attended and enjoyed the music. To recap; we listened to some great Southern 1860's music, learned some interesting history and got some great photos which are still coming in from people as well as recordings of the band actually playing. If any of you would like to buy CD's of the 8th Ga. Reg. Band you can go to their Face Book page or just contact me and I will assist you in reaching them. "The total monetary cost of the event was high, but the benefits to our MOS&B cause and goals was even higher!" stated Commander Bell. Many thanks go out to Lt. Commander Rick Clarke and his wife Julie who dressed up in period uniform & costume and then assisted me greatly the day of the event! (Bottom Left Picture)



Number two: The former mayor had a press conference calling for the removal of the Confederate statue altogether from down town Macon in a similar fashion as what happened in New Orleans. To counter the former mayor's demand Commander Bell came up with this "War Between the

States" band concert idea at the "Confederate Memorial Statue" itself. "*To my knowledge this was the first large public event at the statue in modern times*"; Bell stated. .

Instead of a press conference with "*controversy*"; I used "Public Service Announcements", flyers and banners to sponsor and promote bringing culture and great period music to the statue at what is called "Confederate Triangle Park". Instead of "*confrontation*", I invited all the public to join us for a free concert in the park for Confederate Memorial Day with unique music from this period band using original instruments as we gave thanks for our soldiers sacrifice. It was a professionally conducted event with every (t) crossed and every (i) dotted along with permits, insurance, etc. that made our point; we will be able to freely hold memorial services at the Macon Confederate Statue where it now stands and be able to give thanks for our soldiers sacrifice in peace. No complaints; only compliments from all!

Martin N. Bell-Commander, Lt. Gen. James Longstreet Chapter, Macon, Ga.

Joining Our Order

By Larry Martin, Genealogist General



If you are reading this article, then Congratulations! You are a member of our Order and possess a birthright many would envy! You have proven you are a descendent of an Officer-Surgeon-Chaplain-Appointed or Elected Official of the Confederate States of America! And that is a proud heritage, one we share with all who will listen. Each of you who have joined our ranks over the last few years have learned more of your family history than most folks ever will. And that is always a fascinating journey! Over the last few years the Order has tightened up the application process. Several years ago the application as postcard size and you joined on your word. Now days the Order requires proof of each generation, while not as strict as some heritage organizations, ours has standards set long before I began this post less than 4 years ago.

Each Genealogist at the Chapter level does our society a great service, they guide newcomers in the process and in return gain a new member in that Chapter. They are the first line of approval. They work hard to make sure each applicant meets the standard. And they do a great job!

The State Society Genealogists review the applications and once they approve them, the application is forwarded to Headquarters and it eventually comes to my of-

fice. I do the research on the application from Generation 1 forward. Not because I feel your work is bad, but because the Society demands I spend the time and research to prove each application to myself. Even the best Genealogist can make mistakes, and at each level everyone who reviews the application looks for the subtle signs something isn't correct. Many times the mistake is so glaring that I work to find the proof and correct the Genealogy so our records are straight and documented. It is not always pleasant to contact an applicant and tell them the application is denied or needs more work. But I am always willing to help them, that is my job for the order.

The committee to review and update the current application is working hard to make the process seamless. Soon there will be a letter and detailed instructions on the applications first page so it is right in front of those who wish to join us. All too often applications come to Headquarters that have been hand written, and some are very hard to read. This is why you must download and save the application to your hard drive. Then open that saved copy up and type in all the information. To save it, print it as a pdf. document to your hard drive. That is what you can print out to mail to Headquarters. Include all your proofs with the file! Many come without any proofs and I work with the applicants to get the needed information to approve them for membership.

The bottom line is to make our new members proud to have proven their ancestry and that we all join them in honoring the Confederate Hero from so long ago. And in future generations the proof and documentation will be in our archives for researchers and future family members to use to join the MOS&B of the Future after all of us have crossed the river. And that is why our order needs proof, absolute proof for each generation. Do not get discouraged if you get a call where I say this line doesn't work and more research is needed by you. It is YOUR family tree and you should also want your research to be correct as well.

I have even found such discrepancies in our own Collaterals database and not long ago spent almost a week doing the research to correct them with documented proof. Genealogy is a labor of love, a road map of who we are and where we came from.

