



MILITARY ORDER of the STARS & BARS

1861



1865

The Confederate States America

Officers Call

VOLUME 16—NUMBER 3

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2024

General Nathan Bedford Forrest Boyhood Home Chapel Hill, Tennessee



National Life Member Henry Morales at the Forrest Boyhood Home.
Young Nathan Bedford Forrest was about the same age as Morales when he lived here.

Order of the Steel Magnolias



The order of Steel Magnolias honors the forgotten Casualties of the War Between the States, the women who survived this devastating tragedy. These women were left behind to pick up the pieces of their lives in a world that was forever changed. For nearly half a century, during and after the war, it was the Southern mothers, wives, sweethearts, and sisters who with steel in their spines, cared for broken husbands and sons, who were just a shell of the men who left. They labored like men, planting and harvesting crops, tending livestock, clothing their children, and simply surviving.

The Order of Steel Magnolias honors their grace, strength, and dignity.

The Order of the Steel Magnolias is extremely pleased to announce the formation of the Gallant Guard. Each of our Steel Magnolias certainly had one or more gallant men in their lives. Husband. Son. Father. Brother. Some came home to their beloved ladies, heartbreakingly, many did not. Gentlemen who are approved for OSM membership will be known as the Gallant Guard.

Gentlemen what a wonderful way to honor **"The Girl I left Behind Me"**! This is the perfect way to honor your female ancestor of your ancestor who served in the Confederate military. Limited to mothers, sisters, wives, daughters, aunts, sweethearts, and fiancés.

Founded June 28, 2018

The Steel Magnolias were those Southern women who struggled and fought daily to keep their homes and families together. They were the women who tended the wounded and buried the dead. We are the descendants of these noble and honorable women. Their hearts and souls are forever a part of us. They are more than worthy of our honor, recognition, and remembrance. They are the Steel Magnolias and they have left us a cherished legacy of courage, dignity, and honor. We must never forget them! Quote by Leslie Ann Kirk

Visit our web page for more information and an application form

<https://orderofthesteelmagnolias.weebly.com/>

We are on Facebook @ www.facebook.com/orderofthesteelmagnolias

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Officer's Call



Officer's Call

MOS&B Officer's Call, a leader among heritage magazines, is published quarterly, and is the Official Magazine of the Officers of the **Military Order of the Stars & Bars**

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Contents

Page 01: Nathan Bedford Forrest
Boyhood home

Page 03: Index
General Executive Council
Staff and Committee Chairmen
Publication Dates

Page 04: Commander General's Message

Page 06: John C. Breckenridge

Page 09: Past CnC Charles Smith
Stars & Bars Store

Page 09: Confederate War Graves (3 of 4)

Page 10: Diaries of John Taylor Wood (#1 of 4)

Page 12: Unknown Confederate Soldier's Prayer
Publication Deadlines

Page 13: Capt Henry Wirtz Memorial Service
Chapter #313 News

Page 14: Judah P. Benjamin Award to Gene Andrews

Page 15: Jefferson Davis Monument 100th Year

Page 16: 2024 NC Convention

Page 17: 2024 TN Annual Meeting

Page 18: 2025 National Convention Program - Memorials

Page 19: 2025 National Convention Registration Form

Page 20: GEC Meeting Information
2025 National Convention Information

Commander General's Message | Thomas B. Rhodes III



Commander General
Thomas B. Rhodes III, DCS
2024—2026

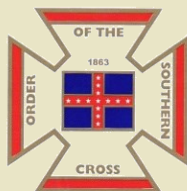
Compatriots:

I bring you greetings. I hope the summer is going well for you, your families, and your chapter members. This has been a scorcher to say the least. I feel sure that we all are looking forward to some cooler weather.

Time-tested best practices are often the best way for doing things. But remember that our conservative ideas were once controversial, cutting-edge, and innovative. This is why we cannot be afraid to experiment with new innovative ideas. Many of us have put in applications for our sons and grandsons, worked booths at reenactment events, and reached out to historical organizations to grow our membership. These attempts have worked but still fall short of our losses due to members passing.

The focus for my term on retention and recruitment must include outside the box recruitment ideas. We need to work with groups we usually don't consider as options when finding new members. Many of us during chapter meetings have even asked why are so many of the UDC member's husbands not part of our organization? Societies' leadership have asked why are we a last-minute thought by historical groups to bring greetings or taking part in one of their events? Some have asked why we are not approaching schools or home school programs to help in history programs or assemblies? Members have asked: "How do I approach someone that might become a member?" These are just a few of the questions that I hope the new Recruitment and Retention Committee will be addressing. I hope by putting this need to the forefront of our organization, that by growth, we can succeed against many of the attacks we are under during this present climate in our country. I am also asking all membership to look around and see how active you are in your community and what you are doing that shows the character of our organization.

continued on next page



THE SOCIETY OF THE ORDER OF THE SOUTHERN CROSS

Financial Assistance for Preservation Projects

The Order of the Southern Cross, founded in 1863 by Maj. Gen. Patrick Cleburne, Lt. Gen. Leonidas Polk, and Rev. Charles Quintard, was originally created to foster brotherhood and to provide financial assistance to the families of soldiers who had lost their lives in the service of the Confederacy.

The Order of the Southern Cross was re-established in 1979 as a philanthropic organization, dedicated to preserving our Southern Heritage through its Grants and Scholarship Programs. Since 1979, the Order has allocated more than \$1 million to these endeavors.

If your MOS&B Chapter or 501(c)3 organization is seeking financial assistance to help fund a Confederate preservation project, we encourage you to contact the Chairman of our Grants Committee, Richard Smoot, at respln@flash.net or visit our



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Officer's Call

This fall season many of you are involved in reenactments, planning for spring conferences, cleaning cemeteries, and performing memorial work. Please make sure your communities know about these efforts. Invite local leadership to join you in these efforts and celebrations. Many veterans' events occur in the late fall; so be sure to see how you can assist. The Sons of the American Revolution have kicked off their celebration of the 250th Anniversary of our Nation. I want to ask you: "Are not the concepts of a government by the people, states' rights, the constitution, and the concepts of a Constitutional Republic the same as the ones our forefathers fought for during the War Between the States?" So, are you involved with the SARs efforts to celebrate this important period of time? You don't need to be an SAR member, but by assisting them it clearly shows who we are.

Communication of shared efforts are so important to our efforts to grow our Order. The *Officer's Call* is one of our tools, but we have so many other ways to share. Army Commander's notes to the field, Society newsletters, and Chapter newsletters keep all that want to read an opportunity to learn from best practices. These communications allow us to highlight our successes. Hopefully even possibly motivate others to take on some of these activities in their own communities. However, there needs to be some detail in the steps of these best practices on the how-to and not just the finish. Consider this point when putting an article together. Our national website is another tool we have in place for communication of best practices. However, there are few documents in our archives that address the how-tos. Many of our members often feel they are working from scratch because the institutional knowledge of a chapter was not passed on. Can we not build an online section of our website of various how-tos? I believe we can.

