



# TEXAS SOCIETY

## MILITARY ORDER OF THE STARS AND BARS



# Lone Star Dispatch

Vol. 3 No. 2

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Spring 2021

### ***Winner of the 2020 Col. Walter H. Taylor Award - Best Society Newsletter in the MOS&B***

#### **COMMANDER'S CORNER**

*by Johnnie L. Holley*



Compatriots of the Texas Society MOS&B:

Recently a group of Texas MOS&B officers attended the Missouri SCV/MOS&B Convention in Neosho Missouri. It was a spectacular event. I was extremely impressed with the great reception we received. Along with the welcoming, friendly reception we all received, it was particularly impressive that the SCV and MOS&B got along so well and worked so well together. Texas can learn a lot from our friends in Missouri!

It was good to visit with SCV CIC McCluney and 1st Lt Jason Boshers from National Headquarters. SCV ATM Commander Hannah and Councilman Edwards were also in attendance. Those representing the MOS&B were ATM Commander Brand, Communications Lt. General McMahon, ATM Councilman Phillips (from Missouri), and Texas Commander Holley.

The members of the 2021 MOS&B Convention Committee have been busy pulling together minor details for the Convention in College Station in July. I hope each of you will make an effort to attend. The Texas Society will hold our Convention at 2:00p.m. Saturday July 17 after the National business session. You must register for the National Convention in order to attend the Texas Convention. This is in accordance with the member vote last year.

We will be voting on the proposed amended National Constitution and Bylaws at the Convention. The amended documents will be

presented to the GEC in May and after they have voted, they will be forwarded to the Chapters for your study. Please schedule a meeting in June so you can present the amended documents to your Chapters. Texas Society will be electing officers in July so please think about candidates to nominate for these offices.

Hopefully the "Covid Crisis" is winding down and our world can get back to normal. I pray you all are well, and I hope to see you in College Station in July.

God Bless and Long Live the South.

Johnnie Holley  
Commander Texas Society MOS&B



**OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE CONFEDERATE OFFICERS OF THE TEXAS SOCIETY MILITARY ORDER OF THE STARS AND BARS**

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



# TEXAS HEROES

## ELKANAH BRACKIN GREER

1825 – 1877



Elkanah Bracklin Greer was born at Paris, Tennessee, October 11, 1825. He moved to Mississippi as a young man and took part in the Mexican War as a member of the 1st Mississippi Rifles, whose colonel was Jefferson Davis. In 1848 he moved to Marshall, Texas, where he established himself as a planter and merchant, and became grand commander of the Knights of the Golden Circle in 1859.

Commissioned colonel of the 3rd Texas Cavalry in July 1861, his first engagement was at Wilson's Creek or Elkhorn Tavern in Missouri the following month where he was slightly wounded. Greer was promoted brigadier general on October 8, 1862 and was soon appointed chief of the Trans-Mississippi conscription bureau. He worked at it courageously, but not all too successfully in trying to reconcile the laws of the CSA government in Richmond with those of the State of Texas. During 1864 he commanded the reserve forces of the Department. After the war he continued to live in Marshall, and died on a visit with his sister in DeVall's Bluff, Arkansas. March 25, 1877. He is buried in Elmwood Cemetery, Memphis, Tennessee.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

2021 SPRING GEC MEETING SET

PRATTVILLE, AL—The Spring 2021 GEC Meeting will be hosted by the Alabama Society on Saturday, May 15, 2021, at the Hampton Inn & Suites, 2590 Cobbs Ford Road, Prattville, Alabama. Listed below is a tentative two-day schedule for the meeting.

### Friday, May 14th

Suggested tour of the First White House of the Confederacy and the Alabama State Capitol, Montgomery.

\*2:00 PM: Viewing of the Jefferson Davis Bible he used to be sworn in as President of the Confederacy on February 18, 1861, Alabama State Archives (adjacent to the First White House).

6:00 PM: Friday evening supper gathering at a local restaurant to be announced at a later date.

