



Clarion Call



Texas Society, Military Order of Stars and Bars



Volume 4, Issue 2

August 2008

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FROM THE TEXAS SOCIETY COMMANDER

Since our last newsletter, we have had the national convention in Springdale, Arkansas, and the state convention in Corsicana. The national convention was a very special event for the Texas Society, as we hosted the dessert party (with desserts and champagne) on Thursday evening; an event that got the attention of all those in attendance. Our thanks go out to the ASJ chapter in Houston for the planning of this event, and especially to Lasca Bourgeois-Burns for all the work she did and for being the hostess with the mostest. The Texas Society scored big by having Dr. Gary M. Loudermilk elected as ATM Commander and David Whitaker elected as ATM Councilor. The state convention was well attended despite being a non-election year. Thanks go to Henry Seale for arranging our program on Saturday, and to Eric Sandifer for his excellent presentation. The most important business at the meeting was the decision to apply to the time and place committee to host the 2012 National Convention. Texas has not hosted that convention since 1977, and it seems like it is time for us to do so. A committee made up of Henry Seale, David Whitaker, and Ward Slack will be preparing the proposal. Although 2012 is a long time off, there will be a lot of work to be done if we are to put on the best convention ever held by the MOSB.

I have had the pleasure to attend the meetings in Comanche and Fort Worth of our chapters there, and am happy to report that they are active and carrying out their work. At each meeting, I urged the members to become

more active in the state and national meetings, and I urge all of you to do the same. You are missing a lot if you don't attend these meetings.

It is time to bring up an unpleasant subject; the paying of yearly dues. As you may or may not know, we are now on a calendar year billing cycle, not the old convention to convention method. Therefore, dues for 2009 are due before December 31, 2008. For those of you in active chapters, your adjutant will handle the collection. If you are not in an active chapter you will be billed for national dues by the Adjutant General, in which case you will also need to pay your state dues of \$5.00 to the Texas Society Adjutant. Whichever method you fall under, dues must be paid by December 31 to prevent reinstatement charges. National dues are \$35.00 for the year.

We are in the process of possibly organizing and chartering a new Texas Chapter. This will be a chapter for members who do not live near enough to an existing chapter to be a part of it, but want to be a part of the Texas Society. We'll keep you informed about this. We are also working on reactivating a couple of chapters that have dropped below the five member minimum. As you can see, we are busy, and once again I want to thank all of you who have helped the MOSB do its work this year. We will keep working to make it the best Confederate heritage organization around. Remember, it is our duty.

With best regards,

Jim Templin

Clarion Call

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Texas Society Adjutant Report

I am happy to report that as of this date, we have \$1,836.00 in our bank account, and that we have 167 paid Texas Society Members. This number is low due to the confusion over the new fiscal year policy and members not understanding what is due when. This should clarify the matter. All state dues received now will be credited to the fiscal year of 2009. If you are behind on state dues, and pay your dues before December 31, 2008, you will be current. We hope that this will get everything straightened out. The state dues are \$5.00. Your chapter adjutant will bill you for both state and national dues along with chapter dues.

Glenn Toal
Texas Society Adjutant



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Texas Society Genealogist Report

Being the Society Genealogist seems related to recruiting new members so I find it difficult to talk about one without talking about the other.

I can't be much of a genealogist unless someone is recruiting so I am beating the drum for recruiting new members. That said, the easiest way to increase our membership is to recruit our sons, grandsons, and our nephews. I say the "easiest way" because all a father or grandfather has to do is fill out page one of the application form and provide his membership number on the proper line. SHAZAM! You're finished, with the exception of writing a couple of checks. No documentation required. It's so easy a caveman can do it.

I have two grandsons already in the MOS&B; Evetts Haley has a passel of grandsons applying now. The Houston Chapter has nine members who are legacies. Let's get these young men in our esteemed organization.

I am readily available to help anyone who needs it.