We have our work cut out for us. I believe we have the ability within this Order to make it stand out in our local communities. I know that our leadership at all levels are working hard for the success of the Order. I just ask that we also look at other opportunities for us.

I know it seems like it is a little early to think about membership dues, but time flies and soon we will be collecting them for the coming year. I know my chapter starts collecting them in October and November. That way you have a head start of receiving them all in December. Remember, retention is just as important, if not more important, as recruiting. I know you will strive for 100% retention.

Finally, as you know, we have a most important election coming up in November. I have no doubt that you all plan to vote. Everyone is all focused of the presidential election which they should be, but we must not forget about all the other offices that will be on the ballot. We have national, state, county, and municipality offices to fill. It is especially important that we help put the right-minded candidate in these offices. I will not preach to you as we are all like-minded in this issue.

God Save Our Southland!

Commander General
Thomas B. Rhodes III, DCS
Military Order of the Stars & Bars

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We saved the historic house General James Longstreet used as his headquarters during the winter of 1863–64 from demolition and are developing it into a museum, (See www.longstreetmuseum.com), and historic Bethesda Church which was used as a hospital by both armies, and battlefield preservation.

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John Cabell Breckinridge

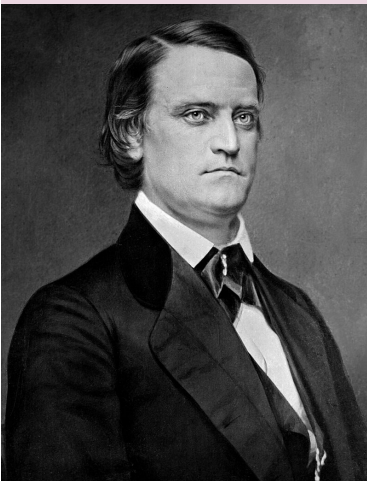
Kentucky's Favorite Son, Vice President, and Senator | Confederate General and Sec of War

By Adjutant Scott Barker |Generals Lee and Jackson Chapter #256, Salesville, Ohio

John Cabell Breckinridge and His Escape from Arrest and Persecution

May 1865 saw the fall of the Confederate government. Military forces of the Confederacy had surrendered, and their officers and rank-and-file disbanded and paroled. Still, the civil leaders of the Confederate government were subject to arrest, imprisonment, and possible execution as alleged traitors. Many civil leaders sought to escape the Union dragnet by either reaching the safety of the Department of Trans-Mississippi, where they hoped to reconstitute the Confederate government or seek exile outside the country. For most, escape had been futile, such as President Jefferson F. Davis and Vice-President Alexander H. Stephens, who had been taken into custody and imprisoned. Others, such as Judah P. Benjamin, who had variously served as Attorney General, Secretary of War, and Secretary of State, escaped and lived in foreign exile. Although many government members had eluded capture, Secretary of War and Major General John Cabell Breckinridge's escape was to be an especially harrowing adventure.

Kentucky's Favorite Son, Vice President, and Senator



USA Vice President
John C. Breckinridge (1860)

Breckinridge descended from one of Kentucky's most prominent and illustrious families and distinguished himself through service in the Mexican-American War and politics. An unsuccessful candidate on the Southern Democrat Party ticket for the presidency of the United States, finishing second in a four-man race in the election of 1860, he carried eleven states and received seventy-two electoral votes. Still, at thirty-six, Breckinridge is the youngest-ever vice president in the history of the United States. Moreover, in his earlier political career, he saw service in the Kentucky legislature and both houses of the United States Congress from Kentucky. He was educated in Kentucky, receiving his Bachelor of Arts from Centre College in Danville and his Bachelor of Law from Transylvania University in Lexington. Moreover, he was a "resident graduate" at the College of New Jersey, now Princeton University.

While serving as James Buchanan's vice president, he met with President-Elect Lincoln to avert the secession crisis and supported compromise to avoid the impending conflict; moreover, being a cousin of the First Lady, Mary Todd Lincoln, he had often been a guest of the Lincoln family. As president of the U.S. Senate, he announced his political opponent's victory in the electoral college's vote. Likewise, he administered the oath of office to his vice-presidential successor, Hannibal Hamlin. His term in the Senate began on March 3, 1861, when seven states had already seceded. The Senate considered Breckinridge a traitor because he believed in the constitutionality of secession, his sympathies with the Southern Confederacy, and his resistance to Abraham Lincoln's unconstitutional suppression of rights. Breckinridge was the only member of the Senate to vote against a resolution allowing Lincoln access to government resources for the duration of the war. Breckinridge, the second former vice president to be accused of treason, after Aaron Burr, departed for the Confederate capital at Richmond, Virginia, where he offered his services when he learned the Lincoln administration would soon arrest him.

Confederate General

In November 1861, Breckinridge received a brigadier general's commission in the Confederate States Army and was appointed to command the First Kentucky Brigade. The U.S. Senate expelled him in absentia on December 2, 1861. He engaged in many significant battles in the Western and Eastern Theaters of War and was twice wounded on the battlefield. His exceptional performance at the Battle of Shiloh resulted in his advancement to major general on April 14, 1862. In addition to Shiloh, he participated in many of the war's battles, including Murfreesboro, Vicksburg, Chickamauga, the Wilderness, and in the Shenandoah Valley. Most notably, he defeated Union Major General Franz Sigel at the May 15, 1864, Battle of New Market, where his forces included the cadet corps of the Virginia Military Institute, forcing Sigel's army to retreat across the Shenandoah River, allowing Confederate forces to reinforce the Army of Northern Virginia north of Richmond. Still, his involvement in organizing Kentucky's provisional Confederate government had prompted the state's admission into the Confederacy.

Confederate Secretary of War

On February 6, 1865, following the earlier resignation of Secretary of War James A. Seddon, President Davis appointed Breckinridge to succeed Seddon as the Confederacy's fifth secretary of war. Upon his appointment, he promptly created the post of General-in-Chief of the Confederate Army, which immediately went to Robert E. Lee. Being a pragmatist, Breckinridge recognized that at this stage of the war, a negotiated peace was in the South's best interest and urged Davis to seek peace.

Lee informed Breckinridge on April 2 that the defensive position at Petersburg would be abandoned that evening, allowing the capture of the Confederate capital. Breckinridge oversaw Richmond's evacuation and the rail transfer of the Confederate government to Danville. During the evacuation, he ensured the destruction of military stores and other materials that would be of value to the Union. Moreover, he was responsible for preserving the official records of the Confederate government for posterity.

