







# Texas Society, Military Order of Stars and Bars



Volume 1, Issue 2

March 2004

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# FROM THE COMMANDER

Dale Fowlkes, Commander

The gleam of a new day, and the fresh air of change, is on the horizon for OUR Sons of Confederate Veterans and the continued growth in the protection of our heritage, with the upcoming Reunion in Dalton. The recent turbulence and consternation in some quarters, has dismayed many and surely been a source of amusement to the loyal opposition. Nothing would provide them more joy than for us to self destruct.

Our Order and the SCV are cut from the same cloth with entirely compatible (if not identical) goals and objectives. It pleases me to know that I can wear two hats and get 2 votes in memory of, and to honor my ancestors. It is my hope that we of the Texas Society, will continue to be a strong ally and faithful supporter to our Texas Division.

We are blessed to enjoy the very finest relationship with our brothers in the Texas Division, and they are always at our side. We are also blessed in the caliber of men who have led the Texas Division, many belonging to the MOSB. Unfortunately some other states are apparently not so fortunate.

The debacle in Asheville was very revealing to those in attendance. An unrealistic number of constitutional amendments (many of dubious value), with some patently hostile to the MOSB, even though we are not the enemy of the SCV, clearly indicated that a change of leadership was imperative for cooler heads to prevail, as we returned to our core objectives and goals. That day will arrive thankfully in Dalton at the SCV Reunion, which will be preceded by a SEPARATE MOSB Reunion. I most earnestly urge each chapter and camp to be sure they are represented by level-headed delegates who will keep a sharp eye on the ball. On pages 6 and 7 of this "Clarion Call" are announcements from the candidates for SCV Commander-in-Chief, both of whom

are good men. We have former TX Div. Cmdr. Denne Sweeney and J. Troy Massey of Arkansas, who is the brother of our MOSB Commander General.

There will be much work to do to settle the rancor and get the SCV back on track, so the demonstrated ability to "get the job done" is absolutely critical, and should be the paramount consideration in getting the right man.

Troy Massey has a complete record of achievement within both the SCV and MOSB, no matter which of the many positions he held. Denne Sweeney has been a part of the current administration which has got us to the current situation, and even made the motion in the General Executive Committee to call the ill-fated "emergency/special convention" which rightfully was defeated by the SCV Camps. If the current CIC was wrong or ill advised, one would have thought SOMEONE would have spoken up, and been a voice for reason. Lt. Commander Sweeney was a follower - not a leader.

I fully respect the opinion of any who disagree with me. I do not mean to demean or disparage anyone. Like you, I long for the dust to settle and for us to get back to the work at hand, with class. Without reservation, I endorse J. Troy Massey as "our" man and best choice.

It more important than ever that we make a maximum effort by being represented in Dalton, which will be preceded by our Texas Division Reunion in Nacogdoches. Please be a part of charting our destiny.

| Texas SCV - MOSB Reunion                 | Nacogdoches, Texas | 6/11-13 |  |
|--|--------------------|---------|--|
| http://www.texas-scv.org/convention.html |                    |         |  |
| National MOSB Reunion                    | Dalton, Georgia    | 7/27-28 |  |
| http://www.mosbihq.org/dalton.htm        |                    |         |  |
| National SCV Reunion                     | Dalton, Georgia    | 7/28-31 |  |
| http://www.georgiascv.com/scvdalton      |                    |         |  |

# Charion Call

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# FROM THE LT. COMMANDER

Gary M. Loudermilk, Lt. Commander

As we put the winter behind us and move into all our spring activities, perhaps it is time to reflect, not on past accomplishments but, rather, to look ahead at what we in our local Chapters can do to further the Cause.

The Minister who spoke at our Robert E. Lee Memorial Service in January, said something that really got my attention. He talked about all the unmarked or unknown graves of our honored ancestors. He said that there are hundreds, and even thousands, of these men "waiting to be found" and given some kind of recognition for the sacrifice they made.

As I thought about that, I realized just how true it is. Four years ago, I accepted the task of maintaining the book of the Confederate Veteran burials in Comanche County Texas. Compatriot Gary Whitfield provided the initial data in 2000, and we have added names to it every year since. Comanche County is not a large County, and I do not believe it is very different from any of the other Texas Counties. Many of the original settlers of the County were Confederate Veterans, and they are buried in cemeteries throughout the County.

I just completed the update of the "Cemetery Book" for 2004 and we have located approximately 550 gravesites in 58 different cemeteries. These cemeteries range from small family plots to the largest cemetery in the County.