\* Due to COVID-19 restrictions, the Alabama State Archives may not be open for the viewing of the Jefferson Davis Bible. Full details to be announced later.

### Saturday, May 15th

9:00 AM: GEC Meeting, host hotel

10:00 AM: Ladies Historical Program by Suzanna Rawlins, immediate past President of the Alabama UDC, host hotel.

Noon: Catered lunch at the host hotel courtesy of the Order.

1:00 PM: Resumption of the GEC Meeting if necessary.

1:00 PM: Daughters of the CSA Officer Corp Springboard Meeting, host hotel.

Following all meetings: Members are encouraged to visit the Confederate Memorial Park State Historic Site just 25 miles north of Prattville.

Saturday Evening: For those members staying over Saturday night, there will be a Saturday evening supper gathering at a local restaurant. The time and location will be announced at a later date.

### Host Hotel Information

The Hampton Inn & Suites, 2590 Cobbs Ford Road, Prattville, Alabama will be the host hotel for the Spring 2021 GEC Meeting weekend.

Make your reservations by calling the hotel directly at (334) 285-6767 and state you want the Military Order of the Stars and Bars special room rate of \$103.00 + tax/night.

Your RSVP is needed

If you will be attending the MOS&B Spring 2021 GEC Meeting in person, please RSVP Chief of Staff Byron Brady at: [byronbrady@aol.com](mailto:byronbrady@aol.com). He will need the number of people in your party attending and their names so that we can reserve enough lunch for everyone.

Also, please register your spouse so that we will have enough room for them for the Ladie's Historical program on Saturday morning and a special small gift for them from the IHQ.

Please RSVP no later than May 1, 2021.

## MILITARY ORDER OF THE STARS AND BARS 84TH ANNUAL GENERAL CONVENTION

July 15-17, 2021  
College Station, Texas



You can find all the information and the registration form on our website: <http://www.txmosb.org>. Look

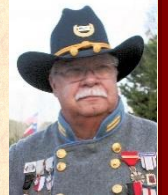
under Conventions for all of the information and forms!



Hilton Hotel College Station and Conference Center  
801 University Drive East  
College Station, TX 77840  
(979) 693-7500



### Lieutenant Commander's Comments



I would like to take this opportunity to update everyone on our web site. And when I say "Our" web site that is exactly what I mean. [txmosb.org](http://txmosb.org) is a site that is designed and maintained for all members of the Texas Society. I want it to provide information and guidance for all members.

During the past few weeks, I have been working on a "Members Only" section of our website, a place where we can share information that is not appropriate for outside visitors. A place where we can place or Minutes from our GEC meetings, a place where we can share information and news that we would not want to share with the general public.

I would like to invite each of you to visit [www.txmosb.org](http://www.txmosb.org), click on the Members Only button, click on "CLICK HERE" directly under "No Password Yet", then complete the short form to get your own personal Username and Password.

I'm also looking for Pictures from your Chapter meetings and events, any news, and anything else you wish to share with the Society.



## **COL BRISCOE GERALD BALDWIN JR., CHAPTER 312**

### **MOS&B Helps Bryan City Sexton to Maintain Historic Cemetery**

*By Commander Lee R Lance*

Members of the Col Briscoe Gerard Baldwin Jr Chapter 312 joined forces with the Bryan City Sexton Robert Jackson to begin much needed maintenance on the historic “Yellow Fever” Cemetery. According to historical records, this cemetery was the first cemetery established by the City of Bryan in 1861. It is also referred to as the Old Bryan City Cemetery, Bryan’s Old Graveyard and Bryan’s Public Cemetery. It was eventually replaced in 1897 by the Bryan City and Oakwood Cemeteries. After many years of neglect, the only remaining marked grave is that of Corporal James P. King (1835-1868). Of note, King’s eldest brother, William (age 15) was the youngest casualty at the Battle of the Alamo. James served in the Spy

Company of Gonzales County. Another burial in the cemetery, though unmarked, is that of the Yankee Sergeant John Skues.