After visiting Lee at Farmville, Virginia, on April 5-7, he learned that the Army of Northern Virginia would soon surrender; at this point, Breckinridge, with a detachment of cavalry and \$150,000 in gold species, set out to join government officials in Danville. Between April 17-18, he assisted General Joseph E. Johnston in surrender negotiations with Major General William T. Sherman at Bennett Place, North Carolina. The surrender of the Army of Tennessee was signed on April 26 and Sherman later praised Breckinridge's negotiating skills. After the surrender, Breckinridge traveled to Abbeville, South Carolina, where on April 28, he and another Kentuckian, Brigadier General Basil W. Duke, convinced Davis that continuing the war was hopeless. The Confederate archives were left in Charlotte, North Carolina, with instructions to surrender them to an officer of the Union Army.

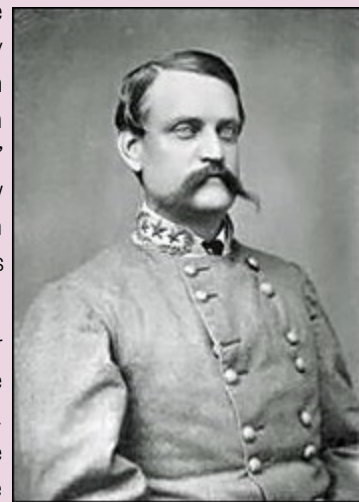
On May 4, while in Washington, Georgia, Breckinridge dismissed the War Department, and Davis dissolved the Confederate government on May 5. After paying back wages equaling twenty-six dollars in gold to each member of the twenty-five hundred-man cavalry escort, several requisitions, and withdrawing a thousand dollars to finance an escape attempt, the remainder of the treasury was deposited in Washington, Georgia, banks. After dispersing the treasury funds, Breckinridge leads a force of Confederate cavalry when he encounters a large force of Union cavalry. Now, at this stage of hostilities, not wanting to spill further blood, he and a few of his supporters rode away, sending back a note to the Confederate cavalry to surrender and be paroled.

Fugitive and Refugee

Under indictment for treason, Breckinridge sought to flee the United States and recorded the escape events in his diary. He dismissed the military escort except for a small group of Kentucky and Tennessee soldiers who chose to participate as a diversionary force to mislead Union patrols away from Davis's attempted escape. The escape proceeded southward through Georgia towards Florida. During the escape, Breckinridge adopted the alias "Colonel Cabell" and later disguised himself by removing his prominent mustache, wearing a large floppy straw hat and a faded blue shirt. He continued to elude Union troops while simultaneously creating a diversion to allow President Davis to evade capture. On May 14, Breckinridge learned of Davis's capture approximately fifty miles from the Florida border in Irwinville, Georgia, on May 10.

On May 15, the refugees had the good fortune to encounter a fellow refugee and former Confederate naval captain and army colonel John Taylor Wood in Madison, Florida: Wood is the grandson of former President Zachary Taylor and grandnephew of President Jefferson Davis. Wood had been traveling with Davis when captured and bribed a guard to escape. He joined the group, which now consisted of Breckinridge, Colonel James Wilson; Tom Ferguson, the general's slave; and two paroled Confederate soldiers, Sergeant Joseph O'Toole and Corporal Richard Russell, who were helping the others in the escape. The six men continued south, hoping to reach The Bahamas.

In Gainesville, Florida, the refugees found Confederate Captain John Jackson Dickson, whom Union soldiers nicknamed "Dixie." Dickson, popularly known as the "Confederate Swamp Fox," had commanded a band of partisan raiders in northeastern Florida. He gave the escape party a seventeen-foot lifeboat equipped with a small mast he had taken from the U.S.S. Columbine, a Union gunboat. The refugees continued south with the lifeboat on the St. Johns River, a twenty-eight-mile wagon portage to the Indian River, and the river inlet to the Atlantic coast.



CSA Major General Breckinridge

Officer's Call

A Union steamer near present-day Palm Beach spotted them on June 5. The quick-thinking Wood convinced the steamer's crew that they had been paroled and were hunters scavenging the coast for turtle eggs, which they traded to Union sailors for food and tobacco. Thus, they continued with their escape plan. Still, the small craft, unable to navigate the strong winds of the Atlantic Ocean, remained near the shore until June 7, when they encountered a bigger boat at New River, present-day Fort Lauderdale, crewed by three Union deserters; the refugees highjacked it at gunpoint and compensated its crew with their old boat and twenty dollars in gold.

Sailing south to Fort Dallas, which served as a trading post at present-day Miami, they encountered Union and Confederate deserters, some Seminoles, and some runaway slaves, with whom they engaged in a firefight. Once the hostilities had ended, Sergeant O'Toole volunteered to negotiate for supplies. O'Toole successfully obtained supplies from the desperadoes, and the group set sail for The Bahamas. Soon afterward, a schooner alerted by the desperadoes engaged the refugees in pursuit through Biscayne Bay, firing at them with a canon. The pursuit ended when the refugees exited their boat and dragged it across the corral reef. Now covered with cuts and abrasions from the sharp corral the group continued towards The Bahamas.

Due to unfavorable winds, a change in destination was made, diverting their course from The Bahamas toward Cuba. En route to Cuba, a gale hit the refugees near Key Largo, capsizing their boat, nearly resulting in Wood being lost at sea and leaving the men without food or water. A passing merchant ship, the U.S. Neptune, was hailed and reprovisioned the group with a keg of water and some hardtack.

The refugees arrived in Cardenas, Cuba, on June 12, where Breckinridge was recognized by a Kentuckian living there. They were given housing and provisions and celebrated as heroes. Later, they traveled to Havana, where they met Charles J. Helm, a Kentuckian and consul general and special agent for the Confederate government in Havana, with whom he later accompanied to Great Britain. Still, the escape odyssey had taken a toll on Breckinridge's health. He had endured countless mosquito bites, sleep deprivation, starvation, exposure, and physical exhaustion, all of which manifested themselves in his sickly and disheveled appearance as well as affecting his health.

Breckinridge returned to the North American continent via Toronto in 1868 and lived in Niagara, Canada, where he re-established contact with his family. On December 25, 1868, President Andrew Johnson proclaimed an amnesty for all former Confederates, and Breckinridge returned to Lexington on March 9, 1869, and later resumed his law practice.

Death, Recognition, and Abandonment

John Cabell Breckinridge died on May 17, 1875, following surgery for injuries he had sustained in the war. Basil Duke led the funeral procession to Lexington Cemetery, where Breckinridge was buried. In 1887, the Commonwealth of Kentucky fully funded the construction of a bronze memorial monument statue dedicated to one of its favorite sons. The statue stood for 130 years on its granite plinth, first at the Old Lexington Courthouse and then at the adjacent Cheapside Park until October 17, 2017. The statue, which had been recorded on the National Register of Historic Places twenty years earlier as part of the Civil War Monuments of Kentucky, had been erected and dedicated to the political leadership and military service of the famous son of the Bluegrass State.

