



Clarion Call



Texas Society, Military Order of Stars and Bars



Volume 8, Issue 1

February in the Year of Our Lord 2012

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FROM THE TEXAS SOCIETY COMMANDER

Gentlemen of the Texas Society
Military Order of the Stars & Bars

Happy New Year to all!

Our membership continues to grow, one member
at a time.

We must remember to "Recruit, Retain and
Reunite". Enroll new members, encourage our
members to be active, and keep in contact with all
the members.

We attended the Hereditary Societies Meeting in
Dallas last October. Many MOS&B members
belong to the organizations represented. We have
also been included for next year. This meeting was
both enjoyable, informative, and was another way
to introduce our organization. We must remember
that not everyone is familiar with our Society.

The National Convention will be held in San
Antonio, Texas, June 7-9, 2012. It is time to elect
new national officers. I hope Texas will be well
represented.

We will not be having a separate State Convention
this year, as the State and National Conventions

would be too close together and in the same state.
The travel and expense would be inconvenient for
many of us. The Texas Society will have time set
aside for a meeting at 4:30 p.m. on Thursday
afternoon June 7. This meeting will be brief, but
we will have several items to discuss. I hope all our
members will make plans to attend. The location
of the convention in San Antonio, Texas, just
across from the Alamo, should be a great time for
our members and their families. (See pages 4-5-6 for
convention information and registration.)

The 2012 dues are being collected by Chapter,
State and National. I encourage all members to
pay your dues; be active in your Chapter and your
State Society. **Our members and their dues, keep
our organization in operation, and insure our
continued success!**

If I may be of service to you in any way, please let
me know.

I look forward to seeing you **ALL**, in San Antonio,
Texas June 7-9, 2012 .

Glenn W. Toal, Commander
Texas Society Military Order of the Stars and Bars



Clarion Call

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Send articles for the Clarion Call to Bob G. Davidson, Editor & Publisher
graycirce@cs.com

MOS&B correspondence should be directed to: Glenn W. Toal,
Commander, Texas Society
1401 Newton Rd.
Ferris, TX 75125-9457
glensuzy@gmail.com



Texas Society Officers 2011-2013

Commander
Glenn W. Toal Ferris, Texas
glensuzy@gmail.com

Lieutenant Commander
Larry L. Wilhoite Waxahachie, Texas
l.wilhoite@sbcglobal.net

Chief of Staff/Editor
Bob G. Davidson DCS Tyler, Texas
graycirce@gmail.com

Adjutant
Todd M. Smith Austin, Texas
tmsgop@austin.rr.com

Judge Advocate
Gary M. Loudermilk DCS Brownwood, TX
gmlhdl@harrisbb.com

Parliamentarian
Gary M. Loudermilk DCS Brownwood, TX
gmlhdl@harrisbb.com

Inspector General
Steve Von Roeder Austin, Texas
Steve.vonRoeder@austinenergy.com

Genealogist
Ward W. Slack Houston, Texas
wslack8814@att.net

Color Sergeant
Pat Fogerson Fort Worth, Texas
sulrossrebel@yahoo.com

Chaplain
James C. Templin Ennis, Texas
hjtemp@sbcglobal.net

Communications Officer
Barney Hillburn Hallsville, Texas
kaynbarn@gmail.com

In Memoriam

Toni Turk, Adjutant General

We have learned of the death of Past Commander-in-Chief Ralph William Widener, who served as Commander-in-Chief of the MOS&B from 1978 to 1980. He passed in Dallas, Texas, on October 21, 2011. He was a charter member of the Texas Society of the Military Order of the Stars and Bars.



Our Own Texas Real Son

Bob G. Davidson DCS

Marion E. Wilson of Amarillo is the last Texas Real Son, as far as we know. He had some health problems this past year, but is doing quite well now, and will celebrate his 99th birthday on February 8. He is a really nice man, and I am sure he would enjoy hearing from the men of the Military Order of Stars and Bars. His address is P.O. Box 3132, Amarillo TX 79106.



