



Clarion

Call



Texas Society, Military Order of Stars and Bars



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January 2007

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FROM THE COMMANDER

Gary M. Loudermilk, Commander

Another New Year is upon us with all its opportunities and challenges. We need to be ready to accept the opportunities and overcome the challenges, and I believe we are ready to do both.

In 2006 we saw some growth in our organization, but we need to really make recruiting a priority this year. Our Society Recruitment and Retention Committee has some ideas to share with us at the Society Reunion and I look forward to their report and suggestions.

The Texas Society Reunion this year will be held Saturday April 14th, in Austin. There are tentative plans to hold our business meeting at the Military Museum in Camp Mabry and there will be many more details on the Reunion in the near future.

If you plan to attend, it is not too early to reserve your hotel room. Our host hotel is the **Hampton Inn Austin Arboretum** NW, 3908 W. Braker Lane, Austin, TX 78759 Phone 512-349-9898 Fax 512-349-9494. Our special rate is \$89.00 for any class of room. Reservations may be made by phone or on-line. Be sure and ask for the MOSB rate if you reserve by phone. To reserve on-line, go to: Hamptoninn.com, put in the city and state and hit "Find It". Then go to the hotel, "Hampton Inn, Arboretum", and hit, "view rates", then put in the code, "SBM" for the rates.

For those interested in advance reservations, the MOSB **National** Reunion this year will be held in historic Richmond, Virginia. The dates are June 21 through June 23 and the host hotel is the unique and very special **Jefferson Hotel**, 101 West Franklin St., Richmond, VA 23220. This will be a great opportunity to not only support the MOSB, but also tour some of the most well known landmarks of the Confederacy in the Richmond area.

(Editor's Note: See MOSG GEC Report on Page 5)

More details for the Reunion are available on the MOSB home page at www.mosbihq.org. If you haven't visited the site lately, I think you will be impressed with how it has been re-done.

As important as the Society and National Reunions are, let's not forget it is the local Chapter meetings that get the projects accomplished. Please attend those meetings and take part in the Marker Dedications, etc. in which your Chapter is involved.

My wish for this New Year is that we go forward
into 2007 and the future years
as honorable and honest representatives
of our revered Ancestors.

DEO VINDICE,

Gary M. Loudermilk

Clarion Call

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Great Seal of the Confederacy

Bob G. Davidson, Chief of Staff

On April 30, 1863 the Great Seal of the Confederate States was established, as follows:

Resolved by the Congress of the Confederate States of America,
That the seal of the Confederate States shall consist of a device representing an equestrian portrait of Washington

(after the statue which surmounts his monument in the capitol square, at Richmond,) surrounded with a wreath composed of the principal agricultural products of the Confederacy, (cotton, tobacco, sugar cane, corn, wheat and rice.)

and having around its margin the words: "The Confederate States of America, twenty-second February, eighteen hundred and sixty-two," with the following motto: "Deo vindice."



Nothing written could more eloquently express the concept that the Confederacy was born to follow the principles established by the founding fathers of the United States, than that they should install George Washington in the center of the Great Seal of the Confederacy.

This issue includes several articles which deal with the government of the United States. We are much in need of statesmen who can carry the messages therein, as we have obviously strayed far afield from what the founding fathers of both the USA and the CSA had hoped for this wonderful land.

"I believe it to be the duty of everyone to unite in the restoration of the country and the reestablishment of peace and harmony."
General Robert E. Lee

On Immigration

Theodore Roosevelt 1907

Sent along by Bob Norman

"In the first place, we should insist that if the immigrant who comes here in good faith becomes an American and assimilates himself to us, he shall be treated on an exact equality with everyone else, for it is an outrage to discriminate against any such man because of creed, or birthplace, or origin.

"But this is predicated upon the person's becoming in every facet an American, and nothing but an American...There can be no divided allegiance here. Any man who says he is an American, but something else also, isn't an American at all.

"We have room for but one flag, the American flag... We have room for but one language here, and that is the English language... and we have room for but one sole loyalty and that is a loyalty to the American people."

