



TEXAS SOCIETY

MILITARY ORDER OF THE STARS AND BARS



Lone Star Dispatch

Vol. 5 No. 2

Copyright 2023

Spring 2023

**Winner of the 2020, 2021, 2022 & 2023 Col. Walter H. Taylor Award
Best Society Newsletter in the MOS&B**

COMMANDER'S CORNER

by Larry "Joe" Reynolds



Compatriots,

As my term of office quickly draws near to an end, I would like to take a few minutes to reflect on my last two years as your Society Commander.

During my tenure, I have saw our Society grow, as many others have loss members, I have saw the Chartering and Excitement that a new Chapter brings, and yes, I have saw a Chapter fold. All Chapters should look at their membership and at their meeting schedule. If you any not meeting at least quarterly, why not? If you have members who do not attend your meetings, why not? At our last SEC meeting we talked about calling members on the phone. Have we talked with each of our members to see why they are missing our meetings, is there something we could do to either help or prevent them from being absent.

One of the goals that I had as Society Commander was to start a new Chapter in the Fort Worth area. We have more than enough "At Large" members to make a strong Chapter, I have talked with several men who would be willing to work on it, just no plan! I would be more than willing to help if our next Society Commander or someone wants to pursue this matter.

On the subject of growing our Chapters, one simple question we should ask ourselves – Is it possible for me to recruit just one member – a son, grandson, cousin, how about a neighbor,

someone I work with, someone I'm in another organization with, a church member? We all know that if each member recruited just one new member, then our Society would double in strength. No, it may not be that easy, but at the same time, it's not that hard. All we have to do is ask.

*Deo Vindice,
Joe Reynolds
Society Commander*

UPCOMING EVENTS

Texas Society 2023 Annual Convention

June 9-10, 2023

Hilton Inn and Conference Center
College Station, Texas

87th MOS&B 2024 National Convention

May 16-19, 2024

Doubletree by Hilton Hotel
2431 N Glenstone Avenue
Springfield, MO 65803



WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

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

Ronald Wayne Liston

2nd Lt. William Alexander Westmoreland
Company G, 14th Texas Cavalry
The Texas Chapter #5

Charles "Chuck" Cornelius Hand, IV
Alabama State House of Representatives
James Cornelius Hand
Lawrence Sullivan Ross Chapter #184

Charles Cook Richter Jr.
Major General/Secretary of War
John Cabell Breckinridge
Lawrence Sullivan Ross Chapter #184

Dalton Conner Hand
Alabama State House of Representatives
James Cornelius Hand
Lawrence Sullivan Ross Chapter #184

TEXAS HEROES

LAWRENCE SULLIVAN ROSS

1838 – 1898



Lawrence "Sul" Ross was born in Bentonsport, Iowa, September 27, 1838. His parents took him to Texas when he was an infant. He graduated from Wesleyan University in Florence, Alabama, in 1859. He spent his vacations in service fighting the Comanches, and in the latter year was a captain of a company of Texas Rangers. Since he had rescued the celebrated Cynthia Ann Parker in one engagement and killed the chief Peta Necona in single combat in another, Ross had made a lasting reputation on the frontier when he entered Confederate service as a private.

Promoted to colonel of the 6th Texas Cavalry, May 14, 1862, he took part in the battle of Corinth in October, and particularly distinguished himself during the subsequent retreat from that place. He was appointed brigadier general December 21, 1863, commanding a brigade in Wheeler's Cavalry Corps. Ross fought under and was universally commended by such officers as J E Johnston, Van Dorn, Hardee, Forrest, S D Lee and W H Jackson attesting that he was a fighting man's "fighting man". With a record of 135 battles and engagements with 5 horses shot from under him, he returned home penniless.

He first commenced farming in the valley of the Brazos River. In 1873 he was elected sheriff of McLennan County; he was a member of the constitutional convention in 1875 during reconstruction and was a state senator in 1881 and 1883. He was elected governor in 1887 and

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**

**Lone Star Dispatch is published quarterly
with publication deadlines of:**

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

CIVIL WAR TRIVIA

[Answers on last page]

Questions:

1. What was the last battle of the Civil War?
2. Who devised the first ever plan to win the war with as little bloodshed as possible?
3. When did South Carolina secede from the union?

overwhelmingly re-elected two years later. From 1891 until his death, he was president of Texas A & M in College Station, Texas, where he died January 3, 1898. Sul Ross University in Alpine, Texas is also named for him. At this time, "Sul" Ross was without a doubt the most popular private citizen in Texas. He is buried in Oakwood Cemetery in Waco.