David G. Whitaker
dgwhitaker@verizon.net

Old Gaelic Blessing

Sent along by Don Majors

May those who love us, love us; and those that don't love us, may God turn their hearts; and if He doesn't turn their hearts, may He turn their ankles so we'll know them by their limping.

71st MOSB National Reunion

May 2008

David Whitaker DCS

Friends, What a great time Dinah and I had with great friends in Springdale! We met some very nice people there also. The Texas Society really showed them how to put together a fun party. The 2012 Convention in Galveston will be an election in our backyard so this will be important to us as well as the MOS&B in general. Keeping the MOS&B heading in the right direction for the foreseeable future is important. The election of officers went well. I see good happenings in the next two years with Commander General Anthony Hodges at the helm. He is backed-up by an experienced Adjutant, Lt CG Max Waldrop. We're in good hands.

Texas MOSB attending National:

Bob and Deborah Crook, Bob and Lois Davidson, Dale and Betty Fowlkes, Evetts Haley, Randy and Patsy Jones, Tommy and Paula Jones, Don and Janice Lee, Ewell and Teresa Loudermilk, Gary M. and Dorothy Loudermilk, Henry Seale, Ward and Carol Slack, Ray and Kathy Stocks, Jim and Helen Templin, Glenn and Suzie Toal, David and Dinah Whitaker, and Lasca Bourgeois-Burns (She is an Honorary Member of the ASJ #5). And we were the largest group from any of the states. We should all be proud...

* * * * *

MOSB National Reunion

Past Commander General Jeff Massey

The MOSB Convention was In Springdale (NW Arkansas) and everyone had a great time. The tours were great. Brother Troy did a great job as host. Laughter and smiles abounded in all corners and all quarters.

The General Convention elected:

Dr. Anthony Hodges, Commander General [TN]
Max Waldrop, Lt. Commander General [AL/TN]

The General Executive Council elected:

Toni Turk, Adjutant General [Utah]
Dick Knight, Judge Advocate General [TN]
Brian Roehring [sic?], Treasurer General [TN]
Chief of Staff: Undetermined

ANV Delegates Elected:

Brett Bradshaw, Army Commander [2nd Term] [SC]
William Berryhill [NC]
Richard Abell [VA]

AOT Delegates Elected:

Danleigh Corbett, Army Commander [AL]
AOT Counselor from AL [Didn't catch his name]
David Denard [GA]

ATM Delegates Elected:

Dr. Gary Loudermilk, Army Commander [TX]
David Whitaker [TX]
K. Patrick Sohrwide [OK]

* * * * *

MOSB National Reunion Awards

ATM Gold Star Award	Bob Crook
Robert E. Lee Silver Chalice	Phil Law
Winnie Davis Award - Texas Winners	
	Carolyn Orlebeke, Kathy Stocks, Mary Evelyn Payne Thomas, Dinah Whitaker

Texans took home many, many other awards...
too many to list.

Texans Awarded Distinguished Commander Status

1998	Walter Nass
2002	Ron Aldis (deceased)
2003	Pete Orlebeke (deceased)
2004	Bob Davidson
2004	Ralph Green
2006	Dale Fowlkes
2008	Robert W. Crook
2008	Gary M. Loudermilk
2008	David G. Whitaker
Note:	
1994	Beau Cantrell (now Texas Associate Member)

Albert Sidney Johnston Chapter #5 Houston, Texas

The Houston Chapter, joined by the local chapter of the DCV, had their quarterly Dinner Meeting at the Magnolia Bar & Grill, Houston, Texas. Attending were 40 people that included a number of UDC ladies. Commander Ward W. Slack called the meeting to order, Chaplain Raymond Holder gave the opening prayer, and Lt. Commander John Hoover led in the flag salutes.

We were honored by a visit from UDC President General Janice Langford. PG Langford was there to award UDC Certificates of Appreciation to PC John L. Moncure and PC David G. Whitaker for services rendered. A thanks also goes to Jamie Davis, District 1 UDC, for escorting PG Langford to our meeting.



