



LONE STAR DISPATCH

NEWSLETTER OF
TEXAS SOCIETY OF THE STARS AND BARS



2023 Summer Edition

Volume 6, Issue 1



COMMANDER'S CORNER

by George W. Williamson

I would like to thank you for your vote of confidence in electing me as the Commander of the Texas Society. First of all I would like to thank a distinguished gentleman by the name of David

Whittier who invited me to become a member of Chapter #5 in Houston. He also encouraged me to serve as Lt. Commander and Commander of Chapter #5. Another big thank you goes to Commander Larry Joe Reynolds for spending the time answering all my questions in the last two years pertaining to the MOS&B. Another big encourager was Dennis Brand ATM Councilor and our Commander General Johnny Holley.

Our General Convention in Atlantic Beach, North Carolina, was outstanding. I enjoyed meeting a lot of new people and I really felt the sincerity they had in honoring our Confederate ancestors.

I wish to thank everyone who was responsible for the Texas Society Meeting in College Station. It was also first class and informative.

On becoming the Commander of our great Texas Society, I immediately recognized an area of concern. My concern is, I believe a number of people would love to become a member of our organization but their biggest problem is not being able to find an officer. I felt like I had solved this problem as a chapter Commander by finding a great genealogist who was willing to take a small amount of information, go to work and find a qualifying ancestor. She was able to find ancestors for five new members but due to health problems she is not able to continue. So being the new Commander, I felt I needed to solve this and find someone else. The problem was solved when National Genealogist Wayne Kevin Hawkins from Missouri contacted me told me about a compatriot, Charles C. Hand, from Chapter #184 in San Antonio would like to become an associate genealogist for Texas. Charles Hand told me he was willing to help in any way he could. Also Kevin Hawkins said there are two other

COMMANDER'S CORNER cont...

gentlemen who are willing to help. So with the help we will have, I would like to encourage every chapter that has someone who would like to become a member and need help, please contact Charles Hand and get the application process going. I would also welcome them to contact me. The bottom line is for the Texas Society to grow. Every chapter needs to be recruiting.

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COMMANDER'S CORNER cont...

from front pg

I plan on visiting the chapters and my purpose is to encourage the recruiting, to meet all the compatriots, to address any concerns, and present a program if needed. Not only will I be visiting, but Lt. Commander David McMahon along with Chief of Staff Michael Gray and also our Sergeant at Arms Michael Gonzales. I really appreciate these Society Officers who are willing to go the extra mile.

We would like to feature a chapter in our newsletter each time we publish as the San Angelo chapter is featured in this publication. We would like to have pictures of meetings, visiting historical places or grave dedications with your members, whatever your chapter is doing along with a writeup.

I would like to see us build another new chapter in this Society and I would welcome any suggestions from our compatriots.

I look forward to seeing our Executive Council in October in College Station and I would like each chapter to send their representative to the meeting. The representatives for each chapter for this administration will stay the same as the last administration.

My appreciation goes out to each and every one of you.

In Southern Pride,
Texas Society Commander George W. Williamson

UPCOMING EVENTS

TEXAS SOCIETY SEC MEETING

October 21, 2023
Hilton College Station & Conference Center
801 University Drive East, College Station, TX

TEXAS SOCIETY GEC MEETING

March 22, 2024
Hilton College Station & Conference Center
801 University Drive East, College Station, TX

2024 87TH ANNUAL GENERAL CONVENTION

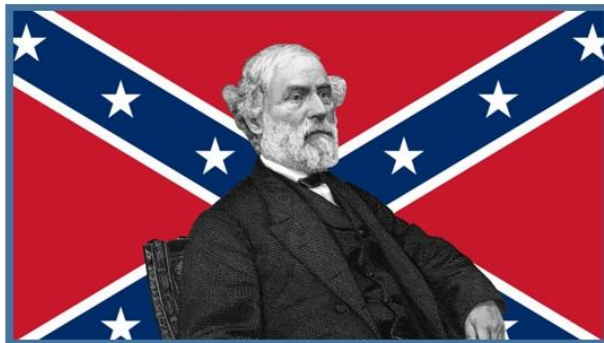
May 16—19, 2024
Doubletree by Hilton Hotel
2431 North Glenstone Avenue, Springfield, MO