In April and May, members of our SCV Camp and MOSB Chapter will place Battle flags on each of those known graves.

And there is even more to the story. We discovered that, in the census of 1910, one of the questions asked of each household was whether or not there was a Confederate Veteran living in the home. (I do not know if this question was asked in all Counties, but it would be worth checking out.)

Based on this census data, we now have 150 more names of Veterans who are probably buried in the County. As we place flags and/or just visit cemeteries, we will be looking for these names in order to add them to our book. These are more Heroes "waiting to be found!"

My point is, that any MOSB Chapter could take on a project such as this, especially if you work with an SCV Camp.

Honoring our ancestors is one of our goals, and this is a project any Chapter can undertake, regardless of its size or finances.

### God Bless the South!

(A copy of the Comanche Cemetery Book can be e-mailed to anyone interested.)

# **Texas Society Websites**

Members are encouraged to visit the following nice web pages:

Col. Richard B. Hubbard Chapter 261,
Tyler, <a href="www.b17.com/mosb">www.b17.com/mosb</a>,
Maj. John Loudermilk Chapter 264,
Commanche, <a href="members@aol.com/mosb">members@aol.com/mosb</a>
Col. Isaac E. Avery, Chapter 282,
Alvin, <a href="geocities.com/iechapter">geocities.com/iechapter</a>

Congratulations to these fine chapters and their webmasters for this work. You will notice all of these are relatively new chapters who have proven to be valuable additions to our growing TX Society! Which chapter will be next? Maybe YOU could do this for your chapter.



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# The Birth of the Order of the Stars & Bars By Jeffery Wayne Massey, Commander General Military Order of the Stars and Bars Copyright 2004

The Trinity: The UCV, UDC, SCV

(United Confederate Veterans, United Daughters of the Confederacy, Sons of Confederate Veterans)

The 1930's was not a great time for the aging veterans of the Old Confederacy. In addition to the inevitable attrition of men due to age, financial considerations were also taking a toll on the UCV. Cities no longer clambered to host the annual UCV conventions. Dallas had built a special hall for the 1902 reunion and had "deeded" the city to the UCV for its use during the 1925 Reunion. Train companies no longer fought over the crowing rights of being the Official Carrier of the UCV delegates. The pains of the Great Depression were being felt all over the country, especially in the agrarian Southland.

The "\$1 Members Dues" had not covered expenses since before WW-I, yet the UCV would not increase the fees. To help defray expenses, state and national UCV officers were expected to remit a tax according to the office held. The out-cry of "buying offices" was an oft heard protest from the dwindling membership. The UCV leadership also quietly solicited funds from the more affluent members. This was how the budget was prepared based upon donated dollars and the officer tax.

Financial woes also hit hard the supporting limbs of the UCV. The Confederate Veteran magazine had died in 1932. Mrs. Edith Drake Pope, faithful assistant of Editor S.A. Cunningham, had taken over the magazine when he died in 1913. But even her heroic efforts couldn't forestall the inevitable collapse when the publishing costs overtook the ever-declining number of subscribers.

Official UCV correspondence was actually being done by a few dutiful matrons, who were also heavily involved with the United Daughters of the Confederacy. Mrs. Winnie Booth Kernan, the Assistant Adjutant-in-Chief of the UCV, was actually the de facto Adjutant-in-Chief of the UCV. She had maintained the records of the organization since the late 1920's. Increasingly the UCV turned to the UDC to assist in the regular course of keeping up appearances and conducting business.

Most were unsure as to how "The End" would occur. Some suggested a final Grand Reunion, others said they would meet as long as their health permitted, still others demanded that as long as the GAR (Grand Army of the Republic - their Union counterparts) met, they would meet. A very few even suggested a final joint reunion of the UCV & GAR (this NEVER received much support).

Everyone wondered when and where the Final Confederate Reunion would occur...not if, just when.

### The 1937 UCV Reunion

In 1937 the UCV gathered in Jackson, Mississippi (June 9-12). The atmosphere was somewhat overcast as fewer than 200 veterans were able to assemble. The old soldiers sadly noted how many more of their comrades had answered the Final Roll Call or were too enfeebled for travel. There was much talk about whether this was "the last year."

But Mississippi treated the vets well. They were fed and put up on cots from the Mississippi State Guard. Even Wade Hampton's black body servant traveled all the way from his home in South Carolina to fellowship with his old comrades.