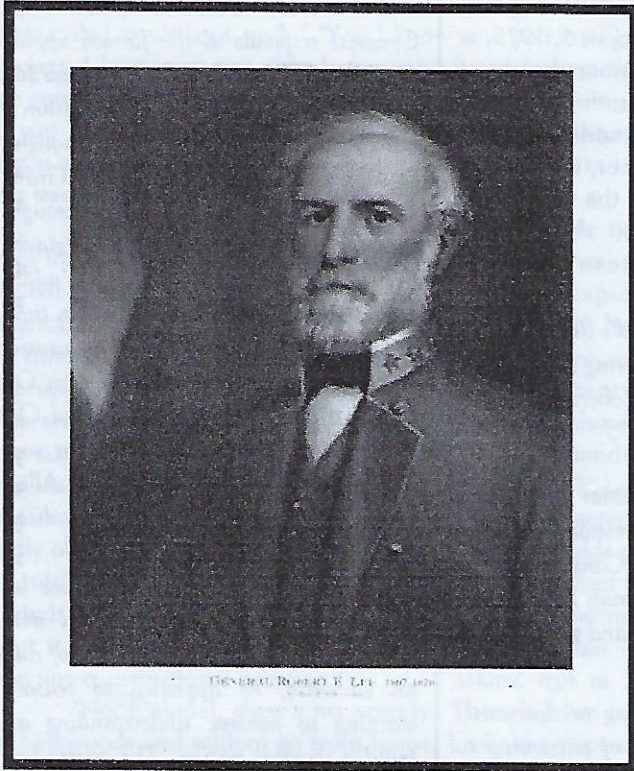
Excerpt from Frank Smith

Remember, if you do settle in the South and bear children, don't think we will accept them as Southerners. After all, if the cat had kittens in the oven, we wouldn't call 'em biscuits.



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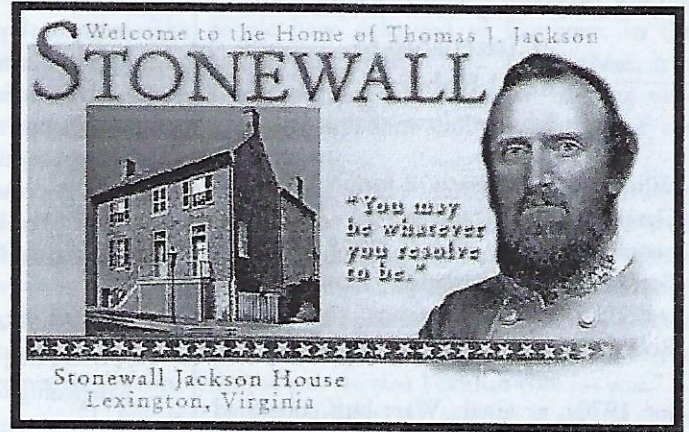
Robert E. Lee Portrait
by *Thomas B. Welch*

This portrait is one of only six that are known to have been painted while Lee was alive, only one of which was painted from life during the War. The portrait had its first public viewing in over 140 years at the Museum of the Confederacy (in Richmond, Virginia) in January 2007 to commemorate Robert E. Lee's 200th birthday.

By special arrangement with the owner of the portrait, a limited run of 500 reproduction prints will be available for \$300.00 each - in "Featured Items" in the Haversack Store Online www.moc.org of the Museum of the Confederacy. \$100 of every sale goes to ensuring the future of the Museum of the Confederacy's historical collections.

Robert E. Lee (1-19-1807 / 10-12-1870) was the fourth child of Revolutionary War hero Henry "Light Horse Harry" Lee and Ann Hill Carter Lee. He graduated 2nd in his class at the US Military Academy. His record of no demerits while being a cadet still has not been equaled. After the war he served, until his death, as President of Washington University (later renamed Washington and Lee).

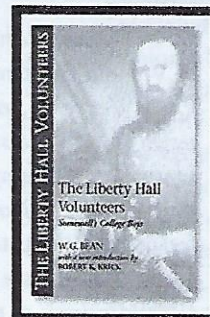
In honor of the 200th birthday of Robert E. Lee on January 19th, we include tributes on pages 4 and 5.



"The Stonewall Jackson House at 8 East Washington Street in Lexington, Virginia is the only home that the famous Confederate General Thomas Jonathan "Stonewall" Jackson ever owned. Jackson and his wife, Mary Anna Morrison, lived in the house while he taught at the Virginia Military Institute before the Civil War. The house, a Registered National Landmark, is owned and operated by the Stonewall Jackson Foundation."

The Liberty Hall Volunteers

by *W.G. Bean*



"...were formed at the outbreak of the Civil War, by a group of students at Washington College (now Washington and Lee University). They were assigned to the Fourth Virginia Infantry Regiment in the "Stonewall Brigade". When, in November 1861, Stonewall Jackson was promoted to major general and given command in the Shenandoah Valley, he detailed the company to act as headquarters guard."

Proceeds from the sale of this book directly benefit the Stonewall Jackson House through the generosity of the author's son, Bill Bean.

Thomas Jonathan "Stonewall" Jackson (1-21-1824 / 5-10-1863) was born in Clarksburg, in what is now West Virginia.

His death following wounds, was a severe setback for the Confederacy, affecting not only its military prospects, but the morale of its army and the general public

As Jackson lay dying, General Robert E. Lee stated, "He has lost his left arm; I have lost my right."

We honor "Stonewall" Jackson on the 183rd anniversary of his birth.

Restoring United States Citizenship to General Robert E. Lee

From Bob Harris [texaspi@texas.net]

With the recent death of former president Gerald R. Ford (December 26, 2006), few people are aware that in 1975 President Ford signed legislation posthumously restoring U.S. citizenship to General Robert E. Lee.