Lieutenant Commander's Comments

by George Ward Williamson



We have just returned back to the great state of Texas from attending the National MOS&B Convention in Atlantic Beach, North Carolina. I must say, it was a pleasure to meet so many first class Southern gentlemen and ladies from all over the country. Being like minded automatically gives you a feeling of comradery.

The Texas Society had a great showing at the Convention and received many National awards. And now the focus is on the Texas Society 2023 Annual Convention held in College Station, Texas, Friday June 9 – Saturday June 10. I would appreciate your vote as I will be running for the position of the Texas Society Commander as well as for David McMahan for Lt. Commander. We feel we will make a great team and will move the Texas Society forward in a positive way.

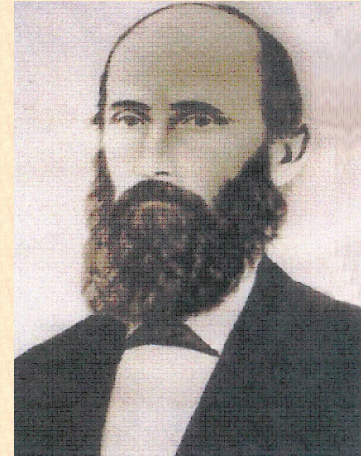
I want to thank every one of you for your support and help as this will be my last remarks as your Lt. Commander of the Texas Society of the MOS&B.

God Bless the South
George W. Williamson, Lt. Commander
Texas Society of the MOS&B



AN OFFICER AND HIS MANSERVANT

(Great Grandfather of George W. Williamson, Lt. Commander of The Texas Society)

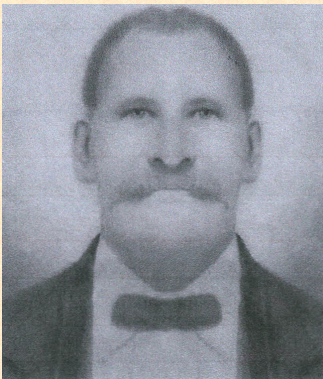


Col John Lafayette Camp served in the 14th Texas Regiment, C.S.A. Was twice wounded and twice captured.

John Lafayette Camp was "small in stature but not in intellect or integrity," according to his great nephew E. L. Whitsell, Jr. When the War Between the States began, he felt it was his duty to leave his wife Mary Ann Ward and five children and join the Confederate Army. He had a long-time trusted black manservant King Beasley, who accompanied him during his military service. Camp was named Captain of an Upshur-County Company and later became Colonel of the 14th Texas Regiment and served throughout the war as an able and valued officer. He was twice wounded and twice captured. The first time was when he was shot in the leg as his horse was shot out from under him at Murfreesboro, TN. He was exchanged and returned to active duty at that time.

In Murfreesboro, Camp took a saber from the Commander of a captured battery and proudly wore it until he was captured in October, 1864. He participated in the battles of Jackson, Miss, all the battles with Sherman in the Atlanta Campaign, at Richmond, Cumberland Gap, Chickamauga, and his last battle was at Altoona, GA. Where he received a large piece of shell through his thigh which caused his capture a few days later.

According to stories handed down, King Beasley saved Camp's life when he was shot in Murfreesboro by applying a hot iron to the wound to stop the bleeding. He was sent to the Old Capitol Prison in Washington, DC. Suffering from malnutrition, he passed the lines, in wounded exchange just as the war ended. To enable him to make the arduous journey home to Texas, his faithful servant King Beasley sold his gold watch for enough money to buy a small wagon and a mule. Using that transportation, he brought the ailing Colonel home to Gilmer.



*King Beasley, known as a Mulatto,
Went to war with Col Camp and
Saved his life when he was shot.*

After returning to Gilmer, he was elected to represent Texas in the U.S. Congress, but the radical Congress refused to seat him. An account says that Col Camp eventually lost his leg and he also suffered from malaria. According to records, Col Camp helped King Beasley obtain a small house on the Colonel's property, where Beasley lived with his wife and children.