Unfortunately, in this era of wokeness and cancel culture, the mayor of Lexington, Kentucky, had been convinced by the Urban County Arts Review Board, at the instigation of a black group known as Take Back Cheapside, to remove the Breckinridge statue from Cheapside Park. The statue was relocated to the Lexington Cemetery. Cheapside Park was renamed Henry A. Tandy Centennial Park in honor of a former slave, African American entrepreneur, building contractor, and businessman.

Selected Bibliography

This bibliography partially records many of the works and sources I have consulted. It indicates the substance, range, and reading upon which I have formed my ideas, and I intend it to serve as a convenience for those who wish to study the life of John Cabell Breckinridge.

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Past Commander in Chief Charles Smith



MOSB Member #1671 Charles Herbert Smith October 12, 1934 - June 22, 2024, age 89, of Yukon, went to be with the Lord on June 22, 2024. He was born on October 12, 1934, in Sabetha, KS, to Lloyd Burton and Vera Mina (Shellhammer) Smith. The family later moved to Coyle, OK. Charles graduated from Coyle High School. He went on to attend Oklahoma A&M earning a degree in fine arts and obtaining his pilot's license. While at A&M, he participated in ROTC, and he went on to become an officer in the U.S. Army. After the Army, he returned to Coyle and opened an art studio. He also served as a constable for the city and as a Logan County deputy. In the early 60s, he moved to Oklahoma City to work for the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) as an illustrator. He later retired from the FAA after 27 years.

In 1966, he was introduced to Carolyn Holliman, and the two fell in love. They were married on April 27, 1967. Following his career with the FAA, he opened his own business, CSA Graphic Communicators. He later served as the Executive Director of the Oklahoma Rifle Association. Charlie was a skilled artist and worked in many different mediums. He was also an avid outdoorsman, enjoying fishing, hunting, and shooting. He was a student of history, especially Civil War and WWII history, and was a member of the Sons of Confederate Veterans. Charles received Christ as a young man in college. He was baptized in 2019 at his church home of Canadian Valley Baptist in Yukon. Charles is preceded in death by his parents, sister Patsy Ruth Rosson and her husband Kent Rosson; brother LB "Mike" Smith; and son-in-law Brandon John Booth. He is survived by his wife of 57 years, Carolyn, son Charles M.B. Smith of Yukon, daughter Michelle Booth and granddaughter Morgan Booth of Mustang, sister-in-law Naoma Smith of Coyle, many nieces and nephews, and many great friends. Public visitation will be held on Thursday, June 27th, from 1-8pm at McNeil's Funeral Service. Funeral services will take place at Canadian Valley Baptist Church on Friday, June 28th, at 10am. Graveside services were held at 2pm at the Coyle Cemetery in Coyle, OK



Stars and Bars Store



The **MOS&B Online Store** now has three sizes of lapel pins. In addition to our standard one inch pin, we now offer a medium sized three-quarter inch pin and a small half-inch pin. The medium and small pins can also double as tie tacks.

We also recently received a shipment of new GEC Eagles which are a great improvement over the old ones. The new Eagles have a more secure two push pin connectors on the back.

Visit **Stars and Bars Store** online: <http://www.militaryorderofthestarsandbars.net/store/> and check out our selections of **MOS&B** items. Most items are shipped on the same or next business day.



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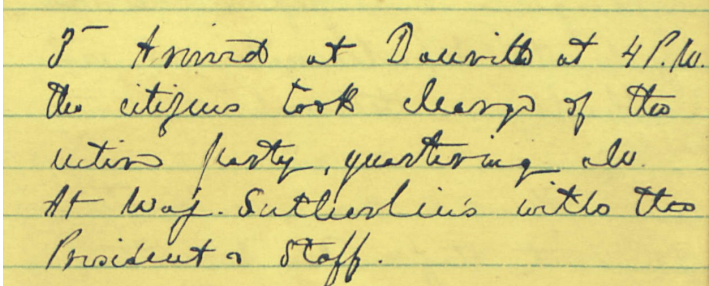
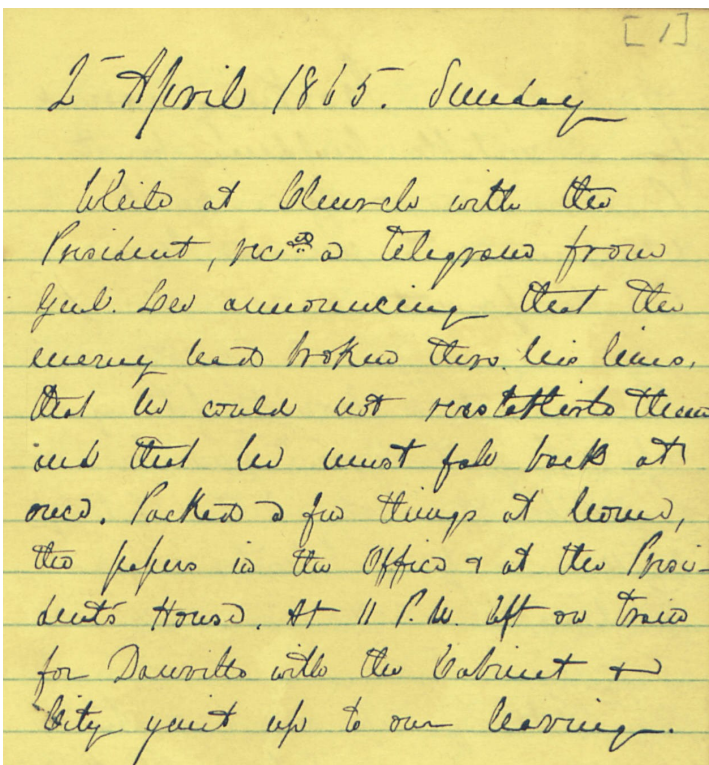
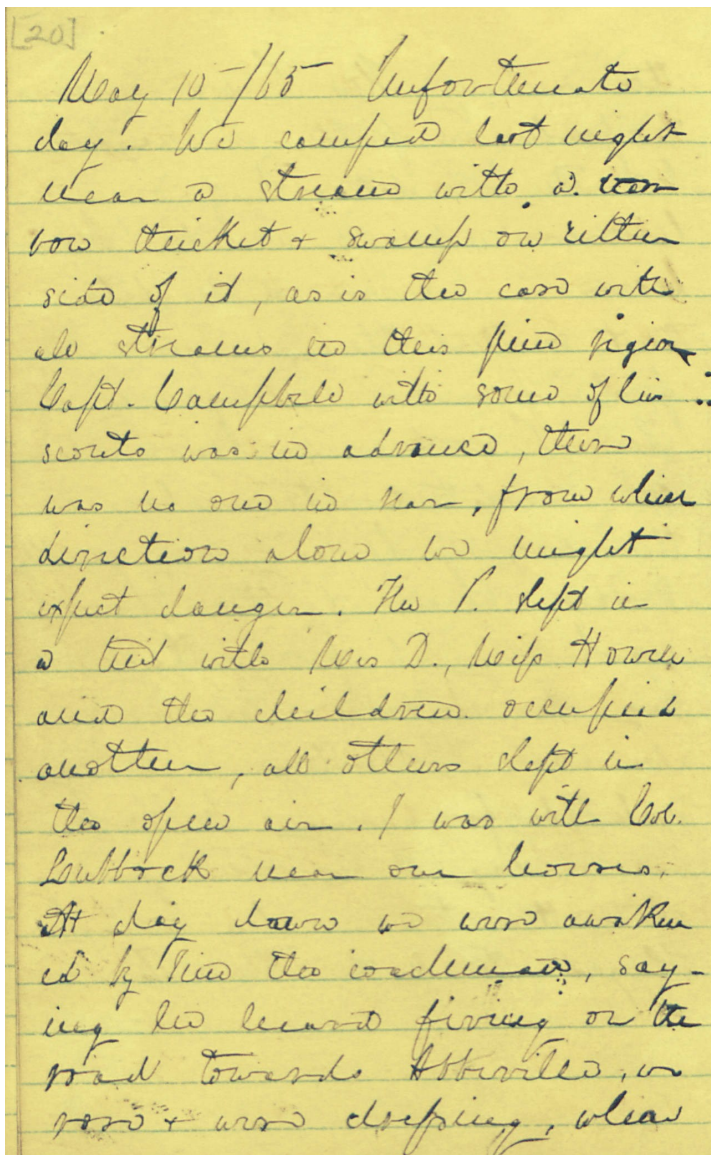
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The Diaries of John Taylor Wood
Capt CSA, Col CSA, CSS Virginia and CSS Tallahassee
 by the Rev. Dr. W. Becket Soule, Major General W H C Whiting Chapter #305