In 1970, a Civil War buff obtained permission to research old State Department files stored in the National Archives. During his research, he came across a cardboard box labeled "Virginia." While rummaging through this box, he spied an aged sheet of paper containing a faded pen and ink inscription. Upon examination, he was stunned to learn that he was actually holding the notarized pledge of allegiance to the United States that Robert E. Lee had executed in 1865. Considering the numerous changes in administrations over the years, changes in State department staffing and relocations of offices and files, it is almost miraculous that this single sheet of paper survived for over a century, first in the State department and then in the National Archives.

Upon learning of the discovery of the lost pledge, Virginia Senator, Harry F. Byrd, Sr. proposed a congressional resolution for a posthumous pardon and restoration of citizenship for Robert E. Lee. Normally the approval of such a resolution would have been routine. But there were a few members of Congress who did not want the federal government to take any action that would benefit the memory of the great General. One of these Congressmen, Democrat Representative from Michigan, John Conyers, strongly and vocally opposed the measure. Conyers referred to the resolution as "neither healing nor charitable."

But Congress, to its credit, overwhelmingly voted in favor of the resolution and President Gerald Ford indicated his

willingness to sign it. The signing ceremony took place on August 5, 1975, at Arlington House, the former home of General Lee's family. The room was filled with distinguished citizens and dignitaries including Virginia's Governor, its Senators and its Representatives... the comments President Ford made at the signing ceremony are a fitting tribute to Gen. Lee.

*President Gerald R. Ford's Remarks
Upon Signing a Bill Restoring Rights of
Citizenship to General Robert E. Lee
August 5, 1975*

*Governor Godwin, Senator Byrd,
Congressman Butler, Congressman Harris,
Congressman Satterfield, Congressman
Downing, and Congressman Daniel,
distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen:*

I am very pleased to sign Senate Joint Resolution 23, restoring posthumously the long overdue, full rights of citizenship to General Robert E. Lee. This legislation corrects a 110-year oversight of American history. It is significant that it is signed at this place.

Lee's dedication to his native State of Virginia chartered his course for the bitter Civil War years, causing him to reluctantly resign from a distinguished career in the United States Army and to serve as General of the Army of Northern Virginia. He, thus, forfeited his rights to U.S. citizenship.

Once the war was over, he firmly felt the wounds of the North and South must be bound up. He sought to show by example that the citizens of the South must dedicate their efforts to rebuilding that region of the country as a strong and vital part of the American Union.

In 1865, Robert E. Lee wrote to a former Confederate soldier concerning his signing the Oath of Allegiance, and I quote: "This war, being at an end, the Southern States having laid down their arms, and the questions at issue between them and the Northern States having been decided, I believe it to be the duty of everyone to unite in the restoration of the country and the reestablishment of peace and harmony."

This resolution passed by the Congress responds to the formal application of General Lee to President Andrew Johnson on June 13, 1865, for the restoration of his full rights of citizenship. Although this petition was endorsed by General Grant and forwarded to the President through the Secretary of War, an Oath of Allegiance was not attached because notice of this additional requirement had not reached Lee in time.

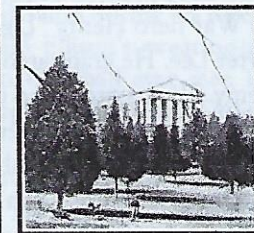
Later, after his inauguration as President of Washington College on October 2, 1865, Lee executed a notarized Oath of Allegiance. Again his application was not acted upon because the Oath of Allegiance was apparently lost. It was finally discovered in the National Archives in 1970.

As a soldier, General Lee left his mark on military strategy. As a man, he stood as the symbol of valor and of duty. As an educator, he appealed to reason and learning to achieve understanding and to build a stronger nation. The course he chose after the war became a symbol to all those who had marched with him in the bitter years towards Appomattox.

General Lee's character has been an example to succeeding generations, making the restoration of his citizenship an event in which every American can take pride.

In approving this Joint Resolution, the Congress removed the legal obstacle to citizenship which resulted from General Lee's Civil War service. Although more than a century late, I am delighted to sign this resolution and to complete the full restoration of General Lee's citizenship.

NOTE: The President spoke at 2:12 p.m. at Arlington House, Arlington, Va.



Arlington House, (picture c. 1864) formerly known as the Custis-Lee Mansion, was the home of General Robert E. Lee.

*As enacted, S.J. Res. 23
is Public Law 94-67 (89 Stat. 380).*

Tributes to Robert E. Lee

The late Franklin D. Roosevelt, America's 32nd President, spoke at the unveiling of the Robert E. Lee Memorial Statue in Dallas, Texas, on June 12, 1936 and said, "I am happy to take part in this unveiling of the statue of Lee. All over the United States we recognize him, as a great general. But also, all over the United States, I believe we recognize him as something much more than that. We recognize Robert E. Lee as one of our greatest American Christians and one of our greatest American gentlemen."

* * *

Letter from Dwight D. Eisenhower, America's 34th President
Sent along by Gary M. Loudermilk, Texas Society Commander

August 9, 1960

Dear Dr. Scott:

Respecting your August 1 inquiry calling attention to my often expressed admiration for General Robert E. Lee, I would say, first, that we need to understand that at the time of the War Between the States the issue of Secession had remained unresolved for more than 70 years. Men of probity, character, public standing and unquestioned loyalty, both North and South, had disagreed over this issue as a matter of principle from the day our Constitution was adopted.