The Mississippi state dignitaries brought greetings and salutations from around the state. Even Governor Hugh Lawson White made a special effort to welcome the small crowd of veterans. Then, during his remarks, the Governor of Mississippi breached the unspoken concern into the microphone; "Shall this be the last gathering of the Confederate Veterans?" The silence was momentary. The old men did not falter. On canes, and on crutches, some rising with the help of sons or nearby friends, the old veterans' voices shook the podium in unison. "NO!!" they shouted. "We Shall Meet Again" they thundered. And so the UCV leadership proposed and the veterans agreed to "meet again next year" in Columbia, South Carolina.

# The 1938 - The Year of Decisions

The dawn of 1938 proved to be inspiring, yet sobering to the UCV leadership. While several in the upper hierarchy of the UCV planned on attending the reunions at Gettysburg and Columbia, there was constant threat of incapacity and infirmity. The veterans knew that the 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Gettysburg on June 30 July 3 would be a huge national event. Indeed over 2,000 Confederate and Union soldiers gathered at Gettysburg for the dedication of the Oak Ridge Memorial eternal flame. President Franklin Roosevelt traveled by train to see the old soldiers and to dedicate the monument as "an enduring light to guide us in unity and fellowship".

Several thought the reunion at Gettysburg and in Columbia would be a fitting farewell for the United Confederate Veterans. Others were not convinced. The competing internal politics and competing interests made for great intrigue within the UCV and The Sons (SCV).

The SCV (the "Sons") were empowered to carry on in the individual states, but only when a UCV member was not present. This continued subservience of the younger organization to the "paternal" organization often caused confusion and some rancor. The limited communications of the day, combined with the continued infirmities of the UCV officers, created more than necessary hurt feelings, uncoordinated activities and disjointed interaction. This disorganization would fuel the eventual separation between the UCV and "the Sons" (SCV and MOSB) when joint reunions were terminated after the Final UCV Reunion in 1951.

### Onto Columbia

The few remaining commissioned officers of the Old Confederacy were not satisfied to go "quietly into the good night." They had begun discussions in 1936 in Richmond, Virginia regarding an organization which would pay homage to the unique sacrifices of the Confederate Officer Corps. Born not out of pride or animosity, the remaining Confederate Officers sought to honor their former friends and commanders with an organization unique in its scope and purpose. The primary proponents were Past UCV CIC Homer Atkinson, Past SCV CIC Col. Walter Hopkins, attorney at law, and Past SCV Division Cmdr. Clement Wood. All were senior statesmen in the General Executive Councils of the UCV and SCV. Planning for the Columbia reunion, letters and invitations were sent out to all the known surviving Confederate commissioned officers and their progeny. They were all invited to an organizational meeting at the 48th Annual UCV Reunion in South Carolina (August 30-31, September 1-2, 1938).

On the first day of the reunion, 17 commissioned officers and sons of Confederate officers assembled in the Columbia Hotel in downtown Columbia. "General" Atkinson presided over the meeting of the old soldiers. A constitution would be drafted, memberships offered, and lapel pins and certificates designed. Thus, the Order of the Stars and Bars (it would not attach "Military" to the front of the name until 1977) was born. In a sobering reflection of the times to come, 4 of the 17 attending officers would Rest in The Shade of the Trees within 6 months of the Columbia meeting.

The OSB met the next year (1939) with the UCV and SCV in Trinidad, Colorado. They met in 1940 in Washington, D.C. The MOSB has met continuously with the SCV since its inception in 1938. Brothers in arms. Bearers of the sacred standards. United in Fraternal Blood and Protectors of the Lost Cause, the SCV and MOSB are the only original Confederate organizations remaining. No person or political agenda shall ever separate what the original UCV joined together.

### Legacy

The MOSB still honors those heroes which the 1938 veterans held so dear. They recalled with clarity the sacrifices of their fellow officers and the men who served the Confederacy. They retold the story of the The Immortal 600; the 14<sup>th</sup> Amendment; Reconstruction; Voting Disenfranchisement; Usurpation of Public Office; Confiscation of Property; Voting Intimidation; Political and Social Upheaval; Financial Collapse and Personal Losses. They venerated a corps of men which fought harder, suffered more and committed more resources to the war effort than any collective group in the history of the world.

Let us, the progeny of those men, remain committed in mind, true in heart and zealous in action. Their virtues are emblazoned upon the pages of history; and we, their sons, are the keepers of that eternal flame. Deo Vindice.



### ORGANIZATION OF NEW CHAPTERS

Efforts are underway to reorganize the Waul's Legion Chapter in the Ft. Worth area. This is being handled by our Texas Society Chaplain, Gary P. Whitfield, who can be reached (817) 735-8146, Gary1408@charter.net or 3980 W. 4th, Ft. Worth, TX 76107.