After the Colonel's wife died and the family move to San Antonio, TX, Colonel Camp's health continued to fail and he died there on July 16, 1891. He is buried in the J. L. Camp family plot in Dignowity Cemetery in San Antonio. (photo below). Col Camp probably wouldn't have survived the war or the trip back to Gilmer without his trusted servant and friend King Beasley!

THE FUNERAL OF STONEWALL JACKSON

Local newspaper account - from *The Lexington Gazette*
May 20, 1863

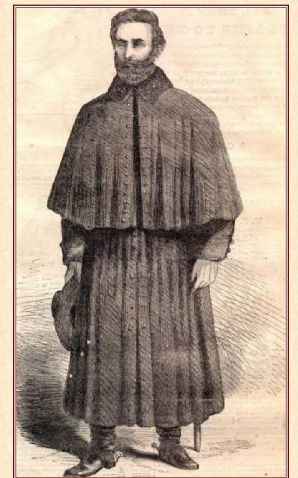
All that was mortal of our great and good chief, Lieut. General T.J. Jackson was consigned to the tomb on Friday last.

The body having reached Lexington by the Packet boat on Thursday afternoon, accompanied by his personal staff, Maj. AS. Pendleton, Surgeon H. McGuire, Lieut. Morrison, and Lieut. Smith, by his Excellency Gov. Letcher, and a delegation of the citizens of Lynchburg, it was received by the Corps of Cadets and escorted to the Institute, and deposited in his late Lecture Room, which had been appropriately draped in mourning.

There was the table used by the late Professor - the same chair in which he sat - the cases with the Philosophical apparatus he had used - all told of his quiet and unobtrusive labors in his Professional life - and placed just as he left them, when he received the order of the Governor of Virginia to march the Corps of Cadets to Richmond, on the 21st of April 1861. He left the Virginia Military Institute in command of the Cadets.

He has been brought back to sleep among us - a world renowned Christian Hero.

The procession moved from the Institute on Friday morning at 10 AM. The Funeral escort was commanded by Maj. S. Ship, Commandant of Cadets, a former pupil of General Jackson and a gallant officer who had served with him in his Valley Campaign, as Major of the 21st Virginia Regiment.



The Late General "Stonewall" Jackson



The Escort was composed as follows: Cadet Battalion, Battery of Artillery of 4 pieces, Company of the original Stonewall Brigade, Company of convalescent officers and soldiers of the army, Squadron of cavalry, The Clergy; The Body enveloped in the Confederate Flag and covered with flowers, was borne on a caisson of the Cadet Battery, draped in mourning; Pall bearers, Family and Personal Staff of the deceased, The Governor of Virginia, Confederate States Senator Henry of Tennessee, The Sergeant-at-Arms of Confederate States Senate, and a member of the City of Richmond Council, Faculty and Officers of Virginia Military Institute, Elders and Deacons of Lexington Presbyterian Church, Professors and Students of Washington College, Franklin Society, Citizens.

January 21, 1824 - May 10, 1863

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!](#)

DEAR ANCESTOR

- Author Unknown -

Your tombstone stands among the rest,
Neglected and alone.

The name and date are chiseled out
On polished marble and stone.
It reaches out to all who care;
It is too late to mourn.
You did not know that I exist.
You died and I was born.

Yet each of us are cells of you
In flesh, in blood, in bone.
Our blood contracts and beats a pulse
Entirely not our own.

Dear Ancestor, the place you filled
One hundred and forty years ago,
Spreads out among the ones
you left Who would have loved you so.
I wonder if you lived and loved.
I wonder if you knew
That someday I would find this spot
And come to visit you.