General Robert E. Lee was, in my estimation, one of the supremely gifted men produced by our Nation. He believed unswervingly in the Constitutional validity of his cause which until 1865 was still an arguable question in America; he was thoughtful yet demanding of his officers and men, forbearing with captured enemies but ingenious, unrelenting and personally courageous in battle, and never disheartened by a reverse or obstacle. Through all his many trials, he remained selfless almost to a fault and unfailing in his belief in God. Taken altogether, he was noble as a leader and as a man, and unsullied as I read the pages of our history.

From deep conviction I simply say this: a nation of men of Lee's caliber would be unconquerable in spirit and soul. Indeed, to the degree that present-day American youth will strive to emulate his rare qualities, including his devotion to this land as revealed in his painstaking efforts to help heal the nation's wounds once the bitter struggle was over, we, in our own time of danger in a divided world, will be strengthened and our love of freedom sustained.

Such are the reasons that I proudly display the picture of this great American on my office wall.

* * *

Sir Winston Churchill

(Prime Minister of England during World War II)

Sir Winston Churchill once remarked,

*"Lee was the noblest American who had ever lived
and one of the greatest commanders
known to the annals of war."*

MOSB GEC Report

Gary M. Loudermilk, Texas Society Commander

The GEC met in Franklin TN on Friday and Saturday, October 20 and 21, 2006. There were 20 members and guests present. On Friday afternoon many of us toured the Franklin battlefield area, the Carnton Plantation and the Carter House. We were fortunate to have tour guides who were totally politically INCORRECT so we heard the true story of the battle and it was a great tour.

- In the formal meeting on Saturday, Commander General Phil Law gave us an update on the status of our temporary HQ in Mobile. He discussed finances and administrative procedures. Among topics covered were: a new format for the "Officer's Call", the reopening of our on-line store and the fact that credit cards can now be processed on-line, the upcoming publication of our historic 70th anniversary book in 2008, on-line forms and handbooks, etc. In regards to the 70th anniversary book, each Chapter and Society will be asked to contribute something about their history and I certainly encourage everyone to do so.
- Lt. Commander General Hodges briefed us on the Order of Southern Cross activities and their grant process and website.
- Colonel Jeb Stuart IV gave us a report on our financial status including the various investments and our profit and loss statement.
- Rules and Credentials Committee Chairman John Mason reported on the Mobile Reunion indicating there were 41 Chapters and 16 States represented. (The Texas delegation was the largest at the Reunion.)
- Community Relations Committee Chairman Dick Knight gave an extremely interesting report on how and why the MOSB should cultivate relationships with other heritage organizations. Now that the MOSB is a "stand-alone" organization and all State Societies hold reunions separate to the SCV we need to establish a strong identity in the heritage community and Compatriot Knight's report addressed ways and means to do that. I have a copy of his report that I can scan and send if anyone is interested.
- The last major item discussed was the 2007 Reunion. The Virginia delegation requested approval of Richmond for the 2007 site and the Council gave its approval. There was considerable discussion about details of the Reunion. The Virginia Society stated they were able to get meeting room space in the prestigious Jefferson Hotel but in order to get the free and/or reduced rate amenities, they had to guarantee rental of 25 sleeping rooms at \$175.00 per night. These rooms normally rent for \$300.00 a night so I guess the price is in-line for a hotel like the Jefferson. The Virginia Society is asking 25 members to step forward and help rent these rooms but they will furnish a list of cheaper lodging near the Jefferson for anyone who does not want to pay the Jefferson prices. These hotels will still be in an historic area and hopefully will rent for \$100.00 a night or less. Check out the Jefferson on the Internet if you want to see just how nice it is.

**Col. W. H. Parsons Chapter #273
Military Order of the Stars and Bars
Ennis, Texas**

The Col. W. H. Parsons Chapter has been busy the last few months. We assisted the Daffan-Latimer UDC chapter with grave marker dedications for one real daughter, one member and seven Confederate veterans at Myrtle Cemetery here in Ennis. Members of our chapter had assisted in placing the markers. We have adopted the family burial plot of the Latimer family in Myrtle Cemetery. The plot contains the grave of Captain Mark Latimer, and is a large lot containing about eight graves. We met there in early November and power washed the white marble curbing around the lot, planted shrubs at each corner, and began planting ground cover around each stone. We purchased the large Confederate Cross of Honor, and have placed it at his grave. This will be an ongoing project of our chapter.

Our next meeting will be on January 25 and will be a joint meeting with the Blackland Prairie Chapter of the DCV. Our April meeting will be a family picnic with time and place to be announced at a later date.



Congress, Charity, and the Constitution

The following story, written by a newspaper reporter, is taken from

"The Life of Colonel David Crockett"

by Edward Sylvester Ellis 1884

*Sent along by Commander Gary Loudermilk, with the notation:
I believe this applies as much today as it did back then!*



Crockett was then the lion of Washington. I was a great admirer of his character, and, having several friends who were intimate with him, I found no difficulty in making his acquaintance. I was fascinated with him, and he seemed to take a fancy to me.