The former Robert E. Lee Chapter in the Longview area is on the verge of reactivating. Robert J. Sullivan is handling this and can be reached at (903)-668-2862, Bsulli@wmconnect.com or 411 Pine Cir., Hallsville, TX 75760.

Any SCV member who joined with an officer ancestor can easily complete an application and attach a copy of their SCV membership certificate to the application. Ancestral descendancy need not be proved with exhibits again. If you know someone in these areas, do them, and us, a favor by contacting them regarding MOSB membership. We cannot have too many votes or voices these days.

Campaign Announcement Thursday, February 19, 2004

Dear Compatriots,

The purpose of this message is to announce my candidacy for the office of Commander-in-Chief, Sons of Confederate Veterans.

Gentlemen, I will not bore you with a lot of philosophical pandering. My candidacy is based on experience, hard work and getting results. Everyone knows the top leadership position is a time-consuming endeavor. I am in the fortunate position of being able and prepared to devote all my time and efforts to move the SCV forward by setting and striving for attainable goals. Since I retired from my position as a Computer Engineer almost two years ago, I have been working full-time for the SCV as your Lt. Commander-in-Chief. As Commander-in-Chief, I will shift my focus to the problems and challenges unique to that position and continue to exert maximum effort. After 8 years of working closely with the General Staff and 4 years on the GEC, I am confident that my knowledge and experience put me in a strong position to follow through effectively.

I have 4 major planks in my platform:

Pulling the SCV together as a team (I consider this plank to be the most important and badly needed at this time). Aggressive advancement of our Confederate Heritage. Improvement of member recruiting and retention Expansion and improvement of IHQ services to members

Some key thoughts about the first plank: The last 1 ½ years have been marked with great progress in many areas, but also with great turmoil. It is my hope to "smooth the turbulent waters of disagreement and rancor." In that regard, I will consider no one in the SCV to be my enemy. I will consider the wise council of anyone who has the best interests of the SCV at heart, and no one's past philosophy will bind me, including the current administration. But I also will not tolerate those who desire to promote a personal agenda or who attempt to impugn the honor and reputation of the SCV. It is my intention to display the leadership qualities that I have used in the past and that are needed in the top post of the SCV. Many years ago, our founders suffered on battlefields where dedication, selflessness and a unity of purpose - coupled with decisive leadership - often made the difference between victory and defeat. I feel confident that my leadership training - whether as a West Point graduate, an activeduty Army officer, or an engineering manager - coupled with my broad SCV experience, gives me the ideal background to well serve the membership of the SCV on those battlefields of today.

I invite you to visit my website at <a href="www.sweeneyforcic.org">www.sweeneyforcic.org</a> for more details about my platform, my personal background, and my qualifications. Check back from time to time, as I will be updating the site occasionally. I will also be adding a "Q and A" link so you can better understand where I stand on a variety of issues.

I ask all who subscribe to my vision to support me in the July election in Dalton. There is work to be done; let's get on with it.

God Save the South,

Denne A. Sweeney Lieutenant Commander-in-Chief Sons of Confederate Veterans ltcic@scv.org



# Newest Texas Chapter

After a significant campaign of about 6 months led by Henry B. Seale, the Col. Isaac E. Avery Chapter 282 was officially instituted in Alvin, Texas on January 20, 2004, with a group of some 40 attendees present. The chapter will have 17 charter members.

Officers of the chapter include: Commander Henry B. Seale, Lt. Commander Carl R. Adams, Adjutant James E. Bagg, Jr., Treasurer Carroll D. Dodgen, Chaplain Ronald R. Strybos, Color Sergeant Andrew J. Strybos.



Left to Right ~

Chaplain Ron Strybos, Commander Henry B. Seale, Lt. Commander Carl R. Adams, Adjutant Jim Bagg, Jr., Treasurer Carroll D. Dodgen.

Presenting the charter and administering the oath of office was Texas Society MOSB Commander Dale Fowlkes, who was assisted by the following Texas Society Officers: Color Sergeant H.W. Irby, Chaplain Gary Whitfield, Genealogist Jim Templin.

Past TX Society Commander Ron Aldis was in attendance, as well as a number of area SCV members and officers.

