



TEXAS SOCIETY

MILITARY ORDER OF THE STARS AND BARS



Lone Star Dispatch

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**Winner of the 2020, 2021 & 2022 Col. Walter H. Taylor Award
Best Society Newsletter in the MOS&B**

COMMANDER'S CORNER

by Larry "Joe" Reynolds



Compatriots,

As Fall is here and the holidays are ahead of us, it's time for us to reflect on the past year and give thanks for all we have. Each of you should be receiving your Dues notice very soon, if you haven't already received it. I would like to see each one of you renew your dues in order for us to keep our Society strong. It does little good to recruit new members if we lose the ones we already have.

We are already working on the 2023 Texas Society Reunion which will be held in College Station on June 9th and 10th of next year. You can now go to: <http://txmosb.org/reunion.php> where you can download your Registration Form and Hotel Information. Remember, this will be an election year, so if you plan to run for any office or know of someone that you would like to see run, now is the time to start planning for it. We always need good men who are willing to step up and assume the positions that are open.

The Texas Society has been showing continuous growth and you are all to be commended. So far this year we have chartered one new Chapter and have some 17 new members. I hope all Chapters are working on getting renewals in so we can ALL be 100% on our membership renewals. We need all dues and rosters to be in the Adjutant's hands by December 15 so he can compile the Society report and get the dues in on time. Remember, your Chapter reports are due 31 December. You will find the routing information

at the bottom of the form. If you have any questions, contact Adjutant McMahon.

I want to take this opportunity to wish each of you a Happy Thanksgiving, A Merry Christmas, and a Happy and Prosperous New Year. Be safe and God Bless the South.

*Deo Vindice,
Joe Reynolds
Society Commander*

UPCOMING EVENTS

Spring SEC Meeting

March 3 – 4, 2013

Hilton Inn and Conference Center
College Station, Texas

MOS&B National Convention

May 4-6, 2023

Doubletree by Hilton Hotel
Atlantic Beach, NC

Texas Society 2023 Annual Convention

June 9-10, 2023

Hilton Inn and Conference Center
College Station, Texas



WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Chapter Adjutants don't forget to send me the information on any new member that you have!

Roy H. Semtner

2nd Lieutenant Robert Henry Fullbright
20th Regiment Texas Infantry
Lone Star Chapter #137

James Keith Stephens

Lt. Colonel Andrew Jackson Nicholson
Co. F, 11th Young's Regt. Cavalry and
Co. C, Bourland's Border Regt. Cavalry

Lt. Col Andrew Jackson Nicholson Chapter #318

Charles David Towery

Commanding General Robert Edward Lee
Army of Northern Virginia

Lawrence Sullivan Ross Chapter #184

Andries Johann Nance

Captain Gilbert Harvey Love Sr

Co. B, 3rd Battalion Cavalry, Texas State Troops
Col. Briscoe Gerard Baldwin Jr. Chapter #301

John Glenn Bowles

1st Lieutenant Samuel Allen Wallace Jr.
Donald's Company, Virginia Light Artillery


Lawrence Sullivan Ross Chapter # 184

I would like to say that the Texas Society is the largest in the MOS&B. I'm proud to announce that the Texas Society is ranked number two for the year by obtaining seventeen new members. The number one state with the most new members is Missouri with twenty eight new members. We have our work cut out for the new year.

Chapter #184 San Antonio has five new members, Chapter #312 Bryan has four, Chapter 318 Temple has four, Chapter #5 Houston has two, Chapter #137 Dallas has one and Chapter #261 Tyler has one. Placing emphasis for the new year on recruiting, will give us a healthy society. Our new Chapter #318 in Temple under the command of Michael Gonzales is off to a good start. Our objective for this new year will be to build another new Chapter for Texas in 2023.

I would like to wish everyone a happy Thanksgiving and a Merry Christmas.