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Meet a Missouri Real Son

Bob G. Davidson DCS

From time to time I write letters to Real Sons around the country. It is wonderful to hear from them. At Christmas 2010, a card came from Ms. Norma Knight, the daughter of Real Son Luther Otho Lucas of Caledonia MO.

The Christmas Card 2011 included this picture of Norma and Otho, taken about four years ago.



Otho will be 100 on March 4, 2012. He still lives on his home place that has been in the family since 1873. His address is 11756 Flat Woods Rd., Caledonia MO 63631. This family is especially dear to my heart as Caledonia is 100 miles, or less, southeast from the home of Corporal Richard D. Davidson, my Confederate great grandfather.



The Great Camel Experiment



In 1851 Jefferson Davis, a U.S. Senator from Mississippi, suggested that the United States Army investigate the use of camels for military purposes. He felt the use of the dromedary could be put to good use in transporting goods to the west. Camels were supposedly tireless, sure-footed, able to handle hot climates, and could go for long periods without water or food and could easily carry a payload of 600 pounds. During times of no food they lived off the fat in their hump. Someone even suggested the camel would be good for chasing Indians and also might be able to have a gun of some sort mounted on the hump.

Gold had been discovered in California in 1848 and literally thousand of settlers were moving west. There were few roads and no railroads going to California so it was thought that the camel would be an ideal mode of hauling goods and returning with marketable items. Congress made available \$30,000 (1855 dollars) to test the value and efficiency of camels in the Southwest. Senator Jefferson Davis went on to be appointed the Secretary of War and this experiment became his responsibility.

The first order of business was to get camels. A ship named "Supply", commanded by Lt. David Dixon Porter, a U.S. naval officer, and a number of others including a veterinarian were sent to North Africa to buy camels. They left New York on June 3, 1855 and arrived in Tunisia in August. They discovered that good camels were hard to find because of the Crimean war.

Finally in Egypt they found a number of camels. The two humped camel (Bactrian) is a bigger camel mostly used for carrying freight while the single humped (Arvana) camel was mostly used for riding. A number of each kind was purchased for about \$250 each. Another stop in Turkey was successful with the purchase of additional camels and the hiring of two Turks and three Egyptians to return with them to Indianola, Texas. They arrived there on April 29th, 1856, after a rough voyage and two grueling months at sea. Thirty three adult camels and a calf, which was born on the trip, were off-loaded and fenced in a prickly-pear cactus enclosure which was used as fencing because of the lack of good wood fencing material. The camels immediately started eating the fence, thorns and all. Two weeks later they began the journey to Camp Verde.

Camp Verde was selected as the home base for the camel experiment. This little town is about 60 miles west of San Antonio and is on the edge of what was then known as Indian Territory, an area mostly desert because of its dryness and lack of watering holes. Several successful experiments were made to test the camel's ability in the pursuit of Comanche Indians and the transportation of cargo. One experiment was to survey a road from El Paso to Ft. Yuma on the Colorado River in western Arizona. This was done with a second shipload of this ugly beast. The camels exceeded expectations except for the fact that the soldiers hated them. They hated them because they would bite you, spit on you, they stunk, were ornery, mean, and they scared

horses and mules. They had bad tempers, would take revenge, and made riders seasick. The drovers hated them and the Indians ate them. One soldier cut his camel's throat and dumped it off a cliff. This place in Texas is still called "Camel's Leap." Everyone hated the camels except the Comanche Indians who liked to eat them. But regardless of all these things, the Army ordered more camels and eventually wanted 1,000 more, but then the War Between The States started.

When the vandal invaders from the north attacked the Sovereign Confederate States of America, the Confederate Soldiers ran the Yankees out of Texas and inherited the Camel experiment.