The Chapter has, in conjunction with local SCV Sul Ross Camp 1457, been heavily involved in locating, identifying internees, cleaning, and restoring abandoned cemeteries. Although Yellow Fever Cemetery is mowed regularly by the City of Bryan, it was (and still is) in much need of defoliating around the many small groves of trees therein. It was one such grove of trees that hid Corporal King’s tombstone for more than two years until found hidden in the brush under low-lying tree limbs.

A 2010 paper written by SCV member Bill Page explored the history of Yellow Fever Cemetery. Due to two fires in the City Hall and County Courthouse, most early records were destroyed making research difficult. Even the basis for townsfolk calling the cemetery by the name “Yellow Fever” is uncertain but several theories are put forth in his paper. Current info shows that approximately 25 persons are known to be buried in the cemetery; however, members of the chapter have “witched” a small portion of the cemetery to sample how many may actually be interred within the cemetery. Based on results, it could be extrapolated that as many as 1500 persons could lie within its boundaries. This fact peaked the Sexton Jackson’s interest more than ever and a plan was made to begin clearing brush to enable further exploration both by “witching” and eventually with ground penetrating radar.

One-third of the Chapter membership quickly signed up with the City to be able to work inside the property under the City Sexton’s guidance on weekends convenient to his personal schedule. The group worked two consecutive Saturdays in March (13th and 20th) to clear the first layer of tree groves nearest the main thoroughfare where the public would most likely be able to see what was taking place. It also cleared the back-ground behind the recently placed Texas Historic Marker.

The Chapter has also obtained VA markers for both King and Skues to erect on either side of the historic

marker in the near future. We plan to invite descendants of both King and Skues to a special presentation of the plaque and markers. Commander Lee Lance's distant cousin, Michael Lance, as Commander of the SUV unit in Houston has agreed to have a representative on location as well. With the two cousins in uniforms of the respective services, a musket volley will round out the ceremonies along with a "handshake of cousins vs cousins" which very often occurred during the war.

Upon the completion of the two weekend workdays, we ended up with a brush pile ready to haul off by the City's Refuse Department. It measured roughly 10 feet tall by 20 feet square!

Plans for more workdays are underway and will include volunteers from not only the Chapter but also from local Trail Scout Units.



*(L-R) TxSoc CoS Bill Boyd, LtCmdr Mike Smith, Dan Wood, Darryl English, Cmdr Lee Lance pose in front of Texas Historical Marker.*

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## COL RICHARD BENNETT HUBBARD CHAPTER 261

*Bill Elliott, Commander Col. R. B. Hubbard  
Chapter 261, Tyler Texas*

To all my MOS&B Brothers. The Texas Society and the Col. Richard B. Hubbard Chapter are looking forward to seeing you at the 84th Annual General

Meeting in July at College Station, Texas. We look forward to meeting and visiting with again. Like all Chapters the COVID has slowed our Chapter down. But we are looking forward to getting rolling again. We had our 1st in person meeting for 2021 on March 20th. We did have a Lee -Jackson get together in January with guest and our Ladies but March was the true business meeting. We acted on buying a Welcome to Texas ad for the Convention program and we discussed the upcoming meetings and a work day to place a Southern Cross of Honor on an Officers grave at Oakwood Cemetery in Tyler. We also have in place to meet on July 12th at Oakwood Cemetery to hold a Memorial in Honor of our lost members and to remember the 120th anniversary of our Chapters namesake Col. Richard Bennett Hubbard who died on July 12, 1901. Col. Hubbard organized and commanded the 22nd Texas Infantry Regiment. He served as Governor of Texas in 1876-1879 and as the Ambassador to Japan in 1885-1889. We will also remember all Confederate veterans in Oakwood with a prayer.

Our Chapter is honored to be the Home Chapter of Texas Society Commander Johnnie Holley and also Army of the Trans Mississippi Commander Dennis Brand. We thank these Brothers for their service to the MOS& B and also our Chapter. An activate Chapter is a strong Chapter and we want to do our part to Honor our Ancestors by remembering their hardships, dedication and beliefs.

