



TEXAS SOCIETY

MILITARY ORDER OF THE STARS AND BARS



Lone Star Dispatch

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Winter 2023

**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 we begin a new year, let's hope that it will be one of the best that you have had. We did lose one Chapter last year, Chapter 264 the Maj. John Loudermilk Chapter out of Comanche, Texas, however we also chartered a new Chapter, the Lt. Col. Andrew Jackson Nicholson Chapter 318 in Temple, Texas. Most of the members of the Loudermilk Chapter transferred to the Major Benjamin F. Ficklin Chapter 310 in San Angelo, Texas. We hope that the rest of the men will either transfer to one of our Chapters or decide to reactivate the Loudermilk Chapter.

That being said, unlike most heritage organization, the Texas Society actually gained members instead of losing them. We finished the year with 195 members, which was actually 2 more members than we had last year. We had 5 members who passed away during the year, so although not a great number of new members, we did increase. I'm also hopeful that the men of Chapter 264 will rally and become active again.

I would also like to take this opportunity to remind all Chapters of the upcoming deadlines for Awards nominations, both at the Society and National level. We have good men who deserve to be recognized for their work.

*Deo Vindice,
Joe Reynolds
Society Commander*

UPCOMING EVENTS

Spring SEC Meeting

March 3 – 4, 2023

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!

Philip Alan Taylor

Captain/Major George Washington Littlefield
8th Regt. Texas Cav., Terry's 1st and 8th Rangers
Col. W. H. Parsons Chapter #273

James David Denton

2nd Lieutenant Patrick Mullen Frazier
Co. E, 12 Alabama Infantry Regiment
Col. Richard B. Hubbard Chapter #261



TEXAS SOCIETY
MILITARY ORDER OF THE STARS AND BARS
Lone Star Dispatch

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

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Fall Edition -----November

TEXAS HEROES

JOHN BELL HOOD 1831 - 1879



John Bell Hood, born in Owingsville, Kentucky, June 1, 1831, and graduated from West Point in the class of 1853 had by all odds the most spectacular advance in rank of any officer in the Confederate service. After serving in California and Texas, he resigned his union 1st lieutenant position on April 17, 1861.

There after he distinguished himself on a dozen battlefields as a regimental, brigade, and division commander in the Army of Northern Virginia. Initially he was a captain of cavalry and then colonel of the 4th Texas Infantry on September 30, 1861. After promotion to brigadier general to rank from March 3, 1862, he commanded the Texas Brigade composed of the 1st, 4th, 5th Texas Infantry as well as the 18th Georgia and Hampton's Legion infantry

during the Peninsula campaign and Second Manassas. He was then promoted to major general October 10, 1862, and as a division commander under Gen. Longstreet he distinguished himself at Sharpsburg where he led the brigades of Robertson, Law, Benning, and Jenkins and at Fredericksburg where his command was composed of the brigades of Law, Toombs, Robertson, and Anderson all of the Army of Northern Virginia.

After being severely wounded in the arm at Gettysburg where his troop performed superbly and after losing a leg at Chickamauga, he was appointed lieutenant general on February 1, 1864, to rank from September 20, 1863, and assigned to a corps under Joseph E Johnston whom he ultimately superseded. Hood's corps was composed of the divisions of Hindman, C L Stevenson, and A P Stewart, Army of Tennessee. Hood was appointed full general with temporary rank on July 18, 1864. After severe battles of Peachtree Creek, Atlanta, Ezra Church, and Jonesboro, Hood marched his army into Tennessee. Federal Gen J M Schofield withdrew before Hood but slipped by Hood's forces to occupy Franklin and fortify sufficiently to shatter Hood's frontal assault. Hood pressed on to Nashville, ill-supplied, in the dead of winter, where his army was devastated by Union Gen. George Thomas. Hood was then relieved at his own request in January 1865 and reverted to his permanent rank of lieutenant general. In May he surrendered himself in Natchez, Mississippi.

He later made his residence in New Orleans, where he died of yellow fever, together with his wife and one of his children. He is buried in Metairie Cemetery in New Orleans. Before his death, Hood wrote a volume of memoirs.