Now comes Captain Bethel Coopwood, a veteran of the Mexican War and a lawyer. He was with Brigadier General Henry Sibley on his ill-fated adventure to capture New Mexico and eventually the gold in California for the South. Coopwood commanded Coopwood's Spy Company, a group of very rough, hard nosed, hard drinking individuals who were really scouts that could fight Indians, and live off the land. A year or so after the New Mexico Campaign failed Coopwood's Company captured 14 camels and this animal apparently peaked his interest in using Camels as a freight company going into Mexico. After the war Coopwood obtained 66 more of the camels at Camp Verde and went into business. What he learned is that his drovers hated them because they would bite you, spit on you, they stunk, were ornery, mean, and they scared horses and mules. They had bad tempers, would take revenge. They made riders seasick and the Indians liked to eat them. He could not keep drovers employed. Coopwood's business wasn't a success.

The first transcontinental railroad to California was completed in 1869. This put an end to the Great Camel Experiment. The camels eventually were turned loose to roam free until the Indians caught and ate them. Tales of seeing the camels at sundown went on for years. One story that lasted almost a decade had a dead man strapped on a big red camel that wondered through west Texas for years. It was called the Red Ghost. The skull finally fell off and was recovered by some of the locals. Eventually the camel died and sure enough, the skeleton of a man without a skull was found still strapped on. The Red Ghost was no more.

In conclusion: It was the nature of the beast that led to its demise.

David G. Whitaker DCS, National Chief of Staff - MOSB

Notes:

Capt. Coopwood is the Great Great Grandfather of my 1st cousin.
- DGW

I rode my first camel in Tunisia in the early '80s. All they say about them is true. - DGW

One of the Turks that came over with the camels moved to Mexico in the 1860s and married a Taqui Indian woman. One of his children, Plutarcho Elias Calles, grew up to become president of Mexico from 1924 to 1928.



*Military Order
of the Stars & Bars
75th Annual General Convention
San Antonio, Texas
June 7-10, 2012*



WHY the Menger Hotel for the 2012 Convention?

1859 San Antonio was a time of cattle drives, Comanche Indians, Texas Rangers, cheap whiskey and quick triggers – and it was the year the Menger Hotel ushered in a new era of sophistication to the Texas Frontier.

The Menger Hotel, a Victorian styled hotel is located a stone's throw from the famous Alamo. The Menger has housed interesting personalities such as Theodore Roosevelt, Babe Ruth, Oscar Wilde, Mae West, Robert E. Lee, and Ulysses S. Grant just to name a few. The Military Order of the Stars and Bars will hold their 75th annual convention here June 7th, 8th, and 9th, 2012.



The Menger was originally a 2 story hotel and has been enlarged from its first incarnation to incorporate 316 beautifully furnished guest rooms and suites. Once you enter the hotel lobby, I'm sure you will experience the history and charm of this national landmark, as well as the comfort of a high-class hotel. The food is absolutely some of the best in San Antonio.

The Menger Hotel's location, next to the Alamo and adjacent to River Center Mall, puts our convention right at the heart of both the historic and modern San Antonio experiences. We're located only one block – a short and pleasant walk – from the famous river (The Riverwalk) that flows through San Antonio, and only two blocks from the Convention Center, Hemisfair Park, and the Tower of the Americas.

Popular historical and cultural attractions near the Menger Hotel include the San Antonio Museum of Art, the Witte Museum, El Mercado, Museo Alameda, Lila Cockrell Theatre, Majestic Theatre, Buckhorn Museum, and numerous Spanish missions. You will greatly enjoy the San Antonio Botanical Garden and the San Antonio Zoo. Families vacationing with kids will want to add the San Antonio Children's Museum, Magik Children's Theatre, Sea World San Antonio, and Six Flags Fiesta Texas to their agenda.