Commander Ward W. Slack presented PG Langford with an honorary membership in MOS&B Albert Sidney Johnston #5 Chapter, Houston, TX.

DCV President David Williams, Houston Chapter, presented Jeff Aldis, the son of the recently deceased PC G. Ron Aldis, with a Texas Flag that was flown over the Texas State Capital and a DCV flag. Also proper certificates were presented. Ron Aldis was a founding member of the DCV and a Past Commander of the Texas Society, MOS&B. Jeff Aldis was very entertaining in telling stories about his father. His wife and two beautiful daughters accompanied Jeff.

ASJ #5 Commander Ward W. Slack presented new member certificates to the families of Shelby Ray Stocks and James H. Payne. Unfortunately, the new members could not attend. Three prospective members who are working on their applications also attended. They are Lee Payne, "Sonny" Claude Montgomery and Col. Lawrence Casey.

ASJ #5 Adjutant Ray Stocks reported that dues collection for 2009 has started and he gave the new dues amounts. National has raised their dues to \$35.00 annually. Adjutant Stocks explained that donations are being requested in lieu of a Chapter dues increase. Chapter dues are still \$10.00 annually and the Chapter barely makes ends meet.

Our speaker of the evening was ASJ #67 Past Commander Michael Powell. Commander Powell gave an extensive, interesting and well organized talk on Confederate Ordnance. Commander Slack adjourned the meeting at 9:30.

By David G. Whitaker DCS



Col. W. H. Parsons Chapter #273 Ennis, Texas

The Col. W. H. Parsons Chapter once again was busy on Memorial Day weekend, placing almost one hundred flags on the graves of the Confederate veterans in Myrtle Cemetery and assisting the local UDC chapter in the memorial program on Monday. We then joined them for a picnic.

We meet quarterly, and at our last meeting enjoyed a program given by our own member Jack O'Bannion who spoke on the adventures and travels of his family during and after the war. Our new chapter president is Randy Jones, who was elected in January. At our July meeting, we voted to contribute \$100.00 to the Texas Civil War Monuments Fund.

Many of our members attended both the national and state conventions.

By Jim Templin

Theodore Roosevelt's Ideas on Immigrants and Being an AMERICAN in 1907.



“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.”

Theodore Roosevelt 1907

This INCREDIBLE picture was taken in 1918

Sent along by Randy Jones

It is 18,000 men preparing for war in a training camp at Camp Dodge in Iowa.

EIGHTEEN THOUSAND MEN!!

What a priceless gift from our grandfathers...I find it amazing that this photo, taken so many years ago, actually still exists!



General Cabell tells of Origin of Confederate Battle Flag

The following article/clipping was recently found in papers belonging to my wife, Dinah. We think this is from a Dallas newspaper but the actual year is unknown. It apparently was written before General Cabell died February 21, 1911 and sometime after he became the elected Commander of the Trans-Mississippi of the United Confederate Veterans in 1890. The transcription is mine. We have the original.

David G. Whitaker, Albert Sidney Johnston #5
Houston, Texas January 13, 2008

REPUBLIC SPECIAL

Dallas, Tex., Aug 30. General W. L. Cabell of Dallas, who is the Commander of the Trans-Mississippi Department of the United Confederate Veterans has just written, for the first time, what he declares to be the true history of the Confederate flag. General Cabell’s interesting contribution to Confederate war history is as follows:

“When the Confederate Army commanded by General Beauregard, and the Federal Army, confronted each other at Manassas, it was seen that the Confederate flag and the stars and stripes looked at a distance so much alike that it was hard to distinguish one from the other. General Beauregard, thinking that serious mistakes might be made in recognizing our troops, after the battle at Blackburn Ford on July 18th, ordered that a small red badge should be worn on the left shoulder by our troops; and, as I was Chief Quartermaster, ordered me to purchase a large quantity of red flannel and to distribute to each regiment. I distributed the red flannel to a number of regiments who placed badges on the left shoulders of the men.