John Taylor Wood (1830-1904), grandson of Zachary Taylor and nephew of Jefferson Davis, was a United States and Confederate naval officer. He was a lieutenant serving aboard CSS *Virginia* when it engaged USS *Monitor* in 1862; in August 1864, Wood commanded CSS *Tallahassee*, a Confederate commerce raider and blockade runner, capturing an astonishing 33 Union ships during a ten-day period off the coast of New England.

Three diaries of John Taylor Wood are in the Southern Historical Collection at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. The first covers from 1 January 1860 to 10 January 1861, while Wood was teaching at the United States Naval Academy in Annapolis. The entries were written at Annapolis, at the farm "Strawberry Hill," at Elk Ridge, and at Woodland; Wood also records visits to Washington and Baltimore. The diary contains an account of personal and family life, domestic activities, the move from Strawberry Hill to Annapolis, farm activities, notice of political events, events at the Academy, a description of the Baltimore Convention in June, the visit of the steamship *Great Eastern* in August, a trip to St. Paul and Minneapolis by rail and river in August.



The second diary was written at Annapolis from 11 January 1861 through 6 September 1861, and later at Strawberry Hill, Elk Ridge, Woodland, after he had both resigned and been dismissed from the U. S. Naval Academy. This volume is largely concerned with political and military developments in the country day to day, preparations for war, the presence of troops in Annapolis, speculations about the future, arrangements for the living and safety of Wood's family and possessions, and local excitement over war news. He attended the inauguration in Washington on 4 March 1861.

Officer's Call

[27]
one one of his carriage horses
followed by his staff & a squadron
of the enemy. I watched him
as he rode off. Sad fate.
I understood afterwards that he
was very anxious for his favorite
horse Kentucky, but some one
had stolen him & he could
not be recovered, with him I
think he could have escaped.
Sometimes after their departure I
saw some one leading two or three
down a horse into the swamp &
recognized A. Bonwick of our unit
who also escaped as I did, the
Judge Rogers Col. Blanton I
think attempted it. Searching
the horses, we picked up from
the debris of the camp parts of
two saddles & bridles & with some
padding & tying filled out

Wood's third diary is not much larger than an index card: a little bit over 3x5 inches, and perhaps an inch thick. The cover is black leather, and there is a small tab that can be inserted into the front cover to secure it. On the front inside cover, written in pencil, is "John Taylor Wood Vol. 3 #2381"; this was clearly written at UNC when the Woods papers were received and accessioned in 1941. On the first page is written, in ink, "J. Taylor Wood / Havana / June 14/65." Wood arrived in Cardenas, Cuba, along with Former [US] Vice President and Confederate Secretary of War John C. Breckenridge, on the morning of 11 June 1865, a harrowing and desperate month after the capture of President Davis in Georgia. Wood and Breckenridge made the seventy-five mile journey to Havana by private railway car on 12 June, and were entertained on the evening of 14 June by the Captain General of Cuba, Domingo Dulce y Garay, along with Charles J. Helm, the former Confederate agent in the West Indies. During that dinner, Dulce graciously offered asylum to Wood and Breckenridge. If this diary was purchased on the date written on the front cover, it must have been bought the day that the weary travellers went to Dulce's country estate.

The first entry in the diary is for Sunday, 2 April 1865, and begins, "Went to Church with the President, rec^{ed} a telegram from Genl Lee announcing that the enemy had broken thru his lines, that he could not reestablish them and that he must fall back at once." Confederate President Jefferson Davis was sitting in his customary pew at St. Paul's Episcopal Church in Richmond, Virginia. As Charles Minnigerode preached a sermon on the Last Supper, one of the sextons delivered a sealed telegram from General Robert E. Lee, then some twenty-five miles to the south defending Petersburg: "I advise that all preparation be made for leaving Richmond tonight." Davis remained seated for a moment as he read the contents of the note, then rose and walked down

the center aisle and out of the church. Several minutes later, as Minnigerode began the Holy Communion, the sexton approached several other high-level Confederate officials, who quickly exited the church as well. The congregation noticed that something important was happening, and it likely wasn't good.

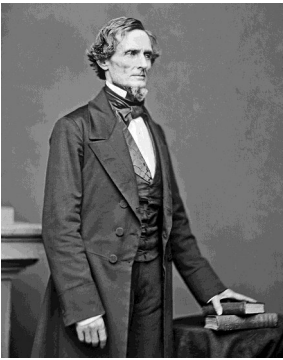
The telegram was actually the second one Davis had received that morning. Just before attending church, he'd been handed a message from Lee that stated, "I see no prospect of doing more than holding our position here till night. I am not certain I can do that. I advise that all preparation be made for leaving Richmond tonight." For reasons unknown, Davis continued to St. Paul's; the second telegram, the one mentioned by Wood in his diary, drove Davis to action.

