

Judges

If your press decides to participate in the John Esten Cooke Fiction Award competition, please submit one review copy of each book nominated to the following judges no later than **March 1st, 2025**.

Scott Bowden
PO Box 1343
Arlington, TX 76004

Harold Mills, Jr.
526 Rookery Lane
Fripp Island, SC 29920

Brett Bradshaw
108 Netherland Drive
Irmo, SC 29063-8891

Richard Whitten
PO Box 1244
Carrollton, GA 30112

The Military Order of the Stars and Bars is composed of male descendants of the Confederate officer corps, members of the Confederate Congress, or the elected or appointed members of the Executive Branch of the Confederate States government. Eligible applicants must be able to document that one of his ancestors, either lineal or collateral, served the Confederacy in one of the aforementioned categories of civil or military service.

For more information on membership, write to:

Military Order of the Stars and Bars
Post Office Box 697
Nixa, MO 65714

Previous Winners

2007 - *Devotion: A Novel based on the Life of Winnie Davis* by Julia Oliver

2008 - *Death of a Confederate Colonel: Civil War Stories & Novella*, by Pat Carr

2009 - *Call to Glory: The Life and Times of a Texas Ranger*, by Michael J. Gilhuly, MD

2010 - No award

2011 - *Noble Cause: A Novel of Love and War* by Jessica James

2012 - *Beyond the Wood* by Michael J. Roueche

2013 - *A Beautiful Glittering Lie* by Julie Hawkins

2014 - *Bright as Gold*, by Denise Weimer

2015 - *The Two Faces of Nina Grey* by Nancy B. Brewer

2017 - *A Rebel Among Us* by J.D.R. Hawkins

2018 - *Upon These Steps* by David C. Reavis

2019 - *The Lion of the South* by Jessica James, Gettysburg, PA.

2020 - *Lacewood: A Novel of Time and Place* by Jessica James, Gettysburg, PA.

2021 - *Runaway Haley: An Imagined Family Saga* by Dr. William A Thomas

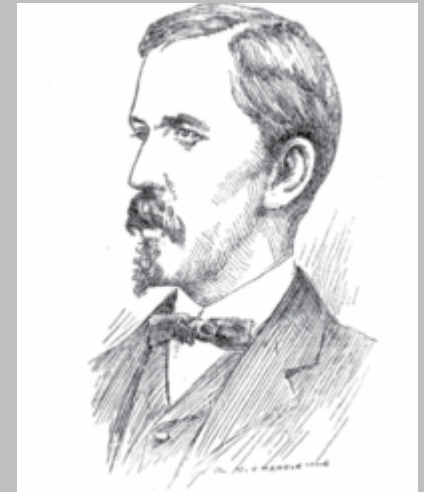
2022-*The Retribution Conspiracy: The Rise of the Confederate Secret Service* by Samuel W. Mitcham, Jr.

2023-*Double-Edged Sword: A Novel of Reconstruction* by J.D.R. Hawkins

2024 - "The Last Hardy Few" by Stephen Delos Wilson, published by The Scuppernong Press, Wake Forest, NC.

2025

John Esten Cooke Fiction Award



Sponsored by the
Military Order of the Stars and Bars

Rules

John Esten Cooke Fiction Award

Military Order of the Stars and Bars

Judges. The Cooke Fiction Award judges shall be appointed by the Commander General on a biennial basis. The committee members shall be polled by the chairman for their recommendation for the recipient of the annual award. In the event no entry receives a majority vote, the chairman shall place the top three nominees on a ballot and request the committee to vote for the winner.

The determination of the recipient shall be made no later than **March 25, 2025**. If no book meets the standards for the Cooke Fiction Award, no award will be given.

Acknowledgment. If the winning book goes to a second printing, it shall contain the acknowledgment that it was selected as the winner of the John Esten Cooke Fiction Award plus stating the year it was awarded.

Announcement of the Award. The chairman of the committee will announce the name of the winner on **April 1st**. The recipient of the award will be invited to attend the MOS&B General Convention May 29-June 1st, 2024, in Foley, AL.

Disposition of books submitted to the Committee. All books submitted to the Cooke Fiction Award Committee shall become the property of the individual members as a token of gratitude for the work performed.

The Military Order of the Stars and Bars

In 1938 a group of former officers of the Confederate States of America's Army met in Columbia, South Carolina and chartered the Military Order of the Stars and Bars. The MOS&B was founded as a historical, patriotic, educational, nonpolitical society whose main purpose was to commemorate the deeds of the Confederate officer corps.

The award is named after author John Esten Cooke. Cooke joined the Richmond Howitzers, an artillery unit raised at the time of John Brown's raid on Harpers Ferry in 1859. He became a sergeant after the unit mustered into Confederate service as Captain R. M. Anderson's Company, Virginia Light Artillery (1st Company Richmond Howitzers).

While fighting in the major eastern campaigns from the First Battle of Manassas (1861) to Appomattox Court House, Cooke continued to write prolifically. His Civil War diaries fill four notebooks, and his war dispatches appeared under the pseudonym Tristian Joyeuse, Gent., in Richmond's Southern Illustrated News.

Cooke's three Civil War novels Surry of Eagle's Nest; or The Memoirs of a Staff Officer Serving in Virginia (1866), Mohun; or, the Last Days of Lee and His Paladins (1869), and Hill to Hill; or, Days and Nights on the Banks of the Shenandoah in the Autumn of 1864 (1869) mixed imaginative scenes with historical military figures. Although he is recognized as one of the first writers to treat the Civil War in fiction, critics lament that he did not exploit his war experiences to explore the subject in more depth and with more forthrightness.

Award. The John Esten Cooke Fiction Award shall be given annually to encourage writers of fiction to portray characters and events dealing with the War Between the States, Confederate heritage or Southern history in an historical accurate fashion.

The winner shall receive a grant of \$1,000 and an engraved trophy denoting that he/she is the award recipient.

Submission of Books. All books to be submitted to the Cooke Award Committee by March 1, 2025.

Eligibility. Invitation to participate in the contest is extended to any person who has written a book length work of fiction between February 1, 2024 to February 1, 2025. All entries must be accompanied by a letter from the publisher stating the official date of publication. Also, each entry must be accompanied by a biographical sketch of the author.

Quality-Form-Length. The judges will consider the effectiveness of research, accuracy of statement, and excellence of style in selecting the winner. All entries must be book length.