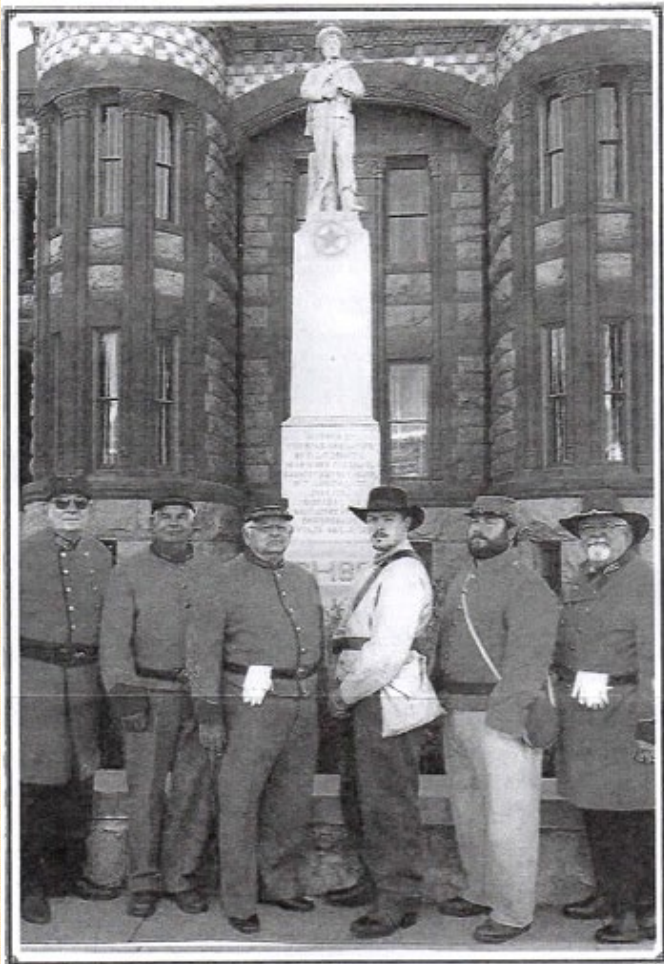


A BLAST FROM THE PAST

(from 2013 Clarion Call Newsletter)

Centennial Rededication of Confederate Monument

The Confederate Monument on the Ellis County Courthouse Lawn, Waxahachie, was rededicated on November 2, 2012, exactly 100 years from the original date. Color guard of MOSB and SCV Members.



Left to Right: Jim Templin, Glenn Toal, Jay Bowden, Kevin Crouch, Anthony Baker, Larry Wilhoite.



*Reprint From Clarion Call September 2, 2001
Commander G. Ronald Aldis*

**NOT YOURS TO GIVE
DAVY CROCKETT AND WELFARE**

*This article is a compilation from several sources:
The Life of Colonel David Crockett, by Edward S.*

Ellis (1884); Essays on Liberty Vol. IX, published by The Foundation for Economic Education (1962); and the transcript of an old radio program called Lifeline, featuring 'Freedom Talks' by commentator Melvin Munn (June 15, 1971).

Not only is taxpayer, government dictated welfare opposite to Christian charity, it also flies directly in the face of the Constitution of the United States.

Hero of the Alamo Davy Crockett was a colonel in the Tennessee Regulars and was elected to the House of Representatives from his native state. That was before his part in the valiant defense of the famed Alamo. He served three terms as congressman.

While Crockett was in Congress a distinguished naval officer died, leaving a widow. Members of the House proposed to appropriate \$20,000 of public money to give to the widow to assure her welfare and to honor the memory of the late officer. Crockett opposed that appropriation in such persuasive terms that it received only a few votes and was defeated.

Before you consider him heartless, hear the facts which will show he was just the opposite. Others before him had said that the country owed the departed officer a debt. Crockett reminded the House of the countless men who had served their country with distinction, but to whom Congress never admitted owing a cash debt. In Crockett's speech before the House, he said the following:

"Mr. Speaker — I have as much respect for the memory of the deceased, and as much sympathy for the suffering of the living, if suffering there be, as any man in this House, but we must not permit our respect for the dead or our sympathy for a part of the living to lead us into an act of injustice to the balance of the living.

"I will not go into an argument to prove that Congress has no power to appropriate this money as an act of charity. Every member upon this floor knows it. We have the right, as individuals, to give away as much of our own money as we please in charity; but as members of Congress, we have no right to so appropriate a dollar of the public money.