As President Davis' aide-de-camp, Wood was present for almost all of Davis' activity for the next few weeks; he recorded events until he reached 10 May, where he began the entry with the words, "Unfortunate Day." He described in some detail the capture of President Davis, noting that "This attempted escape in disguise I regret exceedingly, only Mrs D's distress could ever have induced him to adopt it." Written about a month after the events, Wood only mentions a "disguise" (which he had earlier called "a gown & hood," making it seem almost academic); it shows no sign of describing, or refuting, the Northern calumny that Davis tried to escape in a hoop skirt.

Wood then describes his own escape:

"Seeing that there was no chance for the P. I determined to make the effort & so told Judge R[eagan] & Col Lubbock, asking them to take charge of my saddle bags and clothes which I would have. I walked around the camp some time before an opportunity presented, the Yankees in the meantime plundering the wagons, which they supposed contained treasure & this is one reason why they had followed us too closely. One of them attempted to steal my watch, but I

Officer's Call



President Jefferson F. Davis



Captain John Taylor Wood



Sec of State Judah P. Benjamin

saved it. However, before I left a guard was put over the wagons & stop nearly to the pilfering. Scanning the countenances of the enemy I at last selected one that I thought would answer my purpose & asked him to go to the swamp with me, hesitating, he did so & after waiting a little while returned towards camp telling me to follow when I was ready, stopping him, I said that I did not wish to return, that I would give him half of what was in my purse if he would let me remain, he consented and I gave him \$40 in gold. Creeping a little further into the swamp I law concealed for about three hours in the most painful position, sometimes moving a few yards almost “ventro a terre” to escape notice for I was within hearing of the camp on either side of the stream & often when they came down for water or to water their horses I was within a few yards of them. The wagons moved off first, then the bugles sounded and the P. started off on one of his carriage horses followed by his staff & a squadron of the enemy. I watched him as he rode off. Sad fate. ... Some time after their departure, I saw some one leading two abandoned horses into the swamp and recognized Lt Barnwell of our escort who alone escaped as I did, tho Judge Reagan & Col Johnston I think attempted it. Secreting the horses, we picked up from the debris of the camp, parts of two saddles & bridles & with some patching & tying, fitted out our horses, two as sad & war worn animals as ever man best rode. Hungry & tired we gave a Mr. Fenn the remains of the camp for a dinner, he lived a mile distant at Irwinville, the county seat of Irwin Co. At first, we were taken for Yankees and consequently treated with more consideration. He recommended us to Widow Poulk ten miles distant, an old lady rich in cattle alone. Here we spent the night. I saved my haversack & all it contained, my overcoat & a small derringer pistol, that I picked up in camp, just on leaving, it had belonged either to the P. or to Judge R.”

The following day, Wood and Barnwell met up with Judah P. Benjamin, Confederate Secretary of State, travelling incognito as “*alias* Bonfal,” speaking only French. Wood assumed, quite correctly, that Federal troops were looking for high ranking Confederate refugees, and hurried south to Florida where he believed that a ship had been retained for President Davis to leave.

While I hope to write more about Wood’s diaries and adventures, I would close by noting the indescribable and unparalleled thrill I had when I opened the actual diaries for the first time, holding in my hand the original chronicle of my ancestor, in his own remarkably legible handwriting. We often forget that most soldiers and sailors in The War were literate, and wrote letters frequently: we can still hear them clearly even now, in their own voice.

ARTICLE 1 of a 4-part series presented by the Rev. Dr. W. Becket Soule of Major General W H C Whiting Chapter #305.



An Unknown Confederate Soldier's Prayer

I asked God for strength that I might achieve.

I was made weak that I might learn humbly to obey.

I asked for health that I might do greater things.

I was given infirmity that I might do better things.

I asked for riches that I might be happy.

I was given poverty that I might be wise.

I asked for power that I might have the praise of men.

I was given weakness that I might feel the need of God.

I asked for all things that I might enjoy life.

I was given life that I might enjoy all things.

I got nothing that I asked for, but everything I hoped for.

Almost despite myself, my unspoken prayers were answered.

I am, among all men, most richly blessed.



Publication Deadlines

The deadline to submit material for future publication:

Officer's Call

Is published quarterly with these PUBLICATION DEADLINES:

Spring Edition

March 1

Summer Edition

June 1st

Fall Edition

September 1st

Winter Edition

December 1st

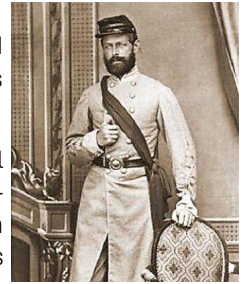
PLEASE EMAIL ARTICLES AND CAPTIONED PHOTOS TO:

editor.mosb@gmail.com

Capt Henry Wirz Memorial Service

November 10, 2024—2:00 p.m.—Andersonville, Georgia

The 49th annual Capt. Henry Wirz Memorial Service will be held in the town of Andersonville, Georgia on Sunday afternoon, November 10, 2024 at 2:00 p.m. In case of inclement weather, the Service will be held in the Old Village Hall in Andersonville. The public is invited to attend. The Annual Memorial Service is sponsored by the Alexander H. Stephens SCV Camp 78 in Americus, Georgia.



Captain Henry Wirz



Guest speaker for the Service will be National SCV Chaplain-in-Chief Gary Carlyle from Guntersville, Alabama. He is Past Division Commander of the Alabama SCV.

Capt. Henry Wirz, Commandant of Andersonville Prison Camp for 14 months, was hanged on November 10, 1865, after a trial in Washington, D. C. Many historians

Below: Mt. Olivet Cemetery, Washington DC | Above: Wirz execution, near US Capitol Bldg



have said it was the most unfair trial ever held in the United States. Afterwards, the barbaric Yankees cut his head, arms, and legs off and exhibited the bones about the country. It took his attorney four years to get enough of the bones back to have a burial in Mount Olivet Cemetery in Washington. To this day, some of his bones are on PUBLIC EXHIBIT



A replica of the CSS Hunley Submarine will be on exhibit; provided by Georgia SCV. 9th Brigade Commander Jack Cowart .

at a museum in Maryland.

Please come to the Memorial Service on November 10th and show your support to the memory of a man who gave his life for our Southern Independence Cause. **For more information call/text James Gaston (229-938-9115) or email gaston7460@bellsouth.net**, a member of the Admiral Semmes MOSB Chapter in Columbus, Georgia.



BG Mark Perrin Lowrey Chapter 313
Corinth, Mississippi



members who attended the 128th Annual Reunion of the Mississippi Division SCV.



Mike Moore, Dennis Brown, Dwight Johnson, Sammy Mardis, and Grover Finn (non-member). Also attending from Chapter 313, but not pictured were: Conor Bond, Stan Howell, and Chuck Landry.