Lieutenant Commander's Comments

by *George Ward Williamson*



I'm excited to enter a new year. The year 2023 is going to be a great year for the MOS&B! I feel we will experience a very healthy year of growth in our membership in The Texas

Society. As I've said before, we must grow by new members and new chapters to keep our organization alive and well. Right now it's easier to recruit than ever before. The majority of people are against history being rewritten and when they are told about our organization and our mission, they want to be part of us.

I'm looking forward to the 86th Annual General Convention in Atlantic Beach, North Carolina on May 4 – 6, 2023. It's always a pleasure to see everyone and meet new people.

I would like to officially announce that I'll be running for Commander of the Texas Society. My platform will be "To Continue Growing The Texas Society". My desire is to keep The Texas Society the strongest and healthiest society in the organization and I'm doing this in memory of my great grandfather, Colonel John Lafayette Camp who gave his life for what he believed was just. He was a graduate from the University of Tennessee and one of East Texas leading attorney in East Texas with a wife and five children and left it all and died at a young age because of his war wounds. The least I can do this in his honor would be the Commander of the Texas Society. If elected I will serve with my Southern Heritage Pride and I would appreciate your vote.

God Bless the South
George W. Williamson
Lt. Commander

2021 TEXAS SOCIETY ELECTIONS

Gentlemen, the time is fast approaching for the election of Commander and Lieutenant Commander of the Texas Society, Military Order of the Stars and Bars.

Our next election will be held at the 85th Annual Convention in College Station, Texas on June 10th, 2023. There is only one more Newsletter that will be

published between now and election day, so if you have any desire to run for either office, why not let the society know your intention by running a short article in the Lone Star Dispatch.

If you will let me know which office you wish to run for and furnish me a short ad or bio, I will place an ad in the May Newsletter, which is before the election date.

The Texas Society needs strong leaders, decide now to Make a Difference!

CIVIL WAR TRIVIA

[Answers on last page]

Questions:

1. The US Civil War was one of the deadliest wars in history, do you know how many soldiers died in this war?
2. Which state was the first to set the notion that a state had the right to nullify Federal laws and secede from the Union?
3. Can you name the Supreme Commander of the Confederate army in the Siege of Vicksburg?

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.

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 BLAST FROM THE PAST

(from 2006 Clarion Call Newsletter)

The Officer Corps of the Confederate States Army

Robert W. Crook, Tyler, TX Councilor, MOS&B, ATM

Who made up the officer corps of the Confederate States Army? What were the qualities they were expected to have? To begin with, many Southern families -rich and poor alike - considered it desirable for at least one of their sons to have a background in things 'military.' It was the 'manly' thing to do to spend at least some years in a military-type environment. Many were graduates of West Point - considered the premier military school in the country -while others attended such Southern military academies as VMI, the Citadel, or their own state schools that offered cadet curriculums. Such courses led to discipline and order, instilled patriotism, and

perhaps opened doors for future opportunities, both military as well as civilian.

In spite of Hollywood's version of what the Southern army consisted of, Confederate officers came from all walks of life, spanned all age groups, physical and intellectual makeup, and occupations. Some were saintly -while a minority were, or became, scoundrels. Most were respected leaders in their communities -why not leaders on the battlefield? Ideally, they were men of impeccable honor, personal courage, unwavering in their devotion to duty, willing to go onto the deadliest part of the battlefield when leading their men. In material terms, they had much to lose if the South were defeated; very little to gain in her victory. Some of these men equipped, uniformed, and armed an entire company of volunteers at their own expense, rather than wait for their state to provide the much-needed funds. And, while it is true some of these officers obtained their rank through political connections and influence, or perhaps sought the headlines and acclaim of others, the vast majority was not cut from this cloth. Most Southerners at the time were proficient with rifle and pistol, were naturals with horses, inured to the hardships of their mostly agrarian surroundings, quick to defend the helpless and the weak, and just as quick to punish the bully in their midst. No wonder then that these men - always outnumbered, out-equipped, and out-fed -considered themselves descendants of Cavaliers and Knights, and could whip at least ten Yankees to their one, and figure the odds fairly even in the fight.