Primary proofs are what we seek, especially for the first 3-4 generations. The beginning proof for the applicant is a Birth Certificate. That document shows 2 generations, you and your parents.

Since around 1920 most States began issuing Birth Certificates in each county. Yes some County Courthouses burned but all States have a process to

reissue those. And yes some were born at home and a Birth Certificate was not issued right away. All States have a process to issue a Born At Home Birth Certificate. So those born in the 1920s and 1930s and later who were born at home did get a State issued Document. Many of those folks born at home back then served in the Military or War Effort and had to prove who they were.

The next proof is a Death Certificate. They too normally have the deceased relatives name and Parents listed on them. And yes I have seen blank spaces on Death Certificates. So other documentation can fill in those blanks. Family Bibles are accepted forms of proof after the first 3 generations. Census records are also great forms because they have 2 generations on them.

Published books on Family History showing dates ,names and places are also accepted, but understand the author could have made an assumption in places in the genealogical research and made mistakes. It happens, when you get Genealogists together they argue nuances from the 1400s as if they happened yesterday.

Don't get discouraged, keep at it. Sometimes I go work on something else and come back with a clear mind and find the answer and break that brick wall, and so can you! Historical societies in the home county of your ancestors can be priceless! And libraries with genealogical sections with a librarian who knows what they are doing are also treasures. Make use of them.

With each application I ask for one proof per generation. Sometimes you have to have two or more, but typically one suffices. If I have a question I will call or email you for the answer.

If you are trying to tie to a 5th cousin 9times removed, it gets a bit difficult. In those cases use two applications. The first beginning with yourself and list to the Common Ancestor. The second from the Common Ancestor to the hero you are honoring. Get it all on the application!

For those of you who are doing supplemental applications. Begin with yourself and prove each generation. The proofs with your application will go into a different file, so please make sure you document each generation. Since you are already a member you can sign the application but we do not require you to get additional signatures from anyone. You have met the qualifications of membership. The supplemental is you honoring more heroes in your family tree. You simply mail the package direct to Headquarters. Or you can send it via Email with your application and proofs attached as PDF Files. Make sure your proofs are listed as Gen 1-Gen-2 and so forth so it is easier to follow your thinking. It may take two or three emails, and please list them as email 1 email 2 and so

forth, so Headquarters is assured they have them all. And then send your check in to Headquarters to cover the fees for the supplemental. This makes it easier and eliminates unneeded steps from the process.

Each Genealogist from the Chapter level, to State level to the Genealogist General is a volunteer. We give our time to make the Order grow. Our love of History and research drives us. Each member who recruits a new member makes this order grow. We are all recruiters in the MOS&B, so make each opportunity to gain a new brother count!

The Genealogists of our Society are here to help you!

Appreciation Acknowledgement 2016 Douglass Southall Freeman History Award

To the Military Order of the Stars and Bars:

I just received the fine trophy and check in the mail, officially awarding my book the 2016 Douglas Southall Freeman History Award. This is indeed an honor I will cherish for the remainder of my life. It is my first book, and I now want to live up to this wonderful acknowledgment in my following books. Thank you so much. Please pass along my sincere thanks to Commander-General Harold F. Davis, III and the entire membership of your Order.

Regards,

Sheridan R. Barringer

Sheridan F. Barringer's book "Fighting for General Lee" won the Military Order of the Stars and Bars 2016 Douglas Southall Freeman History Award. Mr. Barringer is a resident of Newport News, Virginia.

The Texas Chapter & the Dick Dowling Award Houston, Texas

The Texas Chapter, Military Order of the Stars & Bars, the first chapter in Texas, was chartered on June 30, 1970, in Houston, Texas. In those days MOS&B chapters affiliated with SCV Camps and the Texas Chapter affiliated with the now defunct Dick Dowling camp

#1305. In the beginning thirty eight members of the MOS&B came together to form this once great chapter. A number of notable Texans were among that group including Msgr. Anton Frank of the Houston-Galveston Diocese and two future CICs of the MOS&B, Dennis W. Rainoshek and Dr. Ralph W. Widener, Jr. and many more. One of the charter members of this Chapter is our recent Commander General, Dr. Toni R. Turk.