***Military Order
of the Stars & Bars
75th Annual General Convention
San Antonio, Texas
June 7-10, 2012***



Convention Registration Form

Name & Title _____ Chapter _____
 Address _____ City/State/Zip _____
 Phone Number _____
 E-mail _____

Registration until June 1, 2012 _____ @ \$75.00 \$ _____

Thursday, June 7

GEC Meeting - 1pm

Texas Society Meeting - 4:30pm

Barge Dinner - 7pm (TENTATIVE) _____ @ \$40.00 \$ _____

Friday, June 8

Orientation // Forrest Cavalry Breakfast - 8am _____ @ \$25.00 \$ _____

Registration - 8am to 9am

Opening Ceremony - 9am to 9:30 am

Business Meeting* (Review By-law changes) - 9:40 to 11:30 am

***Ladies invited to go on the Menger Hotel Tour**

Luncheon with Speaker on Alamo - 12:00 Noon _____ @ \$30.00 \$ _____

=== **Free Time For RiverWalk** ===

Commander General Reception - 5:30 to 7pm **Compliments of Texas Society & Texas Chapter #5**
 (Champagne & Cheese only. Dinner is your choice of restaurant)

Saturday, June 9

Prayer Breakfast - 8am - _____ @ \$25.00 \$ _____

Business Meeting (Election & Dept. Meeting) - 9:30am

Awards Luncheon - 12 Noon _____ @ \$30.00 \$ _____

=== **Free Time For RiverWalk** ===

Fiesta with Speaker, Mariachis, cash bar - 6pm to 9pm _____ @ \$55.00 \$ _____

Total Enclosed (You may pay by check or PayPal) \$ _____

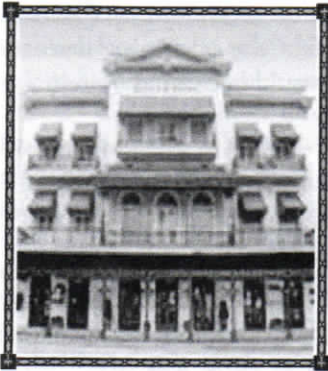
Make payable to & mail: "David Whitaker MOSB 2012", 20018 Black Canyon, Katy, TX 77450

Menger Hotel Reservation @ 1-800-394-1454. 204 Alamo Plaza, San Antonio, TX 78204

(Mention MOS&B for Convention room rate of \$115.00)

For information: Contact David Whitaker - dgwhitaker@sbcglobal.net

Beware if you are afraid of GHOSTS. There have been ghost sightings at this hotel. Some of the ghost stories are: 1) Chambermaid, Sallie White, murdered by her husband has been seen walking in the hotel corridors, especially at night. 2) Captain Richard King, founder of the King Ranch, appears now and then entering his room, the King Suite. The unusual thing is that he does not use the suite door, but goes directly through the wall. 3) A figure of a man clad in a buckskin jacket and gray trousers is seen in one hotel suite. To further cloud the issue, this apparition is speaking to someone or something else in the room that cannot be seen. 4) A lady sits knitting in the original lobby of the Menger Hotel. She wears a dated blue dress and a beret with a tassel. But never fear - these are all benevolent spirits.



Now to answer the question why the Menger Hotel? San Antonio is one of the most popular vacation spots in the U.S. and the Menger is one of the great historical places where one can stay. The service is exceptional and you are made to feel at home by the staff. I have never heard anyone complain about the Menger. Because of the unique location near all the great places to visit in San Antonio, the Convention Committee has decided to not have bus tours and give the attendees AS MUCH FREE TIME AS POSSIBLE TO EXPLORE. Further, we are recommending that each of you stay over an extra day just to see all the neat things you will miss otherwise. If you have never been here then you are in for an unforgettable treat.

Distances to all of the surrounding popular attractions and the preferred means of transportation (the Trolley stops in front of the Menger) to each are listed below for your convenience:

- Riverwalk and River cruises - nearest entrance and ticket booth River Level of River Center Mall
- The Alamo - next door
- San Antonio Children's Museum - less than a mile, Red Trolley Route
- San Antonio Museum of Art - 1.2 miles, River Taxi
- Witte Museum - 4.5 miles
- Market Square (El Mercado) - less than a mile, Red, Yellow or Purple Trolley Route
- Museo Alameda (Market Square)- less than a mile
- La Villita - less than one mile, Red, Blue or Purple Trolley Route
- Tower of the Americas - less than a mile, Red, Yellow or Purple Trolley Route
- Buckhorn Museum - less than a mile, Red Trolley Route

The Convention Committee is considering having several barges to cruise down the river on Thursday evening, June the 6th. This is still in the thinking stage but would include a Mexican dinner, Margaritas and Mariachis.