God Bless the South
George W. Williamson
Lt. Commander



**OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE TEXAS SOCIETY
MILITARY ORDER OF THE STARS AND BARS**

Lone Star Dispatch is published quarterly with publication deadlines of:

Winter Edition-----	February
Spring Edition-----	May
Summer Edition-----	August
Fall Edition -----	November



REQUEST FOR ARTICLES
for upcoming Editions of the
Lone Star Dispatch

Please consider writing or submitting an article that can be included in future issues of the Lone Star Dispatch. Send your articles to the attention of our Editor Joe Reynolds, whose email is Joe.Reynolds@txmosb.org

The preferred submittal is one in which the articles are in MS Word format and that all pictures are in jpeg format as this makes it easier to format to the proper scale within this publication.

**Lieutenant Commander's
Comments**

by George Ward Williamson



The future of the Military Order of the Stars and Bars is in obtaining new members and building new chapters. An organization must always be moving forward.

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

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

**RECOGNITION FOR MAINTAINING
A VETERAN'S GRAVESITE
"JACKSON MEDAL"**

Adopt a Confederate officer's grave, commit to its care and you might wear the "Jackson Medal". This is not a commitment to be taken lightly, nor was it intended to be. If you accept this challenge, do so with two thoughts in mind: 1. It is a year-to-year commitment 2. Your efforts should be towards perfection Certificates and medals are awarded on a point basis. For more information see the [details here!](#)



**A SOLDIER DIED TODAY
{JUST A COMMON SOLDIER}**

Original poem by A. Lawrence Vaincourt

He was gettin' old and paunchy and his hair was
fallin' fast,
As he sat around the Legion, tellin' stories of the
past.
Of a war that he once fought in, and the deeds that
he had done,
Of his exploits with his buddies; they were heroes,
every one.

And though sometimes, to his neighbors, his tales
became a joke,
But his buddies they really listened, 'cause they
knew from whence he spoke.
But we'll hear his tales no longer for old Bob has
passed away,
Now the world's a little poorer, 'cause A Soldier
Died Today.

No, he won't be mourned by many, just his friends,
his kids, his wife,
'Cause he lived a very ordinary, sorta quiet kind of
life.
He held a little job and he raised his family, he just
went quietly along his way,
So the world won't note his passing, though A
Soldier Died Today.

When politicians leave this earth and their bodies lie
in state,
Thousands note their passing and proclaim that they
were great.
Yes, the news tells their life stories, from the time
that they were young,
But the passing of a soldier, it goes unnoticed and
unsung.

Is the greatest contribution to the welfare of our
land,
Some clown who breaks his promises and cons his
fellow man?
Or the ordinary fellow who in times of war and
strife,
Feels the need to serve his Country and he offers up
his life?

The politician's stipend and the style in which he
lives,
They're so very disproportionate to the service that
he gives.
While the ordinary Soldier, who offers up his all,
Is paid off with a medal and perhaps, a pension
small.

It's not the politicians, with their promises and
ploys,
Who won this thing called freedom that our Country
now enjoys.
And if you find yourself in danger, with your
enemies at hand,
Would you really need a politician with his daily
changin' stands?

Or will you need a soldier, who has sworn that he'll
defend,
His home, his kin, his Country, and who'll fight
until the end?

Yes, he's just a common soldier and his ranks,
 they're growin' thin,
 But his presence should remind us we may need
 him once again.

And this country with its conflicts, just what's the
 soldier's part?
 It's to clean up all the troubles that the politicians
 start.
 If we fail to give him honor while he's here to hear
 the praise,
 Then at least let's pay him homage at the end of his
 days.

Just a simple headline in his hometown paper that'll
 say:

“Our Country Is In Mourning, ‘Cause A Soldier
 Died Today.”



A BLAST FROM THE PAST

(from 2012 Clarion Call Newsletter)

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 thousands 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 desolate 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 shipment of this ugly beast. The camels exceeded expectations except for the fact that the soldiers hated 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 Anny 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, bard nosed, bard 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 6.rst 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. -DOW

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

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. them. They hated them because they would bite you, spit on you, they stunk, were ornery, mean, and they scared

PROPOSED AMENDMENTS

Proposed Amendments for the 2023 Texas Society Convention must be submitted in sufficient time to permit distribution to the Chapters at least 30 days prior to the convention being held in College Station, Texas on Friday and Saturday

Proposed Amendments for the 2023 National Annual Convention must be submitted in sufficient time to permit distribution to the Chapters at least 30 days priot to the convention being held in College Station, Texas on Friday and Saturday

ROBERT E. LEE OBITUARY

Upon Lee's death, the New York Herald wrote an obituary. It reads as follows:

On a quiet autumn morning, in the land which he loved so well and served so faithfully, the spirit of Robert Edward Lee left the clay which it had so much ennobled and traveled out of this world into the great and mysterious land.