About 1999 the original Chapter ceased to exist because of attrition. The Albert Sidney Johnston Chapter #5 of Houston, Texas, on December 1st, 2009, decided to change the name of the ASJ#5 to The Texas Chapter #5 for two reasons: 1) eliminate the similar name confusion with the local SCV camp and 2) restore the great traditions of the Texas Chapter. The Texas chapter is still the largest Chapter in the MOS&B and is one of the most active with a membership of over 60 compatriots. In 2012 the Texas Chapter #5 joined hands with the Texas Society and hosted the National MOS&B Convention in San Antonio, Texas, at the famous Menger Hotel to a record crowd of over 160 people.

When the old Texas Chapter first organized the idea was conceived to present a replica of the Davis Guard Medal to any person who made a substantial contribution to preserving Southern Heritage. The Davis Guard Medal was the only medal awarded by the CSA during the War Between the States. It was given to Lt. Dick Dowling and his small group of men who prevented 5000 Yankees from invading Texas at Sabine Pass. We have a list of all the past recipients of the Davis Guard Award and it looks like a Who's Who of great Texas compatriots. Any person receiving this award is automatically a member of the Texas Chapter and any widow of a recipient is entitled to wear her husband's medal as long as she is alive. Included on that list of 33 are Dr. Frank Vandiver, Ralph Green, Pete Orlebeke, Jim Vogler, several UDC presidents, and Dr. William McCain, to mention a few. Recent additions to that list are PCG Charles Smith, John Lewis Moncure, CG Dr. Toni R. Turk, David G. Whitaker DCS, Don Edwin Lee, PCG Max Waldrop Jr., and William Bryan Roehrig III, and Edward Cotham, the author. Our last recipient is Bob Davidson of Tyler Texas. This award was made posthumously to his wife, Lois.

It is the intent of the reformed Texas Chapter #5, to maintain the honor and greatness of this old Chapter and the honor of the men who put the Texas Chapter in the forefront of the Military Order of the Stars & Bars.

Article By David G. Whitaker DCS, Honorary Commander General, MOS&B and Past Commander of the Texas Chapter #5.

Letter Written During the WBTS

Submitted by Adam Gaines

Spotswood Hotel, Richmond, Feby. 7th, 1864

My Dear Cousin,

How is it that you have never answered the very long letter which I wrote you immediately after the battles of Missionary Ridge and Ringgold Gap in relation to Cousin Jere Crook! I waited long and anxiously for your reply. It may be possible however that you never received my letter and hence have not written. Supposing this last to be the most probable, I now say to you again the substance of what I wrote in my other letter and that is that from what I can learn of him personally as well as from what I have from others who have known him intimately and for a long period, Cousin Jere Crook is one of the most excellent and accomplished gentlemen now living, or that ever did live. He is a Christian in every sense of the term. He is a man of excellent morals and a person of high order of mind which has been finely cultivated. He is an honest man! A brave man! And a patriot. Added to this, his immediate family cousin, is highly respectable. I have no hesitation in saying to you and through you to Aunt Kate and Uncle John that if you have formed any attachment for him I know of no young man who is more eminently deserving of it; and that if you ever expect to marry, in my opinion you could not marry any man I ever saw with a better prospect of being a happy wife and of having a husband of whom you would be proud than by marrying him. As I say these words to you my Dear Cousin I feel deeply their full import. The beloved form of your excellent father rises before me. I remember all his kindness and love to me and I tell his daughter the truth and nothing but the truth. If it makes her happy it will be all I ask. Well my Dear Cousin, I have been recommended by my delegation for Judge Advocate in one of the Military Courts of the Army. I am here now for the purpose of seeing something about it. I arrived in town this morning. I shall remain only a few days. I will not have time to see you as I go on back. My furlough will be out day after tomorrow. Hence the positive necessity of no delay whatever. As you know I come by Branchville and will return the same way, that being the most direct route. I shall not leave here for two days yet. I will try and get the Adjutant General to extend my furlough a few days though I fear I shall not be able to do so. Whether the President will appoint me or not I cannot say. I obtained a furlough of 36 days and was married on the 19th of January to Miss Sue Lockett, eldest daughter of Napoleon Lockett, a prominent lawyer of Marion, Alabama. Her and myself had been engaged for fifteen

months at the time of our marriage. She is the sweetest- the prettiest- the most lovely- the most kind- the most gentle- the most amiable- the most pious- the most innocent- the most devoted girl that ever lived on this earth, from Eden to the present hour, or that ever will live in any age, or country in the generations that are yet to come! To say that I love her- or that I worship her- or that I study about nothing else but her does not express one half of my feelings. Give my love to all the family.