I was one day in the lobby of the House of Representatives when a bill was taken up appropriating money for the benefit of a widow of a distinguished naval officer. The Speaker was just about to put the question when Crockett arose. Everybody expected of course, that he was going to make one of his characteristic speeches in support of the bill. He commenced:

"Mr. Speaker- I have as much respect for the memory of the deceased, and as much sympathy for the sufferings of the living, if suffering there be, as any man in this House, but we must not permit our respect for the dead or our sympathy for a part of the living to lead us into an act of injustice to the balance of the living. Some eloquent appeals have been made to us upon the ground that it is a debt due the deceased. Mr. Speaker, the

deceased lived long after the close of war; he was in office to the day of his death, and I have never heard that government was in arrears to him. We cannot, without grossest corruption, appropriate this money as the payment of a debt. We have not the semblance of authority to appropriate it as a charity. Mr. Speaker, I have said we have the right to give as much of our own money as we please. I am the poorest man on this floor. I cannot vote for this bill, but I will give one week's pay to the object, and if every member of Congress will do the same, it will amount to more than the bill asks."

He took his seat. Nobody replied. The bill was put upon its passage, and, instead of passing unanimously, as was generally supposed, and as, no doubt, it would, but for that speech, it received but few votes, and, of course, was lost. Like many other young men, and old ones, too, for that matter, who had not thought upon the subject, I desired the passage of the bill, and felt outraged at its defeat. I determined that I would persuade my friend Crockett to move a reconsideration the next day. I broke in upon him rather abruptly, by asking him what had possessed him to make that speech and defeat that bill yesterday. I listened, and this is the tale which I heard:

"SEVERAL YEARS AGO I was one evening standing on the steps of the Capitol with some other members of the Congress, when our attention was attracted by a great light over Georgetown. It was evidently a large fire. When we got there, I went to work, and I never worked as hard in my life as I did there for several hours. But, in spite of all that could be done, many houses were burned and many families made homeless, and, besides, some of them had lost all but the clothes they had on. The weather was very cold, and when I saw so many women and children suffering, I felt that something ought to be done for them, and everybody else seemed to feel the same way.

"The next morning a bill was introduced appropriating \$20,000 for their relief. We put aside all other business and rushed it through as soon as it could be done. So the yeas and nays were recorded, and my name appeared on the journals in favor of the bill.

"The next summer, when it began to be time to think about election, I concluded I would take a scout around among the boys of my district. I had no opposition there, but, as the election was some time off, I did not know what might turn up, and I thought it was best to let the boys know that I had not forgot them, and that going to Congress had not made me too proud to go to see them.

"So I put a couple of shirts and a few twists of tobacco into my saddlebags, and put out. I had been out about a week and had found things going very smoothly, when, riding one day in a part of my district in which I was more of a stranger than any other, I saw a man in a field plowing and coming toward the road. As he came up I spoke to the man. He replied politely, but, as I thought, rather coldly, and was about turning his horse for another furrow when I said to him: 'Don't be in such a hurry, my friend; I want to have a little talk with you, and get better acquainted...'

"I began: 'Well, friend, I am one of those unfortunate beings called candidates, and- " 'Yes, I know you; you are Colonel Crockett. I have seen you once before, and voted for you the last time you were elected. I suppose you are out electioneering now, but you had better not waste your time or mine. I shall not vote for you again.' " "This was a sockdolager... I begged him to tell me what was the matter.

" 'Well, Colonel, it is hardly worthwhile to waste time or words upon it. I do not see how it can be mended, but you gave a vote last winter which shows that either you have not capacity to understand the Constitution, or that you are wanting in honesty and firmness, or to be guided by it. I intend by it only to say that your understanding of the Constitution is very different from mine; and I will say to you what, but for my rudeness, I should not have said, that I believe you to be honest. But understanding of the Constitution different from mine I cannot overlook, because the Constitution, to be worth anything, must be held sacred, and rigidly observed in all its provisions. The man who wields power and misinterprets it is the more dangerous the more honest he is.' "I admit the truth of all you say, but there must be some mistake about it, for I do not remember that I gave any vote last winter upon any constitutional question."

'No, Colonel, there's no mistake. Though I live here in the backwoods and seldom go from home, I take the papers from Washington and read very carefully all the proceedings of Congress. My papers say that last winter you voted for a bill to appropriate \$20,000 to some sufferers by a fire in Georgetown. Is that true?'