"Some eloquent appeals have been made to us upon the grounds that it is a debt due the deceased. Mr. Speaker, the deceased lived long after the close of the war; he was in office to the day of his death, and I have never heard that the government was in arrears to him. This government can owe no debts but for services rendered, and at a stipulated price. If it is a debt, how much is it? Has it been audited, and the amount due ascertained? If it is a debt, this is not the place to present it for payment, or to have its merits examined. If it is a debt, we owe more than we can ever hope to pay, for we owe the widow of every soldier who fought in the War of 1812 precisely the same amount.

"There is a woman in my neighborhood, the widow of as gallant a man as ever shouldered a musket. He fell in battle. She is as good in every respect as this lady and is as poor. She is earning her daily bread by her daily labor; and if I were to introduce a bill to appropriate five or ten thousand dollars for her benefit, I should be laughed at, and my bill would not get five votes in this House. There are thousands of widows in the country just such as the one I have spoken of, but we never hear of any of these large debts to them.

"Sir, this is no debt. The government did not owe it to the deceased when he was alive; it could not contract it after he died. I do not wish to be rude, but I must be plain. Every man in this House knows it is not a debt. We cannot, without the grossest corruption, appropriate this money as the payment of a debt. We have not the semblance of authority to appropriate it as a charity.

"Mr. Speaker, I have said we have the right to give as much money of our own as we please. I am the poorest man on this floor. I cannot vote for this bill, but I will give one week's pay to the object, and if every member of Congress will do the same, it will amount to more than the bill asks."

When Crockett was later asked why he invoked the Constitution in that manner, and what led him to speak so clearly and forcefully against appropriating such a seemingly small amount, he told of an earlier, somewhat similar event.

There had been a fire in suburban Georgetown during Crockett's first term in Congress. He was among several congressmen who rushed to the scene, helped to fight the fire, and sought shelter for the victims who were shivering on a cold night. The very next morning Congress appropriated \$20,000 for the relief of the fire victims. Crockett spoke in favor. Because there was opposition, the vote on the issue was recorded in the journals of that day's proceedings and a listing was made of those who voted for and those who voted against the appropriation.

Crockett said that when he went back to his home district to run for re-election, he stopped to solicit the vote of a farmer plowing in his field. The man remembered Colonel Crockett, said he had voted for him the first time, but that he would not vote for him again. The farmer had read a newspaper account of that \$20,000 gift to victims of the fire. He saw Crockett's name listed as supporting the measure. The farmer then proceeded to explain to congressman Crockett:

"The power of collecting and disbursing money at pleasure is the most dangerous power that can be trusted to man, particularly under our system of collecting revenue which reaches every man in the country, no matter how poor he may be, and the poorer he is the more he pays in proportion to his means. What is worse, it presses upon him without his knowledge where the weight centers, for there is not a man in the United States who can ever guess how much he pays to the government.

"While you are contributing to relieve one, you are drawing from thousands who are even worse off than he. If you had the right to give anything, the amount was simply a matter of discretion with you, and you had as much right to give \$20 million as \$20,000. If you have the right to give to one, you have the right to give to all; and, as the Constitution neither defines charity nor stipulates the amount, you are at liberty to give to any and everything which you may believe, or profess to believe, is a charity, and in any amount you may think proper. You will very easily perceive what a wide door this would open for fraud and corruption and favoritism, on the one hand, and for robbing the people on the other.

"No, Colonel, Congress has no right to give charity. Individual members may give as much of their own money as they please, but they have no right to touch a dollar of the public money for that purpose. If twice as many houses had been burned in the country as in Georgetown, neither you nor any other member of Congress would have thought of appropriating a dollar for our relief. There are about two hundred and forty members of Congress. If they had shown their sympathy for the sufferers by contributing each one week's pay, it would have made over \$13,000. There are plenty of wealthy men around Washington who could have given \$20,000 without depriving themselves of even a luxury of life. The congressmen chose to keep their own money, which, if reports be true, some of them spend not very creditably; and the people about Washington, no doubt, applauded you for relieving them from necessity of giving what was not yours to give.