“During the battle of Bull Run it was plainly to be seen that a large number Federal soldiers wore similar red badges. I saw these badges on a number of prisoners we captured that day. Generals (Albert Sidney) Johnston and Beauregard met at Fairfax Courthouse, in September, and determined to have a battle flag for every

regiment or detached command that could be easily recognized and easily carried. I was telegraphed to come at once to Fairfax Courthouse. I found General Beauregard and Johnston in Beauregard's office discussing the kind of flag that should be adopted.

"General Johnston's flag was in the shape of an ellipse; a red flag with blue St. Andrew's cross and white stars on the cross to represent the different Southern States (No white border of any kind was attached to this cross.) General Beauregard's was a rectangle; red with blue St. Andrew's cross and white stars similar to General Johnston's. Both were examined and thoroughly discussed by all.

"After we had fully discussed the two styles, taking into consideration the cost of material and the care of making the same. It was decided that the elliptical flag would be harder to make; that it would take more cloth, and that it would not be seen so plainly at a distance; that the rectangle flag, drawn by and suggested by General Beauregard should be adopted. General Johnston yielded at once when the reasons given by General Beauregard and myself were so good and substantial.

"No one else was present but we three. No one knew about this flag but we three until an order was issued adopting the Beauregard flag, as it was called, and directing me, as Chief Quartermaster, to have the flags made as soon as it could be done. I immediately issued an address to the good Ladies of the South, to give me their red and blue silk dresses, and to send them to Captain Collin McRae Selph, Quartermaster of Richmond, Virginia (Capt. Selph is now living in New Orleans), where he was assisted by two elegant young ladies, the Misses Careys from Baltimore, and Mrs. Hennington of Savannah, and Mrs. Hopkins of Alabama. The Misses Careys made battle flags for General Beauregard and General Van Dorn, and, I think General J.E. Johnston. They made General Beauregard's flag out of their own silk dresses. This flag is now in Memorial Hall in New Orleans, Louisiana, with a statement of that fact from General Beauregard. General Van Dorn's flag was made of heavier material, but very pretty.

"Captain Selph had a number of these flags made and sent to Manassas. They were distributed by order of General Beauregard. One flag I had made and gave it to Washington Artillery. They have it yet. My wife, who was in Richmond, made a beautiful silk flag out of her own dresses and sent it to a cousin of hers, who commanded an Arkansas regiment. This flag was lost at Elk Horn, but was recaptured by a Missouri division under General Henry Little.

"It being impossible to get silk enough to make the large number of flags needed, I had a number made out of blue and red cotton cloth. I then issued a circular letter to the Quartermaster of every regiment and brigade in the army to make flags and to use any blue and red cloth suitable that they could get. Generals Beauregard and Johnston, both being good draftsmen, drew their own designs.

"The statement going the rounds that this battle flag was first designed by a Federal prisoner is false; not one word of truth in it. No living soul except Generals Beauregard and Johnston and myself knew anything about this flag until the order was issued directing me to have them made as soon as it could be done.

"General Beauregard's battle flag is in Memorial Hall, New Orleans, in charge of that gallant soldier, General J.A. Chanton, who will take pleasure in showing it to any visitor. The Washington Artillery flag, which I presented to them on account of my admiration of their gallantry, bravery and patriotism, can be seen at any time at the Washington Artillery Hall."

* * *

It is apparent from the foregoing that General Cabell is the best living source on the Confederate battle flag. He did not attach importance to the additions to the flag made by the Confederate Congress, first the white extension and then the added strip of red across the end. General Cabell was one of the first United States Army officers to send in his resignation, and he left that service under flattering prospects of promotion. He resigned the position of Chief Quartermaster, Army of Northern Virginia, to engage in field service.

*** End of Article ***

MOSB Texas Society Reunion

Corsicana, Texas

Jim Templin, Texas Society Commander

The annual state convention was held in Corsicana at the Holiday Inn Express on June 27 and 28, with good attendance. We were honored by the attendance of our Lt. Commander General Max Waldrop and Past Commander General Mark L. "Beau" Cantrell.