We are recommending that you make reservation as soon as possible. The phone number for hotel reservations is 1-800-345-9285. Mention MOS&B. Parking fee has been reduced and check-in time is now noon.

David G. Whitaker, DCS
Convention Chairman
dgwhitaker@sbcglobal.net





Capt. William Rankin Wright
12/23/1830-10/20/1906
Grand Uncle of Bob G. Davidson DCS

William Rankin Wright
and wife, Lucy Moon
with adopted daughter,
Rosally Cooper

The Miller County (MO)
Autogram-Sentinel, June 4, 1998
Excerpts from Article by Peggy Hake

"The Civil War broke out in Missouri in 1861, and soon Rankin became involved with the Southern forces. Evidently Rankin and Lucy had brought one slave with them to Miller County because they were listed as slave owners in the assessor's lists of 1859-1862. The value of their one slave dropped from \$400 in 1859 to \$100 in 1862.

William Rankin Wright was an officer* under the command of Captain Abraham Castleman. He reached the rank of Lieutenant in the State Guard Company of the Confederate Army of the area. They were referred to as the "Secesh State Guard" because they wanted to secede from the Union. During the war years of the 1860s the Confederate forces spread much mayhem and terror in the area, especially among the Pennsylvania Dutch people who had moved into southern Richwood Township just prior to the outbreak of the war.

As was often told, brother fought brother during the war between the States and this happened in the Wright family. Rankin Wright was a lieutenant in the Confederate Army and his half-brother, Charles D. Martin, was a soldier of the Union forces...they lived only a short distance apart in the Big Richwoods...many families were broken apart and for a decade after the war, fighting and killing continued in the hills of the Big Richwoods.

Rankin and Lucy Wright owned quite a large amount of land in the area which included the site of an old burial ground known for many generations as "Rankin Wright Cemetery" (today inventoried as Spearman Cemetery).

Rankin was presiding judge of the county court from 1879-1882. Lucy died on January 5, 1890. She was buried at Iberia Cemetery. On October 27, 1890, William Rankin Wright married his second wife, Mary E. Holloway.

William Rankin Wright died in Iberia on October 20, 1906 and was buried beside his first wife, Lucy, at Iberia Cemetery."

Battle Flag placed on grave by Missouri United Daughters of the Confederacy.

*Rank of Captain per his Military records.



Cavalier of the Sea

Charleston, South Carolina - 1861

"By the summer of 1861, President Lincoln had placed into motion his plan to isolate the secessionist Southern States by imposing a blockade of their shipping ports. The South's economy was based on "King Cotton" and trade with England and other countries. Four million English textile jobs relied on the importation of southern cotton, and in turn southern leaders would need immense amounts of arms and equipment from Europe to defeat the oncoming threat from the north. Blockade runners would become the lifeline of the Confederacy.

"Before the Federal blockade was fully in place in the latter part of 1861, supplies were primarily carried across the Atlantic on sailing ships able to handle large quantities of goods. One ship could supply thousands of Enfield rifles, and enough ammunition for 30 thousand troops in the field. As the blockade became more fully implemented, newer, faster and smaller steamships were utilized to elude Union vessels.



JOHN PAUL STRAIN™

"On May 28, 1861, Charleston received notification that it's port was to be blockaded, and that any ship approaching the city would be warned off, or seized. A 15 day grace period was to be given to neutral ships to leave the harbor. Undeterred, Confederate leaders went into action and readied war ships and privateers to counter the threat. The exploits of these bold sailors serving in the Confederate Navy, on privateers and supply ships, became greatly romanticized in the newspapers as "Cavaliers of the Sea".