"The people have delegated to Congress, by the Constitution, the power to do certain things. To do these, it is authorized to collect and pay moneys, and for nothing else. Everything beyond this is usurpation, and a violation of the Constitution. So, you see, Colonel, you have violated the Constitution in what I consider a vital point. It is a precedent fraught with danger to the country, for when Congress once begins to stretch its power beyond the limits of the Constitution, there is no limit to it, and no security for the people. I have no doubt you acted honestly, but that does not make it any better, except as far as you are personally concerned, and you see that I cannot vote for you."

Every American citizen has a moral and spiritual obligation to see that no neighbor, no person, child, or adult, suffers for the lack of necessities while he has the slightest surplus in his own name. But neither does man have the right to use government and the law, in the name of charity, to force the unwilling to do that which he would not do if the choice were his.

Before any citizen concludes that the poor have a better life under state welfare than their counterparts had under true charity one hundred years ago, he should examine the present and investigate the past.

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



THE SECESSION OF TEXAS 1861

On February 1, 1861, Texas becomes the seventh state to secede from the Union when a state convention votes 166 to 8 in favor of the measure.

The Texans who voted to leave the Union did so over the objections of their governor, Sam Houston. A staunch Unionist, Houston's election in 1859 as

governor seemed to indicate that Texas did not share the rising secessionist sentiments of the other Southern states.

However, events swayed many Texans to the secessionist cause. John Brown's raid on the federal armory at Harper's Ferry, Virginia (now West Virginia), in October 1859 had raised the specter of a major slave insurrection, and the ascendant Republican Party made many Texans uneasy about continuing in the Union. After Abraham Lincoln's election to the presidency in November 1860, pressure mounted on Houston to call a convention so that Texas could consider secession. He did so reluctantly in January 1861, and sat in silence on February 1 as the convention voted overwhelmingly in favor of secession. Houston grumbled that Texans were "stilling the voice of reason," and he predicted an "ignoble defeat" for the South. Houston refused to take an oath of allegiance to the Confederacy and was replaced in March 1861 by his lieutenant governor.

Texas' move completed the first round of secession. Seven states—South Carolina, Georgia, Florida, Alabama, Mississippi, Louisiana, and Texas—left the Union before Lincoln took office. Four more states; Virginia, North Carolina, Tennessee, and Arkansas waited until the formal start of the Civil War, with the April 1861 firing on Fort Sumter at Charleston, South Carolina, before deciding to leave the Union. The remaining slave states Delaware, Maryland, Kentucky, and Missouri never mustered the necessary majority for secession.



ANSWERS TO CIVIL WAR TRIVIA:

1. Battle of Palmito Ranch.
2. General Winfield Scott.
3. 20 December 1860



Texas Society Leadership

Commander

Larry "Joe" Reynolds
Joe.Reynolds@txmosb.org

Lt. Commander

George Ward Williamson
g2948@aol.com

Chief of Staff

Michael A. Smith
md@mddsmith.net

Adjutant

David Paul McMahon
dmctx.mosbtx@gmail.com

Genealogist

Peter T. Baron
Ptbaron@hotmail.com

Communications Officer

David Paul McMahon
dmctx.mosbtx@gmail.com

Chaplain

Dr. James Newsom
jamesnewsom@embarqmail.com

Judge Advocate

Judge Edward F. Butler
SARPG0910@aol.com

Inspector General

Steve Von Roeder
svroeder@sbcglobal.net

Surgeon General

Dr. Richard Lewis Neel, M.D.
resa20@prodigy.net

Parliamentarian

Cooper Goodson, Jr.
cgoodsonjr4846@yahoo.com

Sergeant at Arms

Bill Elliott
etaia@att.net

Webmaster

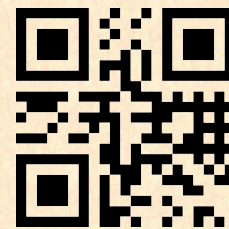
Larry "Joe" Reynolds
Joe.Reynolds@txmosb.org

Graves Administrator

Dale Tidwell
pmltidwell@yahoo.com

NEWSLETTER EDITOR

Larry "Joe" Reynolds
 2520 Saratoga Drive
 Barksdale AFB, LA 71110-2172
 (903) 575-8791
Joe.Reynolds@txmosb.org



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.

Letters and articles may be submitted to:

Joe.Reynolds@txmosb.org

(Cutoff for articles is 15th of the month)