"Here in the North, forgetting that the time was when the sword of Robert Edward Lee was drawn against us - forgetting and forgiving all the years of bloodshed and agony - we have long since ceased to look upon him as the Confederate leader, but have claimed him as one of ourselves; have cherished and felt proud of his military genius; have recounted and recorded his triumphs as our own; have extolled his virtue as reflecting upon us - for Robert Edward Lee was an American, and the great nation which gave him birth, would be today unworthy of such a son, if she regarded him lightly.

"Never had mother a nobler son. In him the military genius of America was developed to a greater extent than ever before. In him all that was pure and lofty in mind and purpose found lodgment. Dignified without presumption, affable without familiarity, he united all those charms of manners which made him the idol of his friends and of his soldiers and won for him the respect and admiration of the world.

"Even as in the days of triumph, glory did not intoxicate, so, when the dark clouds swept over him, adversity did not depress."

January 19, 1807 - October 12, 1870



SAME CANTEEN CEREMONY

Our Chapter has a special meeting during the month of August near our namesake, Col Briscoe G Baldwin Jr's birthday (12AUG1828). This year, I thought it would be appropriate to have a "canteen ceremony" at his gravesite in the Bryan City Cemetery. So, I searched the internet to find a suggested script for the ceremony to no avail. The closest that I could find was a FaceBook page of a Texas SCV unit – and all that it mentioned is that the ceremony centered around sharing a canteen by the members in attendance and pouring the remainder onto the grave(s) of our Confederate Ancestors. Not being satisfied with that, I decided to write a script for such rites to the honored CSA soldiers, sailors and marines. This is what I came up with; I hope that your Chapter might gain from (and build upon) this script.

With the unit members gathered around the site (whether one or more graves), appropriate flags and other décor in place, have each member take a small bathroom size Dixie cup (no other brand would do!). Then have a unit officer pour a water ration into each member's cup.



[Take a drink from cup and raise it as if toasting] I drink from my ration of water today and share the remainder with [Specific Ancestor Name] [These

Honored Heroes] who can hereafter share it with his comrades who are interned here. [Pour remainder on grave.]

MEMBER 1 – Water is the sustenance of life. Without it, soldiers in the field could not survive. [Take a drink from cup and raise it as if toasting] I drink from my ration of water today and share the remainder with this/these soldier(s) in recognition of our ancestor’s need for a good drink. [Pour remainder on grave.]

MEMBER 2 – Water was such an important item during the war that soldiers would often share their canteens with other soldiers should the need occur. [Take a drink from cup and raise it as if toasting] I drink from my ration of water today and share the remainder with our Confederate ancestors. [Pour remainder on grave.]

MEMBER 3 – It is said that soldiers from both sides could be seen sharing water with the injured of both sides to comfort them in their hour of need. [Take a drink from cup and raise it as if toasting] I drink from my ration of water today so that our Ancestors may know that we continue to honor their struggles for their families, their States and their New Nation, and yes for us all. [Pour remainder on grave.]

MEMBER 4 – Water is the mother of the vine, the nurturer of posterity and the refresher of the world. [Take a drink from cup and raise it as if toasting] In honor of our Ancestors and our future generations, I drink from my ration of water today and share with those who have come before and those who have not yet to exist. [Pour remainder on grave.]

MEMBER 5 – Water is a powerful thing. Without it, man cannot survive, but yet, in its silence, it can cut through rock not because of its power but because of its persistence. [Take a drink from cup and raise it as if toasting] I drink from my ration of water today and share the rest with our Ancestors in remembrance of their deeds and with the promise that we shall never forget. [Pour remainder on grave.]