TEXAS SOCIETY MOS&B CONVENTION

June , 2024
Hilton College Station & Conferecne Center
801 University Drive East, College Station, TX



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TEXAS SOCIETY OF THE STARS AND BARS



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- Summer Edition.....August
- Fall Edition.....November



CHAPLAIN'S COMMENTS

by Raymond Holder



Remember the Scars

The Confederate soldiers went back to what was left of their homes, defeated and often dejected. Out of the brokenness of their lives, came strength and evidence of God's power in their lives which was expressed in the humilities of rebuilding their lives, their homes, and extending themselves in many countless ways only known to God. Included in my chaplain's article this month is a very touching story given to me by Gary Loudermilk by way of Steve Von Roeder. Each of us has our spiritual and emotional scars we live with. Imagine the physical and emotional scars our confederate ancestors lived with as each came home to attempt to rebuild our Southern homeland. Each of us is living proofs of the exceptional character of these men we revere.

Remember the Scars

John Gordon was a respected general for the South in the Civil War. After the war, he was running for the United States Senate. But a man, who served under him in the war, angry over some political incident, was determined to see him defeated. Everyone knew this man would fight Gordon's bid to become a senator.

During the convention, he angrily stamped down the aisle with his anti-Gordon vote in hand. As he saw Gordon sitting on the platform, he noticed how his once handsome face was disfigured with the scars of battle-marks of his willingness to suffer and bleed for a cause he believed in.

The old soldier was stricken with remorse. Overcome with emotion, he exclaimed, "It's no use, I can't do it. Here's my vote for John Gordon." Then, turning to the general, he said, "Forgive me, General. I had forgotten the scars." What a difference it makes in our lives when we remember the scars! With so many things to distract us, we don't often take time each day to reflect on what Jesus went through on the cross for us. But, when we are tempted to stray, it is a remembrance of Christ's sacrifice that has the power to draw us back to Him.

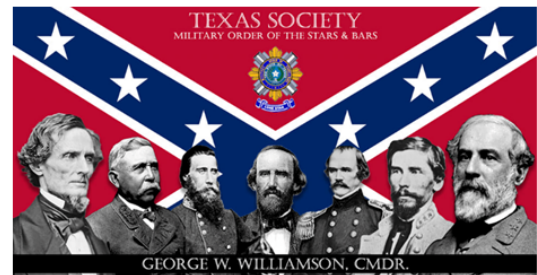
CHAPLAIN'S COMMENTS cont...

"He was wounded for our transgressions. He was bruised for our iniquities: The chastisement for our peace was upon Him, and by His stripes we are healed." (Isaiah 53:5)

May I encourage you this day to take a moment to pause and "remember the scars".



NEW FACEBOOK PAGE



We are happy to announce we have a Texas Society Military Order of the Stars and Bars Facebook page set up by Commander Michael Gonzales! We encourage you to join by going to Facebook, type in Texas Society—Military Order of the Stars and Bars, click to join and answer the questions. You will wait to be approved by the Page Administrators.





Major Benjamin F. Ficklin
Chapter 310 San Angelo

Imagine having your MOS&B Chapter meeting an entire day's drive away! Out here in West Texas we are the most western chapter in the State of Texas. Our members hail from Menard, Christoval, Sheffield, Midland, Lubbock, Arlington, Houston, Gatesville, Comanche, Brownwood, and San Angelo. If you make the drive connecting all these sites, you're looking at 1,357 straight line miles.

Chapter 310 chartered in 2018 and has been an award-winning chapter every year. Our members meet quarterly and participate in a large number of activities throughout the year. We provide a firing line for the DAR's Memorial Day program and the City of San Angelo's Veterans Day ceremonies at Fairmount Cemetery. Our members are participants in the local San Jacinto Battle Veterans Memorial, the Confederate Memorial Day program, and the annual Christmas at Old Fort Concho / Winter Rendezvous. Additionally, we participate in the annual Genealogy Fair and many of our members have been appointed to the Tom Green County Historic Honor Guard by the Commissioners Court. We are honored to present the colors at many local events. We are proud to report Chapter 310 is a recipient of the Texas Society's 2023 Gold Star Chapter Award, the MOS&B Outstanding Chapter Award, and is a 100% Retention Award recipient for the second straight year.