"Certainly it is, and I thought that was the last vote which anybody in the world would have found fault with." 'Well, Colonel, where do you find in the Constitution any authority to give away the public money in charity?' "Here is another sockdolager; for, when I began to think about it, I could not remember a thing in the Constitution that authorized it. I found I must take another tack, so I said: 'Well, my friend; I may as well own up. But certainly nobody will complain that a great and rich country like ours should give the insignificant sum of \$20,000 to relieve its suffering women and children, particularly with a full and overflowing Treasury, and I am sure, if you had been there, you would have done just as I did.' "

"It is not the amount, Colonel, that I complain of; it is the principle. If you had the right to give anything, the amount was simply a matter of discretion with you, and you had as much right to give \$20,000,000 as \$20,000. If you have the right to give to one, you have the right to give to all; and, as the Constitution neither defines charity nor stipulates the amount, you are at liberty to give to any and everything which you may believe, or profess to believe, is a charity, and to any amount you may think proper. No, Colonel, Congress has no right to give charity. Individual members may give as much of their own money as they please, but they have no right to touch a dollar of the public money for that purpose. The Congressmen chose to keep their own money, which, if reports be true, some of them spend not very creditably; and the people about Washington, no doubt, applauded you for

relieving them from the necessity of giving by giving what was not yours to give. The people have delegated to Congress, by the Constitution, the power to do certain things. To do these, it is authorized to collect and pay moneys, and for nothing else. Everything beyond this is usurpation, and a violation of the Constitution...

'So you see, Colonel, you have violated the Constitution in what I consider a vital point. It is a precedent fraught with danger to the country, for when Congress once begins to stretch its power beyond the limits of the Constitution, there is no limit to it, and no security for the people. I have no doubt you acted honestly, but that does not make it any better, except as far as you are personally concerned, as you see that I cannot vote for you."

"I tell you I felt streaked. I saw if I should have opposition, and this man should go talking, he would set others to talking, and in that district I was a gone fawn-skin. I could not answer him, and the fact is, I did not want to. But I must satisfy him, and I said to him:

"Well, my friend, you hit the nail upon the head when you said I had not sense enough to understand the Constitution. I intended to be guided by it, and thought I had studied it full. I have heard many speeches in Congress about the powers of Congress, but what you have said there at your plow has got more hard, sound sense in it than all the fine speeches I ever heard. If I had ever taken the view of it that you have, I would have put my head into the fire before I would have given that vote; and if you will forgive me and vote for me again, if I ever vote for another unconstitutional law I wish I may be shot."

"He laughingly replied: "Yes, Colonel, you have sworn to that once before, but I will trust you again upon one condition. You say that you are convinced that your voice was wrong. Your acknowledgement of it will do more good than beating you for it. If, as you go around the district, you will tell people about this vote, and that you are satisfied it was wrong, I will not only vote for you, but will do what I can to keep down opposition, and, perhaps, I may exert some little influence in that way." "We shook hands and parted..."

"NOW, SIR," concluded Crockett, "you know why I made that speech yesterday. I have had several thousand copies of it printed and was directing them to my constituents when you came in.

"There is one thing now to which I will call your attention. You remember that I proposed to give a week's pay. There are in that House many wealthy men - men who think nothing of spending a week's pay, or a dozen of them for a dinner or a wine party when they have something to accomplish by it. Some of those same men made beautiful speeches upon the great debt of gratitude which the country owed the deceased - a debt which could not be paid in money, particularly so insignificant a sum as \$10,000, when weighed against the honor of the nation. Yet not one of them responded to my proposition. Money with them is nothing but trash when it is to come out of the people. But it is the one great thing for which most of them are striving, and many of them sacrifice honor, integrity, and justice to obtain."

Honoring Texas History is Nothing to be Ashamed Of

Sent to Texas Newspapers January 20, 2007

Dear Editor,

Any attempt to judge our history by today's standards — out of the context from which it occurred — is at best problematic and at worst dishonest. For example, consider the following quotes:

1. "So far from engaging in a war to perpetuate slavery, I am rejoiced that slavery is abolished."
2. "... there is a physical difference between the white and black races which I believe will forever forbid the two races living together on terms of social and political equality."

By today's standards, the person who made the first statement, Confederate General Robert E. Lee, would be considered enlightened. The person who made the second, President Abraham Lincoln, would be considered a white supremacist. Many believe the War Between the States was solely about slavery and that the Confederacy is synonymous with racism. That conclusion is faulty, because the premise is inaccurate.

If slavery were the sole, or even the predominant issue in sparking the Civil War, the following statement by Lincoln is puzzling: "My paramount object in this struggle is to save the Union and it is not either to save or destroy slavery. If I could save the Union without freeing any slaves I would do it."

If preserving slavery was the South's sole motive for waging war, why did Lee free his slaves before the war began? In 1856, he said slavery was "... a moral and political evil in any country..." Why was Lincoln's Emancipation Proclamation effective in 1863, rather than when the war started in 1861? And why did it free only the slaves in the Confederacy and not in Northern or border states? If slavery was the only reason for the Civil War, how do you explain Texas Gov. Sam Houston's support for the Union and support for the institution of slavery? In light of the fact that 90 percent of Confederate soldiers owned no slaves, is it logical to assume they would have put their own lives at risk so that slave-owning Southern aristocrats could continue their privileged status?