MEMBER 6 – You are of water; I am of water; we’re all of water in different containers. Some day we will evaporate into the heavens and meet again on the banks of a river in the shade of the tall trees with Lee and Jackson and our Ancestors. [Take a drink from cup and raise it as if toasting] I drink from my ration of water today and share the remainder in reverent prayer for the salvation of us all. [Pour remainder on grave.]

COMMANDER – [Give short bio if honoring an individual soldier, sailor or marine grave.] The [soldier, sailor, marine] lies before us as a representative of the heroism shown by each member of the Confederate Armed Forces. He and his comrades deserve to be honored and remembered lest their efforts be for naught.



From the 14th Chapter of the Book of Job: “Man that is born of woman is of few days, and full of trouble. He cometh forth like a flower and is cut down; he fleeth also as a shadow and continueth not. As the waters disappear from the sea and the flood decayeth and drieth up; so man lieth down, and riseth not. Till the heavens be no more, they shall not wake, nor be raised out of their sleep. For I know that my Redeemer liveth, and that he shall stand at the latter day upon the earth and though this body be



destroyed, yet shall I see God; whom I shall see for myself, and mine eyes shall behold and not another.”

CHAPLAIN [or Other Volunteer] – Let us pray. God, Creator of the universe and Commander of the hosts of heaven, under they watchful eye we remember the spirit of our departed ancestor(s) – true and faithful [soldier(s), sailors(s), marine(s), men] who fought the good fight. The bugle sounded taps and he/they are at rest. He/They will sleep until the reveille of Heaven calls him/them to take his/their place in the ranks of the immortal legions of the Great Commander. Grant that we may strive to live in accordance with the examples of our Ancestors. Thus, our years may be years of usefulness and honor; and that at last when we have crossed over the river to rest under the shade of the trees with Lee and Jackson and Davis, we may find our names inscribed upon the rolls of thy celestial Hosts. AMEN.\

COMMANDER – Thank you [Chaplain]. Now, please join me in the pledge to the Confederate Flag – I salute the Confederate Flag with affection, reverence and undying devotion to the Cause for which it stands. This concludes the ceremony; dismissed.

NOTE: Although this script is written for the Commander, 6 Members and a Chaplain; some units may not have a designated Chaplain or even 6 members to read the parts. It is encouraged that each unit improvise as needed. For units with more members present than those listed, it is suggested that the following be used: Each additional member can be interspersed between the designated persons or placed around the Commander, Chaplain, and Six Members with specific parts. The extra Members would (1) take a drink from cup and raise it as if toasting, and (2) say “I drink from my ration of water today and share the remainder with [Name of Individual or Our Ancestors]; and (3) pour remainder of ration onto the gravesite.

WELCOME NEW CHAPTER

**Lieutenant Colonel Andrew Jackson Nicholson
Chapter #318, Temple, Texas**



Welcome to the newest addition to the Texas Society and the MOSB. Commander General Holley joined Army of the Trans-Mississippi Councilmen Dennis Brand and Devin Lindsey, Texas Society Commander Joe Reynolds and Texas Society Lieutenant Commander George Williamson in chartering the new chapter.

Lt. Col. Andrew Jackson Nicholson Chapter #318 of Temple, Texas—chartering ceremony on 1 October 2022. Commander General Johnnie Holley, Chapter Lt. Com. James Stephens, Chapter Chaplain Guy Kerby, Chapter Commander Michael Gonzales holding the chapter sword, ATM Councilor Dennis Brand, Texas Society Commander Joe Reynolds, ATM Councilor Devin Lindsey, and Texas Lt. Commander George Williamson

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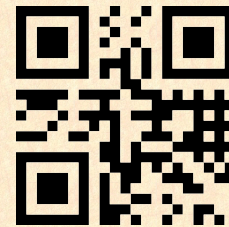
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Opinions expressed by individual writers are their own and do not necessarily reflect official positions of the Texas Society, Military Order of the Stars and Bars.

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(Cutoff for articles is 15th of the month)