Bill Gates at a High School

Sent along by Jim and Zenda Benton



Bill Gates hits the nail on the head. One of the reasons our country is in such a mess is because erroneous thinking has been cultivated and pawned off on our kids until we have a

generation of misfits who do not know how to accomplish things in their lives. Hats off to Bill Gates!

This should be posted in every school and/or kid's bedroom. Love him or hate him, he sure hits the nail on the head with this! Bill Gates recently gave a speech at a High School about eleven (11) things they did not and will not learn in school. He talks about how feel-good, politically correct teachings created a generation of kids with no concept of reality and how this concept set them up for failure in the real world.

Rule 1 : Life is not fair - get used to it!

Rule 2 : The world doesn't care about your self-esteem. The world will expect you to accomplish something BEFORE you feel good about yourself.

Rule 3 : You will NOT make \$60,000 a year right out of high school. You won't be a vice-president with a car phone until you earn both.

Rule 4 : If you think your teacher is tough, wait till you get a boss.

Rule 5 : Flipping burgers is not beneath your dignity. Your Grandparents had a different word for burger flipping: They called it opportunity.

Rule 6 : If you mess up, it's not your parents' fault, so don't whine about your mistakes, learn from them.

Rule 7 : Before you were born, your parents weren't as boring as they are now. They got that way from paying your bills, cleaning your clothes and listening to you talk about how cool you thought you were: So before you save the rain forest from the parasites of your parents' generation, try delousing the closet in your own room..

Rule 8 : Your school may have done away with winners and losers, but life HAS NOT. In some schools, they have abolished failing grades and they'll give you as MANY TIMES as you want to get the right answer. *This doesn't bear the slightest resemblance to ANYTHING in real life.

Rule 9 : Life is not divided into semesters. You don't get summers off and very few employers are interested in helping you FIND YOURSELF. *Do that on your own time.

Rule 10 : Television is NOT real life. In real life people actually have to leave the coffee shop and go to jobs.

Rule 11 : Be nice to nerds. Chances are you'll end up working for one..

If you can read this... Thank a Teacher!
If you can read this in English... Thank a Soldier!!
And for life and everything else you have...
Thank God!!!



A period drawing of Camp Ford, as featured in Harpers Magazine. Image courtesy of Alston Thoms.

The First Texas Travel Information Marker was unveiled at Camp Ford in Tyler, Texas on January 14, 1962. Camp Ford was the largest Confederate Prison Camp west of the Mississippi River, and had the lowest mortality rate of any prison camp, north or south. We were privileged to attend the ceremony as this Historical Marker was rededicated on January 14, 2012. The outer cover of the program was a reproduction of the 1962 program. There are now over 13,000 Texas State Historical Society markers throughout the state.

Bob G. Davidson DCS



• Newsletter of the
Texas Society, Military Order of the Stars and Bars
Glenn W. Toal, Commander

•
Bob G. Davidson DCS, Editor
10858 Mosswood Drive
Tyler, Texas 75703-9433
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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.

Henry Eustace McCulloch

1816 - 1895



Henry Eustace McCulloch was born in Rutherford County, Tennessee, December 6, 1816, and was the younger brother of equally famous General Ben McCulloch. He moved to Texas in 1837, and in 1843 he was elected sheriff of Guadalupe County. He rendered service in the Mexican War as captain of a company of Texas Rangers. He was elected to the state legislature in 1853 and to the state senate in 1855. At the outbreak of the Civil War he was U.S. marshal for the eastern district of Texas.

McCulloch was commissioned colonel of the 1st Texas Mounted Riflemen on April 15, 1861, and brigadier general to rank from March 14, 1862. His service was all within Texas, where he was in command of various districts, until he participated in a campaign to relieve the siege of Vicksburg. In that campaign, he unsuccessfully stormed the fortifications at Milliken's Bend (June, 1863).

At the end of the war he was commanding a brigade in John G. Walker's division.

He died in Rockport, Texas, on March 12, 1895, and was buried in Seguin, Texas.