The convention kicked off Friday evening with the Commander's reception at the hotel. After much visiting, the members were on their own for dinner.

The business meeting began at 9:00 on Saturday morning with the main topic of discussion being the method of dues collection that the Texas Society preferred. It was decided to ask the Adjutant General to allow the active chapters to collect and remit dues to national, with the national office billing those in the "at large" category, or in inactive chapters. Steve von Roeder gave a report on the progress being made in the Junior ROTC awards program which he is heading up. It was also presented, discussed, and approved that the Texas Society make a presentation seeking to host the National Convention in 2012. A committee composed of Henry Seale, David Whitaker, and Ward Slack was appointed to prepare the presentation. At the conclusion of the business and after a short break, we enjoyed and learned a lot from a talk given by Eric Sandifer. A buffet lunch was enjoyed at the hotel, after which the members and their spouses toured the Cook Center and the Pierce Collection at Navarro College, closing out the 2008 State Convention.



The official flag of the
Military Order
of Stars and Bars
is the First National Flag -
known as the
Stars and Bars.

Texas Society Commanders

Bob G. Davidson DCS, Chief of Staff

We welcome our new members to the Texas Society and hope to instill a sense of the history of the Texas MOSB Society. Recognition of Society Commanders would begin that process.

1999-2001	Walter Nass
2001-2003	Ron Aldis
2003-2005	Dale Fowlkes
2005-2007	Gary M. Loudermilk
2007-2009	Jim Templin

My memory goes back to 1999. I hope one of our earlier members will forward (to graycirce@cs.com) names of our previous commanders for inclusion in the next Clarion Call.



Compatriot Miller Dial Memorial Service

May 3, 2008

Forest, Texas



Jim Templin, Glenn Toal, Randy Jones
Norma Holley, Barney Hilburn
Bob Davidson, Lois Davidson
John Barrett, Henry Seale
Barbara Vogl, Bob Crook

The Year of Davis - 200th Anniversary
 Jefferson Finis Davis
 June 3, 1808 - December 6, 1889

Farewell
 to the U.S. Senate
 January 21, 1861



I rise, Mr. President, for the purpose of announcing to the Senate that I have satisfactory evidence that the State of Mississippi, by a solemn ordinance of her people, in convention assembled, has declared her separation from the United States. Under these circumstances, of course, my functions are terminated here. It has seemed to me proper, however, that I should appear in the Senate to announce that fact to my associates, and I will say but very little more. The occasion does not invite me to go into argument; and my physical condition would not permit me to do so, if it were otherwise; and yet it seems to become me to say something on the part of the State I here represent on an occasion as solemn as this.

It is known to Senators who have served with me here that I have for many years advocated, as an essential attribute of State sovereignty, the right of a State to secede from the Union. Therefore, if I had thought that Mississippi was acting without sufficient provocation, or without an existing necessity, I should still, under my theory of the Government, because of my allegiance to the State of which I am a citizen, have been bound by her action. I, however, may be permitted to say that I do think she has justifiable cause, and I approve of her act. I conferred with her people before that act was taken, counseled them then that, if the state of things which they apprehended should exist when their Convention met, they should take the action which they have now adopted.

I hope none who hear me will confound this expression of mine with the advocacy of the right of a State to remain in the Union, and to disregard its constitutional obligation by the nullification of the law. Such is not my theory. Nullification and secession, so often confounded, are, indeed, antagonistic principles. Nullification is a remedy which it is sought to apply within the Union, against the agent of the States. It is only to be justified when the agent has violated his constitutional obligations, and a State, assuming to judge for itself, denies the right of the agent thus to act, and appeals to the other states of

the Union for a decision; but, when the States themselves and when the people of the States have so acted as to convince us that they will not regard our constitutional rights, then, and then for the first time, arises the doctrine of secession in its practical application.