We will see you at College Station at the 84th General Convention!

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## SHOULD WE CONTINUE TO CELEBRATE TEXAS INDEPENDENCE DAY?

By joint resolution, in 1871 the 14th Texas legislature established March 2nd as an official Texas holiday to commemorate the adoption at Washington-on-the-Brazos of the Texas Declaration

of Independence. Since then, many millions of Texas schoolchildren have been taught that March 2, 1836 is no less significant than July 4, 1776. The day is often celebrated with parades, ceremonies, and children's choirs singing "Texas, Our Texas, All Hail the Mighty State".

Remembering the words of Bob Wills and Tommy Duncan's western swing classic song, "Time Changes Everything", it now appears there's an ever-growing list of "woke" Texans who claim it is time to change how Texans view the events of 1836. In their mind, it was all about slavery and oppression.

Houston Chronicle reporter and author Chris Tomlinson wrote "The Texas revolt and its signature battle were as much about slavery as they were about defending liberty", and "A new generation of Texans, who are majority Hispanic, are tired of listening to lies created to justify making Texas an empire to slavery". The San Antonio City Councilman in charge of the current Alamo restoration project, Roberto Trevino, has described the Alamo story as "wrong" and "bunk", and says it "perpetuates a lie".

University of Texas history professor Jorge Carrizares-Esguerra recently made the ludicrous claim that Santa Anna, immediately after brutally suppressing another rebellion in Zacatecas killing 2,000 non-combatants, marched his army into Texas in February 1836 not for the purpose of suppressing another rebellion, but rather to liberate slaves on East Texas plantations. I guess we are to believe Santa Anna got lost and ended up in San Antonio de Bexar instead. Carrizares-Esguerra also described the Alamo as "the largest statue to the Confederacy in this country," notwithstanding the fact the Alamo battle predates the Confederacy by twenty-five years.

If the Texas Revolution was about slavery, how does one explain the non-slave-holding Mexican states of Zacatecas, Yucatan, Tabasco, Nuevo Leon and Tamaulipas being in rebellion at the same time Texas fought for and existed as an independent nation? Their reasons for rebellion were the same as Texas, and slavery wasn't among them. While the grievances were shared, the outcomes were not. In

this rebellion against tyranny by a half a dozen Mexican states, only Texas achieved independence.

The spark that started hostilities was not slavery. Instead, it was Santa Anna's enactment of *siete leyes* (seven laws) in October 1835, which repealed the Constitution of 1824, made Santa Anna dictator, abolished all state legislatures, and made the states "departments" with appointed, not elected, governors. In response, on November 3rd, 59 delegates from across Texas, meeting in what was described as the "Consultation", published their reasons for taking up arms. Slavery was not among those reasons.

On March 2, 1836, the Texas Declaration of Independence was adopted. Grievances were listed. The document was not without specificity and listed 4 general and 14 detailed causes for seeking independence. Slavery was not one of those reasons, nor was it even mentioned. If slavery were a cause of rebellion, it could not have ranked any higher than No. 19.

The claim that the March 2nd Declaration of Independence initiated a war of Anglos against Mexicans is also meritless. The Vice President of the new Republic was Lorenzo de Zavala. At least 7 Tejanos died at

the Alamo. Juan Seguin's cavalry detachment at San Jacinto consisted of up to 20 Tejano cavalrymen. While these numbers may seem small, in 1836 Anglos vastly outnumbered Tejanos in the population of Texas.

I do not subscribe to the premise that all Texas history is glorious and inspiring. There are shameful chapters, and there are myths. We must tell the whole story of Texas, warts and all. I sponsored legislation to place a Juneteenth monument at the Texas Capitol, and I sponsored a commemorative license plate to raise funds for the Buffalo Soldier Museum in Houston. I was deeply involved in producing the recent PBS documentary "Porvenir, Texas", revealing a little-known massacre of innocent Tejanos by Texas Rangers in 1918.