I am as ever,
Your affectionate Cousin,
W.L. Bragg

[to] Miss Hattie Crook

Walter L. Bragg was born on February 25, 1835, in Lowndes County, Alabama, to Martha W. and Newport Bragg.

The Bragg family moved to Ouachita County, Arkansas in 1843. Walter attended the Law School of Harvard University for three terms but left due to the unpleasant situation created by the sectional crisis that ultimately led to the War Between the States. Bragg returned to Arkansas where he read law with the Honorable Christopher C.

Scott, a distinguished jurist and Judge of the Arkansas Supreme Court, and in 1856, he commenced a practice in Camden, Arkansas.

When South Carolina seceded from the Union, he believed that all of the Southern States should withdraw from the Union, and resist by force of arms, if necessary, the repressive measures of the Federal government. However, he delivered a stirring speech in February 1861, warning his fellow Southerners of the Northern spirit and resolve, and said that it would be, "folly to under rate such a foe, or to suppose that they will retreat from the position they occupy without a long shock of arms."

In April 1861, he enlisted in the 6th Arkansas Infantry Regiment and was commissioned captain. During the war he participated in the battles of Shiloh, Corinth, Murfreesboro, Liberty Gap, Chickamauga, Missionary Ridge, Ringgold Gap, Dug's Gap, Resaca, Cassville, New Hope Church, Pumpkin Vine Creek, Lost Mountain, Pine Mountain, Kennesaw Mountain, Peach Tree Creek, Atlanta, Jonesboro, Decatur and Bentonville. During the last two years of the war he was mainly in command of the sharpshooters of General Patrick R. Cleburne's Division, of which gallant officer he was the



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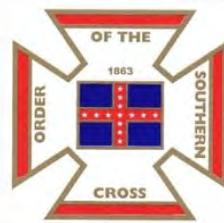
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**PRESERVING
CONFEDERATE
HERITAGE**

The Order of the Southern Cross was founded in 1863 by Lt. Gen. Leonidas Polk, Maj. Gen. Patrick R. Cleburne, and Chaplain (Rev.) Charles T. Quintard, on the eve of the Battle of Chickamauga. The Order promoted an *esprit de corps* within the ranks.

The Order was re-established in 1979 and, since that time, the Order has allocated more than \$250,000 to the preservation of Confederate heritage.

Any organization seeking financial support to help fund local Confederate heritage projects is encouraged to contact the Order by visiting our website at www.orderofsoutherncross.com or contacting Grants Chairman James E. Alderman at alde711@aol.com.

Deo Vindice!

intimate personal friend of for years.

After the war, Bragg settled in Marion, Alabama, and returned to the practice of law, forming a partnership with his in-laws, Napoleon and Powhatan Lockett, which continued until the death of the latter in 1867. He became partners with former Confederate General, and U.S. Senator John T. Morgan, in 1871.

In July 1874, Bragg was unanimously selected as Chairman of the Alabama State Executive Committee. Former Confederate General Edmund W. Pettus, of Alabama, said of Bragg, "As a citizen, I desire to congratulate and thank you for the service you have rendered the State, as the captain of our forces, in the campaigns against the enemies of good government. Bold and cautious, daring and discreet, there has been the plainest demonstration of winning, fettering, molding, wielding, banding the minds of millions, till they move as one. I know no other man in the State who was able to do the work, or who had the will of steel and iron frame to undergo the labor." Bragg displayed remarkable executive ability and exhibited consummate powers of organization, and the rare intelligence in selecting the right man to operate at any given point which evinced an exceptional knowledge of human nature.