A great man who now reposes with his fathers, and who has often been arraigned for want of fealty to the Union, advocated the doctrine of nullification because it preserved the Union. It was because of his deep-seated attachment to the Union - his determination to find some remedy for existing ills short of a severance of the ties which bound South Carolina to the other States - that Mr. Calhoun advocated the doctrine of nullification, which he proclaimed to be peaceful, to be within the limits of State power, not to disturb the Union, but only to be a means of bringing the agent before the tribunal of the States for their judgement.

Secession belongs to a different class of remedies. It is to be justified upon the basis that the states are sovereign. There was a time when none denied it. I hope the time may come again when a better comprehension of the theory of our Government, and the inalienable rights of the people of the States, will prevent any one from denying that each State is a sovereign, and thus may reclaim the grants which it has made to any agent whomsoever.

I, therefore, say I concur in the action of the people of Mississippi, believing it to be necessary and proper, and should have been bound by their action if my belief had been otherwise; and this brings me to the important point which I wish, on this last occasion, to present to the Senate. It is by this confounding of nullification and secession that the name of a great man whose ashes now mingle with his mother earth has been invoked to justify coercion against a seceded State. The phrase, "to execute the laws," was an expression which General Jackson applied to the case of a State refusing to obey the laws while yet a member of the Union. That is not the case which is now presented. The laws are to be executed over the United States, and upon the people of the United States. They have no relation to any foreign country. It is a perversion of terms - at least, it is a great mis-apprehension of the case - which cites that expression for application to a State which has withdrawn from the Union. You may make war on a foreign state. If it be the purpose of gentlemen, they may make war against a State which has withdrawn from the Union; but there are no laws of the United States to be executed within the limits of a seceded State. A State, finding herself in the condition in which Mississippi has judged she is - in which her safety requires that she should provide for the maintenance of her rights out of the Union - surrenders all the benefits (and they are known to be many), deprives herself of the advantages (and they are known to be great), severs all the ties of affection

(and they are close and enduring), which have bound her to the Union; and thus divesting herself of every benefit ~ taking upon herself every burden ~ she claims to be exempt from any power to execute the laws of the United States within her limits.

I well remember an occasion when Massachusetts was arraigned before the bar of the Senate, and when the doctrine of coercion was rife, and to be applied against her, because of the rescue of a fugitive slave in Boston. My opinion then was the same that it is now. Not in a spirit of egotism, but to show that I am not influenced in my opinions because the case is my own, I refer to that time and that occasion as containing the opinion which I then entertained, and on which my present conduct is based. I then said that if Massachusetts ~ following her purpose through a stated line of conduct ~ chose to take the last step, which separates her from the Union, it is her right to go, and I will neither vote one dollar nor one man to coerce her back; but I will say to her, Godspeed, in memory of the kind associations which once existed between her and the other States.

It has been a conviction of pressing necessity ~ it has been a belief that we are to be deprived in the Union of the rights which our fathers bequeathed to us ~ which has brought Mississippi to her present decision. She has heard proclaimed the theory that all men are created free and equal, and this made the basis of an attack upon her social institutions; and the sacred Declaration of Independence has been invoked to maintain the position of the equality of the races. That Declaration is to be construed by the circumstances and purposes for which it was made. The communities were declaring their independence; the people of those communities were asserting that no man was born ~ to use the language of Mr. Jefferson ~ booted and spurred, to ride over the rest of mankind; that men were created equal ~ meaning the men of the political community; that there was no divine right to rule; that no man inherited the right to govern; that there were no classes by which power and place descended to families; but that all stations were equally within the grasp of each member of the body politic. These were the great principles they announced; these were the purposes for which they made their declaration; these were the ends to which their enunciation was directed. They have no reference to the slave; else, how happened it that among the items of arraignment against George III was that he endeavored to do just what the North has been endeavoring of late to do, to stir up insurrection among our slaves? Had the Declaration announced that the negroes were free and equal, how was the prince to be arraigned for raising up insurrection among them? And how was this to be enumerated among the high crimes which caused the colonies to sever their connection with the

mother-country? When our Constitution was formed, the same idea was rendered more palpable; for there we find provision made for that very class of persons as property; they were not put upon the equality of footing with white men ~ not even upon that of paupers and convicts; but, so far as representation was concerned, were discriminated against as a lower caste, only to be represented in the numerical proportion of three-fifths. So stands the compact which binds us together.