Our members have participated in restoration and repairs of historical markers on the courthouse lawn and other sites. Most recently a large delegation travelled to the small town of Christoval south of San Angelo where we rededicated a grey granite monument honoring the Confederate Reunion Grounds at Christoval. A history of the United Confederate Veteran camps and the thirty-plus years of reunions was presented. Following the site tour, we retreated from the 100+ degree heat to our business meeting at a local BBQ. Commander McMahon presented Texas Society service certificates to 15 members for a total of 205-years membership. We will offer in person and combined Zoom meetings in the near future for our members more than 4-hours away.

Our chapter officers are Commander David McMahon, Lt. Commander Steve Melton, and Adjutant James Putman. We welcome interest in the MOS&B and encourage new members to participate in our many activities. Contact us at: dmctx.mosbtx@gmail.com



CONFEDERATE REUNION GROUNDS—CHRISTOVAL Marker rededication. Left to right: Jim Kerbow (pending member), Rod Smith, Adjutant James Putman, Cmdr. David McMahon, Lt. Cmdr. Steve Melton, Mack Johnson and David M. Johnson.



ANNUAL SAGHS GENEALOGY FAIR – San Angelo: Chapter 310 members Steve Melton, David McMahon, and Charles Westbrook were among the volunteers at this popular event. This is a great event to share the word about the MOS&B and its great work.



I would like to thank Reunion Chairman, Guy Kirby and Commander Michael Gonzales of the Lt. Col. Andrew Jackson Nicholson Chapter 318 Temple, for this great idea to start a yearly reunion for all Military Order of the Stars and Bars members in the state Texas. The Temple Chapter will be the host chapter for this event with Kirby and Gonzales as the organizers.

This first gathering will take place on the April 20, 2024. The plans are to have 100 attendees, this will be MOS&B members with their spouses, children and grandchildren and also any prospective member is welcome.

This event is in the planning stages but mark your calendars for this date as it has been confirmed. More information will follow. I'm excited as this will be an event where our families will come together, socialize and get to know each other.



What Was The Motto of the Confederacy



'Deo vindice' at the base of the seal was the Confederate motto, loosely translated as 'God is our vindicator'.

Lt. Colonel Isacc E. Avery

By David Whitaker

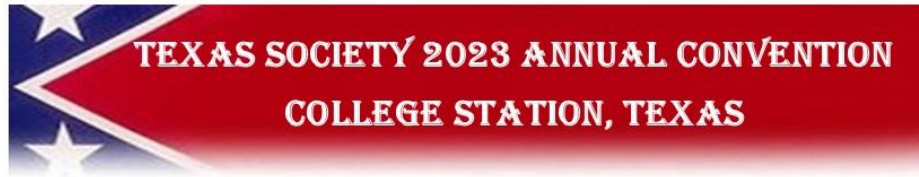


On July 3, 1863, 34 year old Lt. Colonel Isaac E. Avery of the 6th North Carolina State Troops died from mortal wounds received the previous day. Shot in the neck and partially paralyzed during the Battle of Gettysburg, he was unable to speak.

Colonel Avery fell while leading his men in an attack on Cemetery Hill. Avery had taken command of Colonel Robert F. Hoke's 21st North Carolina Infantry Regiment after Col. Hoke was himself wounded at Chancellorsville. Colonel Avery was actually leading both the 6th and the 21st. (My Great Great Grandfather King David Whitaker was in the 21st and was in this charge up Cemetery Hill).

Colonel Avery was the only one fighting on horseback when he was shot and he had to be carried from the field. Clutched in his hand was a small bloodstained piece of paper. Though right-handed, he was forced to write with his left hand. His letter said, "Major, tell my father that I died with my face to the enemy." This famous letter has become known as the letter from the dead.



A red banner with a white border and a white star in the top left corner. The text is in white, bold, serif font.

TEXAS SOCIETY 2023 ANNUAL CONVENTION
COLLEGE STATION, TEXAS



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.



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“Do your duty in all things.
You cannot do more, you
should never wish to do
less.”

Robert E. Lee