There are few simple and concise answers to these questions. One answer, however, is that most Southerners' allegiance was to their sovereign states first and the Union second. They believed states freely joined the Union without coercion and were free to leave the Union at will. You could say they really believed in the 10th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution, the "powers not delegated" clause. They believed the federal government should be responsible for the common defense, a postal service and little else. They viewed the Union Army as an invader, not an emancipator. I am not attempting to trivialize slavery. It is a dark chapter in our history, North and South alike.

However, I am a proud Southerner and a proud descendent of Confederate soldiers. I honor their service because, to me, it represents the sacrifice of life and livelihood that Southerners made for a cause more important to them than their personal security and self-interest. While I'm aware of the genocidal war conducted by my country against the American Indian, I'm still a proud American. And while I'm also aware of the atrocities that

occurred at My Lai, I am proud of my service as a U.S. Marine in Vietnam. If the Confederate flag represented slavery, then the U.S. flag must represent slavery even more so. Slavery existed for four years under the Stars and Bars and for almost 100 years under the Stars and Stripes.

If the few hundred members of racist groups such as the Ku Klux Klan want to adopt the Confederate flag as their symbol, over the objections of millions of Southerners, should we believe it has been corrupted for all time?

Since the KKK has adopted the cross for its burnings, should churches across the country remove this symbol of Christian faith from all places of worship? Should we diminish the service of the Buffalo Soldiers (Black U.S. cavalry troopers of the late 1800s), since those soldiers were an integral part of a war that subjugated and enslaved a whole race of people, the American Plains Indians? No. We should not surrender the Confederate flag or the cross to the racists, and we should not tear down the monuments.

Retroactive cleansing of history is doomed to failure because it is, at heart, a lie. We should memorialize and commemorate all of our soldiers who served honorably — those who wore blue or gray or served as Buffalo Soldiers — whether or not we completely support their actions in today's enlightened world.

Jerry Patterson, Texas Land Commissioner, Austin

Believe It or Not - You CAN Read it!

Sent along by G. Ronald Aldis, Texas Society Past Commander

I cdnuolt blveiee taht I clud aulaclyt uesdnatnrd waht I was rdanieg. The phaonmneal pweor of the hmuan mnid Aoccdrnig to rscheearch at Cmabrigde Uinervtisy, it deosn't mttar in waht oredr the ltteers in a wrod are, the olny iprmoatnt tihng is taht the frist and lsat ltteer be in the rghit pclae. The rset can be a taotl mses and you can sitll raed it wouthit a porbelm. Tihs is bcuseae the huamn mnid deos not raed ervey lteter by istlef, but the wrod as a wlohe. Amzanig!

Learn from Thomas Jefferson

January 2007

Author unknown - facts essentially verified by Wikipedia.com

Democrat Keith Ellison is now officially the first Muslim United States congressman. True to his pledge, he placed his hand on the Quran, the Muslim book of jihad and pledged his allegiance to the United States during his ceremonial swearing-in.

Capitol Hill staff said Ellison's swearing-in photo opportunity drew more media than they had ever seen in the history of the U.S. House. Ellison represents the 5th Congressional District of Minnesota.

The Quran Ellison used was no ordinary book. It once belonged to Thomas Jefferson, third president of the United States and one of America's founding fathers. Ellison borrowed it from the Rare Book Section of the Library of Congress. It was one of the 6,500 Jefferson books archived in the library.

Ellison, who was born in Detroit and converted to Islam while in college, said he chose to use Jefferson's Quran because it showed that "a visionary like Jefferson" believed that wisdom could be gleaned from many sources.

There is no doubt Ellison was right about Jefferson believing wisdom could be "gleaned" from the Muslim Quran. At the time Jefferson owned the book, he needed to know everything possible about Muslims because he was about to advocate war against the Islamic "Barbary" states of Morocco, Algeria, Tunisia and Tripoli.

Ellison's use of Jefferson's Quran as a prop illuminates a subject once well-known in the history of the United States, but, which today, is mostly forgotten - the Muslim pirate slavers who over many centuries enslaved millions of Africans and tens of thousands of Christian Europeans and Americans in the Islamic "Barbary" states.

Over the course of 10 centuries, Muslim pirates cruised the African and Mediterranean coastline, pillaging villages and seizing slaves.

The taking of slaves in pre-dawn raids on unsuspecting coastal villages had a high casualty rate. It was typical of Muslim raiders to kill off as many of the "non-Muslim" older men and women as possible so the preferred "booty" of only young women and children could be collected.

Young non-Muslim women were targeted because of their value as concubines in Islamic markets. Islamic law provides for the sexual interests of Muslim men by allowing them to take as many as four wives at one time and to have as many concubines as their fortunes allow.

Boys, as young as 9 or 10 years old, were often mutilated to create eunuchs who would bring higher prices in the slave markets of the Middle East. Muslim slave traders created "eunuch stations" along major African slave routes so the necessary surgery could be performed. It was estimated that only a small number of the boys subjected to the mutilation survived after the surgery.

When American colonists rebelled against British rule in 1776, American merchant ships lost Royal Navy protection. With no American Navy for protection, American ships were attacked and their Christian crews enslaved by Muslim pirates operating under the control of the "Dey of Algiers"—an Islamist warlord ruling Algeria.