Then, Senators, we recur to the principles upon which our Government was founded; and when you deny them, and when you deny us the right to withdraw from a Government which, thus perverted, threatens to be destructive of our rights, we but tread in the path of our fathers when we proclaim our independence and take the hazard. This is done, not in hostility to others, not to injure any section of the country, not even for our own pecuniary benefit, but from the high and solemn motive of defending and protecting the rights we inherited, and which it is our duty to transmit unshorn to our children.

I find in myself perhaps a type of the general feeling of my constituents towards yours. I am sure I feel no hostility toward you, Senators from the North. I am sure there is not one of you, whatever sharp discussion there may have been between us, to whom I cannot now say, in the presence of my God, I wish you well; and such, I feel, is the feeling of the people whom I represent toward those whom you represent. I, therefore, feel that I but express their desire when I say I hope, and they hope, for peaceable relations with you, though we must part. They may be mutually beneficial to us in the future, as they have been in the past, if you so will it. The reverse may bring disaster on every portion of the country, and, if you will have it thus, we will invoke the God of our fathers, who delivered them from the power of the lion, to protect us from the ravages of the bear; and thus, putting our trust in God and in our firm hearts and strong arms, we will vindicate the right as best we may.

In the course of my service here, associated at different times with a variety of Senators, I see now around me some with whom I have served long; there have been points of collision, but, whatever of offense there has been to me, I leave here. I carry with me no hostile remembrance. Whatever offense I have given which has not been redressed, or for which satisfaction has not been demanded, I have, Senators, in this hour of our parting, to offer you my apology for any pain which, in the heat of discussion, I have inflicted. I go hence unencumbered by the remembrance of any injury received, and having discharged the duty of making the only reparation in my power for any injury offered. Mr. President and Senators, having made the announcement which the occasion seemed to me to require, it only remains for me to bid you a final adieu.



Newsletter of the
 Texas Society, Military Order of the Stars and Bars
 Jim Templin, Commander
 2500 Woodlawn Drive, Ennis TX 75119

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

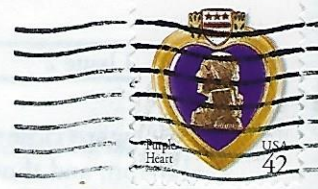
We, the posterity of the Officer Corps and Civil Officials of the Confederacy, do pledge ourselves to commemorate and honor the service of leadership these men rendered in the Cause of the fundamental American principles of self determination and States' Rights and to perpetuate the true history of their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

JOHN GREGG
 1828 - 1864



John Gregg, a native of Lawrence County, Alabama, was born September 28, 1828. He moved to La Grange, Alabama as a boy where he received his education at La Grange College, after which he studied law at Tuscumbia.

After emigrating to Fairfield, Texas, in 1852, he was elected district judge in 1856. Gregg was a member of the secession convention in 1861, and to the Provisional Confederate Congress the same year.



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Gregg resigned his seat after First Manassas; he returned to Texas and recruited the 7th Texas Infantry, of which he was elected colonel. He and his regiment were surrendered and exchanged at Fort Donelson. The following February he was promoted brigadier general to rank from August 29, 1862. He was assigned to the division of John Bell Hood, Longstreet's Corps, and his brigade was a part of the very successful "wedge" driven into the Federal line at Chickamauga. Gregg was severely wounded in this engagement.

After his recovery and the return of his unit to the Army of Northern Virginia, he was assigned to command of the Texas brigade, which he led with conspicuous bravery at the Wilderness and during the ensuing Overland campaign of 1864. He was killed in action on the Charles City Road below Richmond on the morning of October 7, 1864.

He is buried in the Odd Fellows Cemetery, Aberdeen, Mississippi.