Some, like Nathan Bedford Forrest, had barely learned to write, yet he proved to be one of the most effective combat leaders during the entire war. Men like Forrest may not have 'talked the talk' -but they sure knew the 'walk.' Others became officers by attrition through no fault of their own -all other senior officers had been killed, wounded, and disabled, or captured. One of my own kinsmen from Mer Rouge, LA enlisted as a private at the age of 17 in Co. G of the 15'h LA Infantry. Over 900 men would serve in this regiment during the course of the war. But, four years later, when he surrendered with

Robert E. Lee's Army of Northern Virginia at Appomattox Court House, 2nd Lt. John Barlow Davenport was the ranking officer among those of the 15th who remained to the end -all 19 of them. The regimental flag these men served under now reposes in Confederate Memorial Hall in New Orleans.

It was the custom of the day, particularly with the Southern army, to elect officers. At first, selection of these men to positions of authority may have been no more than popularity contests. It soon became apparent, however, that the lives of entire companies and regiments depended on the decisions and actions of these men and being 'popular' might also get soldiers killed if the wrong decisions were made. The best officers were the ones who looked after the welfare of their men first (in and out of battle), attended to their needs in every way possible, displayed courage when facing the enemy, earned the respect and devotion of their soldiers, and who would never lead them into a situation he was not willing to go himself. He was a leader by example -not by military fiat. The best line officers were the ones who assured them, "Follow me, men, and I will lead you!" not "Go, yonder and attack!"

Yet, it was because of this very style of leadership that the commissioned officer was more likely to become a casualty in battle than was the enlisted man. By virtue of the method in which opposing armies fought each other in that period, lieutenants, captains, and colonels were usually in FRONT of their men, not behind them. Enemy sharpshooters singled them out as 'trophies' and many paid with their lives the privilege of rank. Many general officers fell on the field of battle as well. One only has to hear the names of the Southern heroes that will forever resonate within our hearts and minds - Johnston, Stuart, Jackson, Polk, Morgan, AP. Hill, Barksdale, Armistead, Tom Green, Pegram, Cleburne - not to mention the lesser known but not-forgotten heroes who wore the gray. In the battle of Franklin, TN - sometimes referred to as the 'Pickett's Charge of the West' - over 60 Confederate brigade and regimental officers were killed, wounded, or captured the largest number of senior

officers in any battle during the entire war, and over 30 battle flags lost. Overall war statistics suggest that one out of every four general officers was KIA or mortally wounded. When the guns fell silent the survivors returned to a land desolated by the plowshares of war. For all practical purposes, the world they had known had been destroyed. Gone were the farms, the implements, animals, crops, the stores and storehouses, railroads, the banks, the colleges and universities. Many of their homes had been ransacked and torched by the Yankees - their families forced to live with a neighbor or another family member. Widows and orphans suffered the most - totally dependent on the welfare of friends and family for their next meal. There was no Marshall Plan to rebuild the devastated South. There were no relief or disaster agencies - no Food Banks or Red Cross - no Farm Bureau or housing assistance. Private soldiers were even more destitute with very little future to look forward to. No grand parades awaited their return or pensions to ease their financial burden. In the year following the war, the single largest item in the Mississippi state budget was to provide artificial limbs for its returning veterans. I'm fairly certain other states of the Confederacy had similar needs with similar expenditures. These men, true to their character, dug deeper. Some recovered, but many spent the remainder of their lives in relative poverty, with barely a dollar in their pocket, caring for the men who had nobly and faithfully served under them or their widows and children who survived. Then, these men had to pay their proportionate share of pensions for those who had conquered them, while our own Southern men went without for almost 30 years. And they were stripped of their citizenship - not allowed to vote, to hold office, or sit on a jury, until they had signed an 'oath of allegiance' to the federal government or made special application to the president for amnesty. Yes, they were heroes in peace no less than in war.

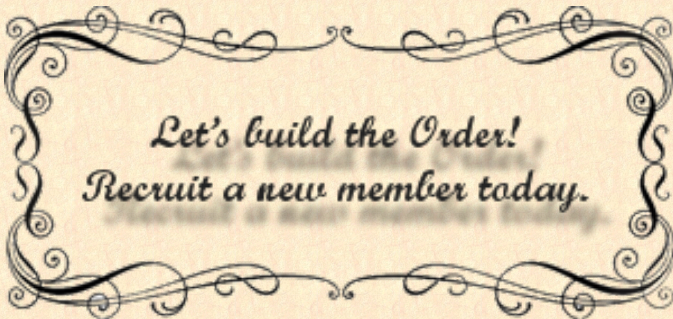
The Military Order of the Stars and Bars is comprised of men whose Confederate ancestor was a commissioned officer, who perhaps may have fit the description above. Perhaps he was a 21- year old 2nd