However, where those I mentioned above as examples of this movement to disparage Texas history have the high ground is their belief that we haven't been completely honest in telling the Texas story. They're right, we have not. For too long we have ignored or hidden the dark chapters of Texas history, and we have failed to recognize the contributions of other ethnicities that didn't conveniently fit our comfortable narrative.

Today, we can be honest about our history, the good the bad and the ugly. We can also celebrate Texas Independence Day. Those two endeavors are not mutually exclusive.

### *God Bless Texas*

*Jerry Patterson is a former state Senator, former Texas Land Commissioner and retired Marine Vietnam veteran. He resides in Austin.*

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## **REQUEST FOR ARTICLES**

### **for upcoming Editions of the Lone Star Dispatch**

Please consider writing or submitting an article that can be included in future issues of the Lone Star Dispatch. Send your articles to the attention of our Editor Joe Reynolds, whose email is [Joe.Reynolds@txmosb.org](mailto:Joe.Reynolds@txmosb.org)

The preferred submittal is one in which the articles are in MS Word format and that all pictures are in jpeg format as this makes it easier to format to the proper scale within this publication.

Note that references and footnotes are requested to support where the original information is acquired as it is up to the article writer to provide such material.

If there are any questions, please feel free to contact me. Thanks.

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## **ANNOUNCEMENT OF CANDIDACY FOR SOCIETY COMMANDER TEXAS SOCIETY, MOS&B**

**Larry "Joe" Reynolds**

*"Do your duty in all things. You cannot do more; you should never wish to do less." - Robert E. Lee*

Please allow me to announce my candidacy for the office of Society Commander of the Texas Society, Military Order of Stars and Bars. I am humbled by the opportunity to seek this position of trust and wish only to be of some service to our great Organization. My agenda is clear and open; to work toward the fulfillment of the aims of the founding ancestors of our organization as stated in Our Pledge and to actively promote membership, unity, trust and Brotherhood in Our Order. My goal is for each member to enjoy and feel honored being a member of the MOS&B.

In both my personal and professional life, I have stressed service and leadership. I recognize the importance of sincerely working with others and in building a fraternal community of those who share our history and ideals. Like you, I believe strongly in our mutual cause and am dedicated to the preservation of our Confederate heritage and history. Being retired, I have the time for service and travel and the availability to devote myself to achieving the goals of the MOS&B. A brief related resume is enclosed for the consideration of those who may desire more information as they consider their selection for the Society Commander position at the Annual General Convention in College Station.

Whether serving as an officer in the Colonel Richard Bennett Hubbard Chapter or The Texas Society, marking unknown Confederate soldiers' graves, building a chapter or society web site, writing a society newsletter, I have always tried to do my best and thus, bring honor to my Confederate ancestors.

I hope to continue my service for you as the Society Commander of the Military Order of Stars and Bars and humbly seek your support. There is no limit to the opportunities before us.

### Brief Resume

Larry Joe Reynolds  
2520 Saratoga Drive  
Barksdale AFB, LA 71110-2172

Cell: (903) 575-8791  
[Joe.Reynolds@txmosb.org](mailto:Joe.Reynolds@txmosb.org)

Family: Married with three grown children, seven grandchildren and one great grandchild  
Wife; Keithrie O'Neal Reynolds  
Education: Columbia College  
BA in Business Administration, February 1974  
Career: Twenty-One years, U.S. Army retired as Master Sergeant E8, Recruiting First Sergeant, Army Recruiting Command.  
Twelve years, State of Texas, Senior Computer IT person for the Texas Employment Service.