Bragg was elected a member of the National Democratic Executive Committee, and in the Presidential canvass of 1876, he made speeches in 40 different counties in Alabama for the nominees.

In the fall of 1876, he was appointed one of the commissioners to settle the debt of the city of Montgomery, which was bankrupt.

On July 12, 1876, a beautiful and expensive silver service was presented to Mr. Bragg, a gift of the people of Alabama, in consideration of his untiring public service. The ceremony took place at the Arlington Club Room, in Montgomery, and the presentation speech was made by the Honorable George W. Stone, Judge of the Alabama Supreme Court, and one of the most distinguished jurists and eminent citizens of Alabama.

Bragg, was a prominent member of the order of Free Masons, he held high office in the Grand Encampment of Knights Templar, and he was the President of the Alabama State Bar Association.

In his lifetime, Walter L. Bragg, was known to be absolutely fearless, both physically and morally; he was an superb marksman; his daring courage and unbending will enabled him to enforce the strictest of discipline when necessary; and he was regarded with unbounded confidence and respect by all who met him.

Great Bend of the Gila, National Monument

The National Trust for Historic Preservation is in the process of creating a new National Monument in Arizona. A National Monument is similar to a National Park. It covers a great many square miles. National Monuments preserve historic sites. The Great Bend of the Gila [river] is a large geographic change in the flow of the Gila River. Paths and later roads follow the Gila River and provide fresh water 12 months of the year. This is rarer for the Sonora Desert. Along this river road came the Stagecoaches, miners, travelers and armies. Two of the armies clashed setting the western – most skirmish of the Civil War. Creating the National Monument will protect the area where this event took place. We ask for your support. No donations are requested. We do need Letters of Support from individuals and groups requesting Congress to create this monument. These should be sent to Representative Mr. Raul Grijalva, 3rd District of Arizona. Mr. Grijalva is a veteran and the sponsor of the proposed Great Bend of the Gila National Monument. Please send a support letter to:

Mr. Raul Grijalva, MC
1511 Longworth HOB
Washington, DC 20515

ph. (202) 225-2435
fax (202) 225-1541

Or

Mr. Raul Grijalva, MC
738 N. 5th Ave. Suite 110
Tucson, AZ 85705

ph. (520) 622-6788
fax (520) 622-0198

You also can ask your Members of Congress to support the noble project.

Thank you,

Dr. Robert Massey

Genealogist - Gen. John B. Magruder Chapter, MOSB,
Fredericksburg, Virginia

Commander, Arizona Division, SCV

North Carolina Society meets in Wilmington



The Confederate Officers of North Carolina Society MOSB held their annual Society Convention in Wilmington on June 11, 2016, at the Carolina BBQ. Society Commander David M. Edwards presided. Special guest in attendance was Commander General Harold Franklin Davis, III, from Mount Pleasant, SC. CG Davis addressed the convention and assisted Society Commander Edwards present MOSB awards to North Carolinians unable to attend the MOSB national convention in Fairhope, AL.

Six of the seven active NC Society chapters were in attendance. Answering the roll call of chapters were Capt. Waddell Chapter 32, Garnett-Pettigrew Chapter 67, Maj. Simonton Chapter 152, Capt. Rogers Chapter 266, Gen. Whiting Chapter 305, and the Gov. Vance Chapter 307.

Following the society officers and chapter reports, a committee was established to begin planning for the 2017 MOSB national convention to be held in Wilmington. The Garnett-Pettigrew Chapter volunteered to host the 2017 Society Convention. Following lunch, those in attendance were given a tour of Confederate points of interest in Oakdale Cemetery in Wilmington.

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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), and historic Bethesda Church which was used as a hospital by both armies, and battlefield preservation.

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Shown from left are NC society Commander David M. Edwards, Commander General Harold F. Davis, II, and LTCG Byron E. Brady at the 2016 NC Society Convention.



Shown above: MOS&B CG Harold F. Davis, III is shown presenting the John Pelham Award to NC Society Commander David M. Edwards.

2016 Jefferson Davis Birthday Celebration

On June 4, 2016, the General Pickett MOS&B Chapter # 115 held this event at the Hollywood Cemetery and then at the UDC flag massing at the UDC Headquarters (Richmond, VA) later that day.