Lt. like Davenport or an older General. I submit to you that, even though we have our many faults as men, in our blood flows the same sense of responsibility, patriotism, devotion to duty, and an unwavering regard for our ancestors who were willing to give their last full measure, even unto death. Thus, these officers, these men whose qualities and attributes we try vainly to emulate and whose memory we endeavor to honor as best we can - after all, we and they are only human - have yet given us an example of what makes the South and her people so unique among the rest of the world. They taught us how to be brave in danger - patient in trial - magnanimous in victory - undaunted in defeat. We are descended from the men who stood taller in defeat than their adversaries ever had in victory.



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.



THE 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



Matthew 5: 43 - 44

"Ye have heard that it hath been said, Thou shalt love thy neighbor, and hate thine enemy. But I say unto you, Love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you, and pray for them which despitefully use you, and persecute you;"

One of our beloved heroes, Robert E. Lee was noted for never referring to Union troops as "Yankees," or even, "the enemy." Instead, he called them "those people." General Lee's attitude toward his military opponents gave him a reputation for being a humble, gracious gentleman, even among the Union Army. He, and countless others among our Southern ancestors proved themselves as courageous and determined warriors on the battlefield, yet courteous and kind when the guns were silent.

We, as Christian people, attempting to live Godly lives according to the Bible and the sacred traditions that have been passed down to us, have an ever increasing number of enemies. Though not engaged in an armed conflict, the struggle is serious and crucial. Just like soldiers in a military struggle, we have a duty to oppose the enemy to the best of our ability. But, whatever our differences are, we must always remember in times of conflict, that our enemies are people, too. Perhaps that's why General Lee called the Federal troops, "those people," in order to remind himself and others that human lives were at stake.

So, even if they're acting wrongly, the Savior has instructed us to love our enemies. When we can't

compromise on principle, we can pray that the Almighty will resolve the conflict or change the minds of our enemies. When ungodly things are spoken about us or done to us, we can respond in a Christ-like way. The Apostle Paul wrote that we are free to repay evil by doing good. We often can't be silent, but when we have to speak up, we can do it in an honorable way. Let us not only be remembered for the things we stood for, but also for how we stood!

CONFEDERATE TOMBSTONE DEDICATED

by LeeRoy Lance, DCS, Commander, Chapter #312



It took 120 years but Private Asa Anderson, Co E, 3rd Florida Infantry finally has a tombstone at his grave site in Norwood Cemetery, Hearne, TX. Thanks in part to MOS&B Chapter 312 and in part to SCV Camp 1457, he now lies under a Veterans Administration headstone alongside his wife, his son and daughter-in-law. In fact, his son had not been marked for almost 90 years. This was also rectified with the placement of a white steel cross fabricated by SCV Camp 1457 member Dan Hilliard.

Asa Anderson was born in February 1821 in Emanuel County, GA to Joseph Uriah and Winifred Anderson. Though only 4' 10-11" in stature, Asa proved to be a brave military man. He first served as

a Sergeant in the 1st Florida Cavalry during the Indian Wars of 1840. Following the war, he married Julia Ann Woods at Monticello, FL in March 1841. In 1861, Asa enlisted as a Private in Co E, 3rd Florida Infantry alongside his two eldest sons. His five brothers would serve in GA units during the War of Northern Aggression. Asa would lose his youngest brother at Gettysburg and his eldest son, Wiley, during the war presumably from disease as no cause for his demise is noted in his service records. At the age of 7, Asa Varn would bravely watch his dad march off to war and would later celebrate his safe return home.

In about 1872, Asa would gather up his family in two covered wagons at “Texas Hill” in Jefferson County, FL and move to Texas where they settled in Hearne. Asa’s eldest living son remained in FL; however, Asa Varn Anderson was a longtime resident of Hearne and is buried between his mother and his wife, Emma (Davis) [Taylor] Anderson. Asa has lain in repose here since 1902 (120 years) and his son since 1936 (86 years). On 10DEC2022, thanks to help of Hearne City Secretary Linda Pecina, their names and graves will be marked in remembrance for all posterity.