Campaign Announcement Friday, February 20, 2004

Compatriots of the Texas Society and Division:

On January 19 (Robert E. Lee's Birthday) I announced that I will stand for the office of Commander-in-Chief of the Sons of Confederate Veterans at the SCV-MOSB national reunion in Dalton, Georgia. Since that time, I have received many encouraging responses from the compatriots "Deep In The Heart of Texas." It is a real honor to write you all and provide some of the planks in our campaign platform.

# A Proven Heritage Record as a Division Heritage Chairman and National Heritage Committeeman

Compatriots, as in all campaigns, there are differences between the candidates. I have been a Division Heritage Chairman. I currently serve on the National Heritage Defense Committee. We cannot permit the NAACP to call Jefferson Davis a War Criminal (like they did last July) and have the National SCV say NOTHING. We must be more aggressive in our response to such outrageous comments.

My record of Heritage Defense in Arkansas is well documented. When the NAACP and a minority of state legislators vowed to delete any statutes related to the Confederacy, we fought back and defeated them. They tried to take the Confederate Star out of the state flag, and we beat them. They tried to take the Confederate flags down in Saline County, and we beat them there. They tried to move the Confederate monument in Lake Village, and we beat them there. They tried to cause trouble for the SCV in my own community, Boone County, as they disliked the Confederate flags and memorials that my camp installed at the courthouse square and the visitors center....and we beat them there.

Gentlemen of Texas, I know the Enemy.

I have fought the Enemy.

And the Enemy of the SCV is not our membership.

All politics is local and we must be visible to our elected leaders. I have consistently gotten our Arkansas governors to proclaim each April as Confederate Heritage and History Month. That is what I will continue to do as SCV Commander-in-Chief.

### Unity and Interaction

The decision to seek this office was premised upon my desire to see the SCV be active in heritage issues and to unite our fractured ranks. Too often we are our own worst enemy. Too often we waste time and resources on internal conflicts which accomplish absolutely nothing. President Davis formed a cabinet of diverse political, cultural and religious backgrounds. This "confederate" philosophy achieved many political goals that were unthinkably complex. We must strive harder to emulate our Confederate forefathers. If we promote the concepts fought for by our Confederate ancestors: states rights, local autonomy and a vigorous national offense, we will start winning heritage battles on every front.

# Constitutional Modernization and Model Business Plan

Being part of a grand historical organization is a great honor. But inherent in the history, is a distrust of change. Our constitution reflects 107 years of history, but is incapable of meeting many modern business and communications demands. I was an original proponent of constitutional revision many years ago, and continue to believe that our system of corporate governance can be improved. In short, we must prepare our organization for the business rigors of the 21st Century, while preserving our cultural identity as the premier Confederate historical organization.

### Conclusion

Gentlemen, we have a most precious heritage, and one which is worthy of our best efforts. I look forward to meeting with and discussing with you any questions regarding my candidacy. Please telephone me or write to me at my email address. Accept my personal thanks for your time and your SCV efforts.

Yours in the Bonds of the Old South.

J. Troy Massey - LIFE Member - Sons of Confederate Veterans Post Office Box 536, Harrison, Arkansas 72601 <a href="mailto:scurazorback@cox-internet.com">scurazorback@cox-internet.com</a>(870) 741-8846 Home



# FROM THE GENEALOGIST

Jim Templin, Genealogist

If someone joined SCV on an officer before November 1, 2002, and wants to join MOS&B, there is good news. The applicant can contact Bryan Sharp at IHQ, <a href="mailto:membership@scv.org">membership@scv.org</a> and request a "member sheet from their database." The heading of the document is "Sons of Confederate Veterans Member Information." This document shows when, and on whom, the applicant joined SCV and is acceptable proof. The applicant then need only fill out page one of the application, attach the member sheet and submit.

Please remember to have the application signed by the person recommending the applicant, and reviewed and signed at chapter level by a chapter officer. The application should then be mailed to me at 2500 Woodlawn Dr., Dennis, TX 75119, with a check to IHQ for \$35 and one to MOSB State for \$2.

For those who didn't join SCV on an officer, all pages of the application must be filled out. Please note that specific proof of descent should be noted on the genealogy section, but copies of the proof do not need to be included with the application. Specific proof would include birth, marriage, or death certificates; censuses; wills; etc.

We have had a good year so far, with many new members, and it has been my pleasure to serve as genealogist. Everyone—recruit a new member.



Newsletter of the



Texas Society, Military Order of the Stars and Bars Dale Fowlkes, Commander 619 Potomac Drive, Tyler, Texas 75703

Opinions expressed herein are the opinions of individual writers, and do not necessarily reflect official positions of the organization.



### 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.

# 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 five 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 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.