Important Notice

Are you a **MOS&B** member who receives our quarterly magazine, **Officer's Call**, sent by US Mail, but do not also receive our monthly electronic newsletter, the **Commander General's Bulletin**? This indicates that we do not have your current email address on file.

We want to keep you informed and request that your email address be updated by sending your current email address to:

mosbdirector1938@gmail.com

Judah P. Benjamin Award to Gene Andrews

MOS&B—Highest Non-member Award

GEC members presented the MOS&B Judah P. Benjamin Award to Mr. Gene Andrews at the annual Homecoming at the LTG Nathan Bedford Forrest Boyhood Home. Mr. Andrews has been the essential leader that has transformed the remote, old country home of the Forrest family into a fitting memorial befitting the great CSA General. Fundraising is underway to erect a substantial museum and meeting facility on-site.



l—r: Chief of Staff Herb Turner, AOT Commander Chris Heuer, Adjutant General Mike Moore, Gene Andrews, Lt. Commander General Terry Phillips. Also in attendance but not pictured were: Executive Director Jon Trent, AOT Executive Councilor Stan Howell, and Mississippi Society Lt. Commander Dwight Johnson.

BG Mark Perrin Lowrey Chapter 313 members visit Franklin, Tennessee and the LTG Nathan Bedford Forest Boyhood Home, Chapel Hill, Tennessee.

After a hot day at the Forrest Homecoming our group had a relaxing lunch and libations at the Hop House Tennessee Taps in Franklin.



MOSB members gather for a huge meal and fellowship after a great day at the Forrest Homecoming and touring Franklin, TN. Clockwise from bottom L: Mike Moore, Chris Heuer, Herb Turner, Herb's grandson Henry Morales, Charlene Turner, Delinda Phillips, Terry Phillips, Sonya Trent (obscured), Jon Trent, Stan Howell, Sherry Howell, Krissie Heuer, Tammy Johnson, Dwight Johnson. Laura Moore took the picture.



AOT Executive Councilor and Mississippi Society Commander Stan Howell, Mississippi Society Lt. Commander Dwight Johnson.



Lt. Commander General Terry Phillips, Adjutant General Mike Moore.



AOT Commander Chris Heuer, Executive Director Jon Trent.

Jefferson Davis Monument Fairview, Kentucky

100th Anniversary

CSA President Jefferson Davis was born on June 3, 1808 in Fairview, Kentucky, the site of a Memorial Monument dedicated on June 3, 1924, in his honor and loving memory. The idea of the monument was presented by CSA General Simon Bolivar Buckner, Sr. during a reunion of the Orphan Brigade in 1907. Work was suspended because of material shortages during WWI, and resumed in January 1922 and was completed in 1924.

Set on limestone bedrock and limestone quarried on the site, the concrete walls are 8.5 feet thick at the base and taper to 2.5 feet thick at the top. A steel framework reinforces the top pyramid structure.

The Monument is the tallest unreinforced concrete structure in the world. No steel was used to reinforce the concrete walls. It is the fifth tallest monument in the US, behind the Gateway Arch (630 feet), San Jacinto Monument (567 feet), Washington Monument (555 feet), and Perrys Victory and International Peach Memorial (352 feet).

Outside the US, only the Great Pyramid of Giza (Egypt), Khafre's Pyramid (Egypt), Spring Temple Buddha (China), and Ushiku Daibutsu (Japan) are taller Monuments.

PRESIDENT DAVIS'S CAREER Entering West Point in 1825, he left the military in 1835 and married Sarah Knox Taylor, daughter of General and future President Zachary Taylor. She died the same year. Davis was elected to the U.S. House of Representatives in 1845 but resigned the following year to command the "Mississippi Rifles" in the Mexican War. From 1847 to 1851 he served as a U.S. senator. As secretary of war for President Franklin Pierce (1853-1857) he

strengthened the Army and coast defenses, directed railroad surveys, and supervised the enlarging of the U.S. Capitol and the construction of a water viaduct in Washington, D.C. He re-entered the Senate in 1857 and was recognized as a spokesman for the South. When Mississippi seceded, Davis resigned and accepted command of Mississippi's military forces. Hoping to be appointed commander of all southern armies, he found himself instead elected president of the Confederate States. Davis died December 6, 1889 in New Orleans and is buried in Hollywood Cemetery in Richmond, Virginia.



2024 Convention of the NC Confederate Officers Society of the Military Order of Stars and Bars

The 2024 Convention of the NC Confederate Officers Society of the Military Order of Stars and Bars hosted by the Garnett-Pettigrew Chapter 67 was held today at their Monticello Headquarters in Brown Summit, North Carolina.

I would like to thank everyone who joined us and regret that so many were not able to make it. More details about the convention for those who could not join us in the next issue of "Farthest to the Front". Our Society did vote to provide annual support to the J.E.B Stuart Preservation Trust and to make a donation to the Confederate Museum in Elm Springs at the Headquarters of the Sons of Confederate Veterans in Columbia, Tennessee. There was a report on the National Convention by ANV Commander Dave Edwards and Treasurer General Howard Talley which included recognition of chapters and members with National Awards.



Front l-r: Tom Bello, Howard Talley, Ron Perdue, Dave Edwards, and Becket Soule. Back l-r: Ronnie Roach, Robbie Broyles, Hal Swaim, Rodney Williams, John Martin, Larry Brown, Terry Brady, and Dwain Roberts.



Sandra Lumley

We would like to thank Ms. Sandra Lumley for bringing greetings as Vice President of the North Carolina Division on the behalf of the United Daughters of the Confederacy. On behalf of Lt. Commander Robbie Broyles and myself, we are honored to be re-elected as Lt. Commander and Commander of the NC Society by the members present at the Convention. Past Commander General Byron Brady took the pictures.

Thank you to everyone who traveled several miles to join us. A special thanks to everyone for all you do for the preservation of our history and for honoring our heritage.



Commander Barney Roberts, of the 47th Regiment NC Troops SCV Camp 166, Wake Forest, spoke to Captain Waddell Chapter 32, Raleigh, NC, on *The Lt. Norwood letter and the great beefsteak Raid*.



Frank Powell, III, Past Commander of the Captain Waddell Chapter 32, Raleigh, NC, who is the winner of the 2024 National MOS&B Basil Duke Award for the best reprint of Confederate History. Compatriot Powell also edits *The Confederate Veteran* magazine.



SCV CIC Jason Boshers presenting the Stephen Dill Lee Award to Sara Powell, immediate Past President of the North Carolina UDC and a friend of the NC Society MOS&B. Sara is the wife of Past Division Commander and current *Confederate Veteran* Editor Frank B. Powell, III, a member of the Captain James I. Waddell Chapter 32, Raleigh. This award is the highest award that can be given to a non-member of the SCV

Ronald Lee Perdue DCS, Commander | NC Confederate Officers Society | Military Order of Stars and Bars

Tennessee Society holds Initial Meeting at Forrest's Boyhood Home

The Reorganized Tennessee Society MOS&B held it's first meeting at General NB Forrest's Boyhood Home on June 15, 2024. The



Interim Officers (2022-24) Lt. Commander Jason Boshers, Commander H. Edward Phillips, and Adjutant David Pope.