The following members of Col Briscoe Gerard Baldwin Jr Chapter 312 and SCV Sul Ross Camp 1457 participated in the dedication ceremonies: MOS&B Commander Lee R Lance & SCV Commander Bill Boyd headed up the crew of Mike Smith (312 Lt Cmdr), Dennis Beal, Darryl English, Jerry Nance, Bobby Deiss and Wayne Strickler. All personnel are joint members of the Chapter and Camp save for Wayne – and as soon as we can find a qualified ancestor for him, we’ll add another member to our chapter!

The ceremony began with Commander Lance reading a short history of Asa’s military service, followed by a volley of musketry and pistol fire and an abbreviated canteen ceremony. Commander Boyd ensured that the two markers were properly located and, on cue, set them into place. Bobby Deiss, attired in Mississippi Corporal uniform to honor his

ancestors carried out the canteen ceremony while the Honor Guard stood at Present Arms. Afterward, Commander Lance read the Soldier’s Prayer over Private Anderson’s grave and concluded the ceremonies. Three members were attired in basic clothing similar to the way most Texans reported for duty; Col Dennis Beal USMC (Ret) was attired in CSMC Captain uniform, Commander Boyd was in uniform of Infantry Major and Wayne Strickler was attired in uniform of infantry Lt Col. As the ceremony ended, our two new Chapter flags began to wave – was it a sign that Asa and his family approved? We certainly believe so!



Cmdr Lance, Lt Cmdr Smith, English, Beal, Strickler, and Nance fire volley of honor.



Before the event, a little firearms safety was held. Bobby Deiss in MS Infantry Corporal uniform between our two new Chapter 312 flags.

ANSWERS TO CIVIL WAR TRIVIA:

1. Between 620,000 and 750,000 soldiers sacrificed their life.
2. South Carolina.
3. Lt. Gen. John C. Pemberton.

ANNOUNCEMENT FOR CANDIDATE

David P. McMahon

Candidate for
Texas Society Lieutenant Commander



Compatriots, I am David McMahon, your Texas Society Adjutant. I am a candidate for Texas Society's Lieutenant Commander. I hope you will vote for and elect me at our June Texas Convention. Many of you I have worked with these past years and many of you I have met while updating our membership rosters.

For the last four years I have been your Texas Society Adjutant, and I feel a representative guardian of the society's funds. I have many years of experience in leadership positions. In 2018 I founded the Major

Benjamin F. Ficklin Chapter 310 in San Angelo. Our chapter has received the Outstanding Chapter award, and numerous retention honors. We have twenty-three members who live literally across the State of Texas. As a new member I traveled to state executive committee meetings and annual conventions. In 2019, I was asked to become the Texas Society Adjutant. Within a few weeks I discovered our society was not incorporated, not a 501(c)3 non-profit, and not tax exempt with the State of Texas. In a month all of these legal issues were handled and the Military Order of the Stars and Bars – Texas Society became an IRS recognized non-profit corporation. I spent nearly a month building a membership database for the Texas Society. Today we have a database that helps national and our state chapters. I also became the communications director and have built the email database for our Constant Contact system. The MOS&B Society Membership Roster book was a very successful project I initiated. The second edition I will have ready in time for our National Convention in May. During these past four years I have served our State Society Commanders in facilitating the quarterly SEC meetings and the state conventions. Currently I serve the Commander General as the Chief of Staff General and the Communications General.

I have been a member of the SCV some 25-years serving as Camp Commander, Brigade Commander, and Texas Division Commander. I was honored to receive the Confederate of the Year and the Deo Vindice Awards. I am a member of the Sons of the American Revolution also.

It has been my great honor to be of service to the members of the Military Order of the Stars and Bars and I hope you will permit me to continue to serve the Texas Society. I have made the commitment to travel to our quarterly State and National Executive Council meetings and all conventions. If you have any questions for me, please feel free to contact me at dmctx.mosbtx@gmail.com

David P. McMahon, DCS
Life Member

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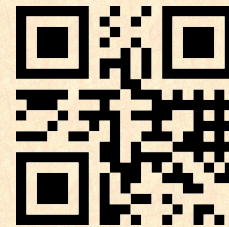
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Opinions expressed by individual writers are their own and do not necessarily reflect official positions of the Texas Society, Military Order of the Stars and Bars.

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(Cutoff for articles is 15th of the month)