Because American commerce in the Mediterranean was being destroyed by the pirates, the Continental Congress agreed in 1784 to negotiate treaties with the four Barbary States. Congress appointed a special commission consisting of John Adams, Thomas Jefferson, and Benjamin Franklin, to oversee the negotiations.

Lacking the ability to protect its merchant ships in the Mediterranean, the new America government tried to appease the Muslim slavers by agreeing to pay tribute and ransoms in order to retrieve seized American ships and buy the freedom of enslaved sailors.

Adams argued in favor of paying tribute as the cheapest way to get American commerce in the Mediterranean moving again. Jefferson was opposed. He believed there would be no end to the

demands for tribute and wanted matters settled "through the medium of war".

He proposed a league of trading nations to force an end to Muslim piracy.

In 1786, Jefferson, then the American ambassador to France, and Adams, then the American ambassador to Britain, met in London with Sidi Haji Abdul Rahman Adja, the ambassador to Britain of the "Dey of Algiers".

The Americans wanted to negotiate a peace treaty based on Congress' vote to appease.

During the meeting Jefferson and Adams asked the Dey's ambassador why Muslims held so much hostility towards America, a nation with which they had no previous contacts.

In a later meeting with the American Congress, the two future presidents reported that Ambassador Sidi Haji Abdul Rahman Adja had answered that Islam "was founded on the Laws of their Prophet, that it was written in their Quran, that all nations who should not have acknowledged their authority were sinners, that it was their right and duty to make war upon them wherever they could be found, and to make slaves of all they could take as Prisoners, and that every Musselman (Muslim) who should be slain in Battle was sure to go to Paradise."

For the following 15 years, the American government paid the Muslims millions of dollars for the safe passage of American ships or the return of American hostages. The payments in ransom and tribute amounted to 20 percent of United States government annual revenues in 1800.

Not long after Jefferson's inauguration as president in 1801, he dispatched a group of frigates to defend American interests in the Mediterranean, and informed Congress.

Declaring that America was going to spend "millions for defense but not one cent for tribute," Jefferson pressed the issue by deploying American Marines and many of America's best warships to the Muslim Barbary Coast.

The USS Constitution, USS Constellation, USS Philadelphia, USS Chesapeake, USS Argus, USS Syren and USS Intrepid all saw action.

In 1805, American Marines marched across the desert from Egypt into Tripolitania, forcing the surrender of Tripoli and the freeing of all American slaves.

During the Jefferson administration, the Muslim Barbary States, crumbling as a result of intense American naval bombardment and on shore raids by Marines, finally officially agreed to abandon slavery and piracy.

Jefferson's victory over the Muslims lives on today in the Marine Hymn, with the line, "From the halls of Montezuma to the shores of Tripoli, we will fight our country's battles on the land as on the sea."

It wasn't until 1815 that the problem was fully settled by the total defeat of all the Muslim slave trading pirates.

Jefferson had been right. The "medium of war" was the only way to put an end to the Muslim problem. Mr. Ellison was right about Jefferson. He was a "visionary" wise enough to read and learn about the enemy from their own Muslim book of jihad.



Newsletter of the
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Opinions expressed herein are the opinions of individual writers, and do not necessarily reflect official positions of the organization.



Military Order of the Stars and Bars Pledge

We, the posterity of the Officer Corps and Civil Officials of the Confederacy, do pledge ourselves to commemorate and honor the service of leadership these men rendered in the Cause of the fundamental American principles of self determination and States' Rights and to perpetuate the true history of their deeds for the edification of ourselves, our society, and for generations yet unborn.



SAMUEL BELL MAXEY 1825 - 1895

Maxey was born at
Tompkinsville, Kentucky,
March 30, 1825.

He graduated in the famous West point class of 1846, and was brevetted for gallantry in the war with Mexico. In 1848 he resigned his commission to study law and in 1857 he moved to Texas with his father, also an attorney, where they practiced in partnership until the outbreak of the Civil War.

Maxey resigned a seat in the Texas Senate and organized the 9th Texas Infantry with the rank of colonel whereupon the unit joined Gen. Albert Sidney Johnston in Kentucky. He was promoted to

brigadier general March 4, 1862, commanding a brigade composed of the 41st Georgia, 24th Mississippi, 9th Texas Infantry regiments along with Eldridge's Light Battery in Cheatham's Division. He served in East Tennessee, at Port Hudson, and in the Vicksburg campaign under General Joseph E. Johnston. In 1863 Maxey was placed in command of Indian Territory. For the effective reorganization of those troops, he participated in the Red River campaign; he was assigned as major general by General Kirby Smith, April 18, 1864. His promotion was not forthcoming from President Jefferson Davis, however.

After the war General Maxey resumed his law practice in Paris, Texas, and in 1873 declined appointment to the state bench. Two years later he was elected to the U.S. Senate, served two terms, but was defeated for re-election in 1887. He died in Eureka Springs, Arkansas, August 16, 1895. He is buried in Evergreen Cemetery in Paris.



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