Society is comprised of five Chapters: Shy-Smith Chapter #14, Nashville; McClung-Gallaher Chapter #135, Knoxville; Lt. Dabney M. Scales Chapter 141, Memphis; Quarles Brigade #319, Clarksville; Senator Haynes-Captain Brown,



Members present:

(l-r): David Daniels, Jason Boshers, Rick Hollis, Edward Phillips, Jason Baker, and David Pope.



Several General Executive Council Members joined the Tennessee Members for the initial meeting: (l-r): Executive Director Jon Trent, Chief of Staff Herb Turner, Adjutant General Mike Moore, David Daniels, Jason Boshers, Rick Hollis, Edward Phillips, Lt. Commander Terry Phillips, AOT Executive Councilor/Mississippi Society Commander, David Pope, Mississippi Society Lt. Commander Dwight Johnson, AOT Commander Chris Heuer, and Jason Baker.

2024-26 OFFICERS

Commander

Jason Boshers

Lt. Commander

H. Edward Phillips

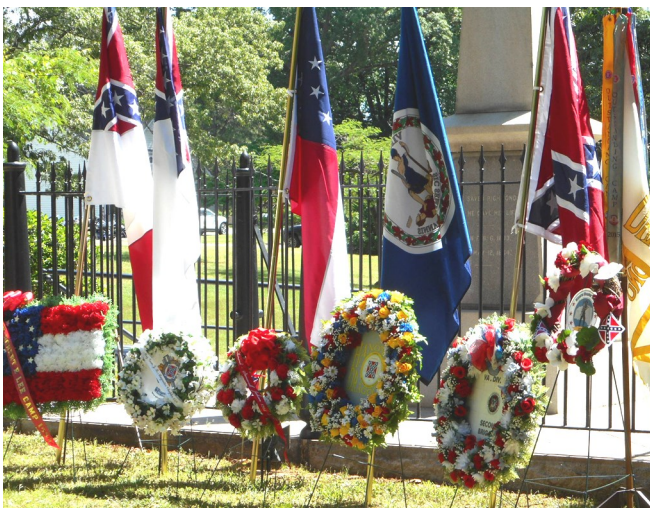
Adjutant

David Pope

Major General John Bankhead Magruder #258

Richmond, Virginia

On May 11, 2024, the Richmond-Stonewall Jackson Chapter 1705, UDC held a ceremony at the Yellow Tavern Monument in Henrico, Va. to commemorate the



mortal wounding of Major General J.E.B. Stuart 160 years ago. The speaker was Patrick Falci, who portrayed General A.P. Hill in the movie, *Gettysburg*. Wreaths were presented by UDC Chapters, SCV Camps, and the Major General John Bankhead Magruder MOS&B Chapter No. 258.



Patrick Falci

Military Order of the Stars & Bars
2025 National Convention Program - Memorials

Honor your Confederate ancestors or kin or favorite CSA heroes by purchasing a Veteran Memorial in the 2025 convention program. Each memorial is only \$10.00 per ancestor, and you may purchase as many as you desire. **All memorials and payments must be received no later than April 25, 2025.**

Your Name: _____

Organization/Chapter# _____

Address- City, ST, Zip _____

Phone # _____ Email _____

Memorials # x \$10.00 each = \$ Check #

1. Name Rank _____
Company _ Unit _____ Regiment _____
2. Name Rank _____
Company _ Unit _____ Regiment _____
3. Name Rank _____
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8. Name Rank _____
Company _ Unit _____ Regiment _____
9. Name Rank _____
Company _ Unit _____ Regiment _____

**Make checks payable to: Liddell Chapter MOS&B and mail to:
Carl Black, 8800 Pine Forest Rd, Apt. 3205, Pensacola, FL 42534**

Military Order of the Stars and Bars

88th Annual General Convention

Hampton Inn—Foley
Graham Creek Nature Preserve
Foley, Alabama

May 29 - June 1, 2025

Convention Registration Form



Name: _____ (member name only)

Title: _____

Chapter Name and Number: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ .Zip: _____

Phone Number: _____

E-mail: _____

Spouse/Guest(s) Name(s): _____

Dress Code for Meetings and Meals will be coat & tie. Commander's Banquet—Gentlemen: formal (tuxedo, suit & tie, or dress military uniform). Ladies: formal or "after five" attire.

Registration (for MOS&B members only) _____ @ \$75 _____

Late Registration afier May 8, 2025 _____ @ \$85 _____

Thursday, May 29, 2025

6:00 p.m. - Commander General's Reception _____ @ \$50 _____

Friday, May 30, 2025

7:30 a.m. - Forrest Cavalry Corps Breakfast _____ @ \$25 _____

12:00 p.m. - MOS&B Awards Luncheon _____ @ \$40 _____

2:00 p.m. - 5:30 pm Ft. Morgan Tour _____ @ \$10 _____

Saturday, May 31, 2025

7:30 a.m. - MOS&B Prayer Breakfast _____ @ \$25 _____

6:00 p.m. - Commander General's Banquet _____ @ \$65 _____

Ancestor Memorial (See supplemental information sheet) _____ @ \$10 _____

Additional Convention Medal (if available) _____ @ \$25 _____

Additional Convention Program (if available) _____ @ \$10 _____

TOTAL ENCLOSED: _____ CHECK# _____

Make checks payable to: **Liddell Chapter MOS&B** and mail to:
Carl Black, 8800 Pine Forest Rd, Apt. 3205, Pensacola, FL 42534

DEADLINE for all pre-registrations is May, 18th, 2025
No Refunds after May 18th, 2025

Officer's Call



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Military Order of the Stars and Bars

GENERAL EXECUTIVE COUNCIL MEETING

October 11-12, 2024— Columbus, Georgia



Hyatt Place Columbus North - 2974 N. Lake Parkway - Columbus, GA 31909

Call Direct: 706.507.5000 / Room Rate = \$139 plus taxes / Group Code "G-MSBR"

https://www.hyatt.com/en-US/hotel/georgia/hyatt-place-columbus-north/csgzc?corp_id=G-msbr

Military Order of the Stars and Bars

88th General Convention | Foley, Alabama | May 29—June 1, 2025

Hosted by: Brig. Gen. St. John Richardson Liddell Chapter #271, Alabama Society

Host Hotel is Hampton Inn Foley, 3152 Abbey Lane, Foley, AL 36535, 844-202-7468.

Group room rates will be posted at a later date.

Host hotel is less than 5 miles from our meeting place at Graham Creek Nature Preserve.

Make plans to attend and join us for an outstanding event!