### Related Current Confederate Activities and Honors

- Life Member, Military Order of the Stars and Bars
- Live Member, Sons of Confederate Veterans
- Live Member, Texas Division Sons of Confederate Veterans
- Lieutenant Commander, Texas Society, Military Order of the Stars and Bars
- Past Lieutenant Commander, Col. Richard B. Hubbard Chapter 261, Tyler, Texas
- Former 2<sup>nd</sup> Lieutenant Commander, Texas Division, Sons of Confederate Veterans
- Past Commander and Charter Member of 1<sup>st</sup> Lt. David Richard Reynolds Camp 2270, Texas Division, Sons of Confederate Veterans
- Newsletter Editor, Texas Society, Military Order of the Stars and Bars
- Webmaster, Texas Society, Military Order of the Stars and Bars Website
- Member – Descendants of Confederate Veterans
- Member – Descendants of Mexican Veterans
- Member – Southern Memorial Association

### Recipient of following MOS&B Awards:

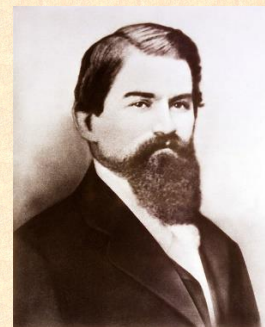
- Real Great Great Grandson Medal
- Thomas Jackson Award
- Major General Patrick R. Cleburne Award
- Commander General's Award
- Southern Cross of Honor

### HOW THE CIVIL WAR CREATED COCA-COLA



Advertising signs at the Coca-Cola Museum, Atlanta

John S. Pemberton served as lieutenant colonel of the 3rd Georgia Cavalry Reserves as a part of the Confederate States Army. He was hit in the chest with a saber in the battle of Columbus, Georgia, fought April 16, 1865—seven days after Lee surrendered at Appomattox. It was a painful and lingering wound.



*John Pemberton, the original creator of Coca-Cola*

Before the war, he had graduated from medical school in Philadelphia and had opened a drugstore as



part of his medical practice in Columbus. He really liked chemistry and inventing new drugs to treat his patients. Now, it was time for him to treat himself, and soon he became addicted to the opiate-based medicine he was using for his pain.

In 1866, in order to try and stop his addiction, he began to develop medicines that would ease his pain but would not contain morphine or opium-based extracts. He tried many different recipes and substances, but none worked.

Finally, he found a combination of alcohol and an extract from the coca plant (today we would call this cocaine) that would help. He soon had the thought this might benefit other wounded warriors, so he traveled to Atlanta in order to perfect his formula for more widespread consumption and maybe make a little money for his wife and only son.

Pemberton and an Atlanta friend—Willis Venable—removed the alcohol and by accident included carbonated water, making it a possible refreshing fountain drink instead of a medicine. And Coca-Cola was born!

The first year—1886—Venable and Pemberton sold maybe \$50 of the new beverage/medicine. But Pemberton was a forward thinker and believed he had something that would eventually be popular. He created shares of his new company, and by 1887 another druggist—Asa Candler—bought most of those shares for \$2,300. Today, knowing what we know, we would ask, why would he do that? Pemberton had become very sick (his addiction issues returned) and he needed money, so he agreed to sell almost all of his business to Candler except for a small percentage he reserved for his only son.

The inventor of Coca-Cola died in 1888 from stomach cancer. Soon, his son, also an addict, sold the remainder of the shares to Candler, who began to aggressively market the drink in Georgia and throughout the Southeast. Eventually Pemberton's concoction would become an iconic symbol. How many Cokes do you think are served every second worldwide? And it all began because of the Civil War.

It may be strange, but it is important to acknowledge our modern-day connections to the Civil War are really not that far removed from our daily lives.



*An early Coca-Cola advertisement*



*Believed to be the first coupon ever, this ticket for a free glass of Coca-Cola was first distributed in 1888 to help promote the drink.*



## Texas Society Leadership

### Commander

Johnnie Lee Holley, Jr.  
[jlh@flash.net](mailto:jlh@flash.net)

### Lt. Commander

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### Communications Officer

Vacant

### Chaplain

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### Judge Advocate

Judge Edward F. Butler

### Inspector General

Steve Von Roeder

### Parliamentarian

Vacant

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## MILITARY ORDER OF THE STARS AND BARS

*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.*



## NEWSLETTER EDITOR

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Opinions expressed by individual writers are their own and do not necessarily reflect official positions of the Texas Society, Military Order of the Stars and Bars.

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(Cutoff for articles is 15th of the month)