



*Newsletter of the Texas Chapter #5
Military Order of the Stars and Bars Houston, Texas*

March 2023

Volume 4, Issue 1

In This Issue:

Commander's Comments	2
Past Meeting	3
This Day in History	4
Article: Confederate Spy	5
Death of Member	6
Convention Registration	7
Supplemental Registration	8

**March is
Women's History Month**



**Isabella "Belle" Boyd
Confederate Spy**

Article on Page 7



Loren Johnston
May Speaker
*Firearms of the
Confederacy*

Next Meeting:
Friday, February 17, 2023
11:30 AM
Rudi Lechner's Restaurant
2503 S. Gessner
Houston, Texas





George W. Williamson
Commander

Commander's Comments

It's always a highlight to be with all of my MOS&B Com-patriots, their wives and friends at Rudi Lechners, where I feel our waiter does a great job of taking care of us. I feel with their new and improved menu it's a winner! In my opinion, a nice place to meet, good food and a good program makes for a successful meeting.

Our program with Curt Locklear was very informative and enjoyable as he played guitar and bango and sang for us and led us in "Dixie" at the close of our meeting.

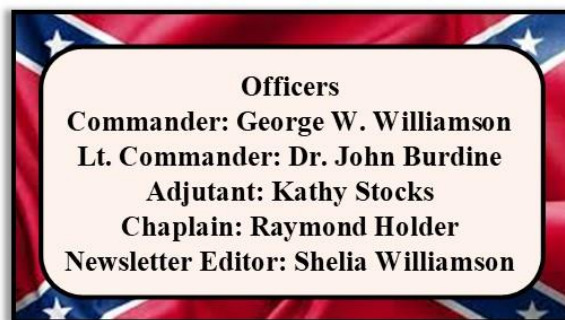
We have four new members and our latest, Ron Liston, was my honor to induct him into our chapter.

This year I am setting our goal to have five new members for Houston #5. I will be discussing this more at our meeting in May.

Phil Whitley and I have just returned from attending our Executive Council Meeting in College Station where I announced my candidacy to run for The Commander of the Texas Society.

Shelia and I will be attending the 86th Annual General Convention in Atlantic Beach, North Carolina.

I'm honored to be the Commander of Houston Chapter #5 as we are one big Texas MOS&B family!



February Meeting Happenings



We had an attendance of thirteen at our February 2022 meeting. The meeting opened with a welcome from Commander George Williamson followed by a prayer led by Chaplain Raymond Holder. Phil Whitley led everyone in the pledges to the flags. Following lunch a motion was made by Don Stone and seconded by Phil Whitley to approve the minutes from the last meeting.

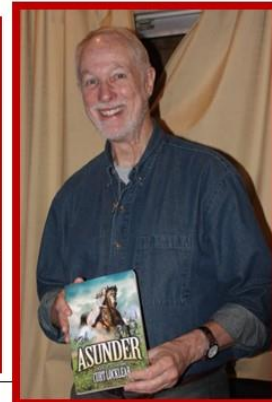
Commander George Williamson introduced our guests along with the induction of new member, Ron Liston. Ron's wife, Myra, attended with him. Compatriot Don Stone read This Day in History to the group about the Confederate submarine, the CSS H.L. Hunley. Due to his health, Phil Whitley reported he has handed our flags over to Rick Giuffre and asked the chapter if we should buy new flags, maybe a tabletop size. Commander Williamson introduced our guest speaker, Curt Locklear, who spoke about "The Confederate Invasion of Arizona and New Mexico". Along the way, Curt entertained us by singing and playing his guitar and bango. He closed our meeting leading us in the singing of "Dixie".



New member Ron Liston & Commander George Williamson



Program Speaker,
Curt Locklear Song writer,
musician & author



Loren Johnston -
May Speaker Firearms of
the Confederacy

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This Day In History

by Don Stone

Submarine CSS H.L. Hunley

February 17, 1864

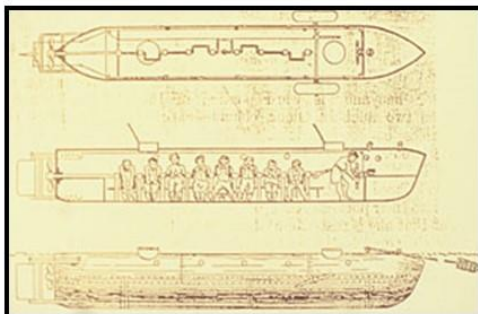
On this day of history, the Confederate CSS H.L. Hunley became the first submarine to sink a warship. The target USS Housatonic was a 1,200 ton screw sloop-of-war. However, the Hunley sunk after the attack and lost the crew of 21 men. Their torpedo exploded prematurely when the Hunley crew got within 20 feet of the Housatonic.

The Hunley was nearly 40 feet long and was built in Mobile, Alabama. It was shipped to Charleston, S. C., by rail on August 12, 1863.

The Hunley sunk twice before the final successful attack. Five crewmen died in the first unsuccessful test. Crewman, inventor and promoter Horace Lawley Hunley died along with seven other men on the second test. These men who gave their lives to advance submarine warfare were truly heroes.

The location of the submarine Hunley was unknown until 1995 when it was found through underwater diving technology. It was raised in the year 2000 and is now on display outside of the museum located in North Charleston, South Carolina.

My relative Captain Albert Orlando Stone was a famous blockademrunner who after the war, later reside in Charleston. He had been captured twice and escaped twice. He may have had knowledge of the famous submarine Hunley.



Built by some of the best engineers of their time, the thin, cigar-shaped H.L. Hunley, named for her second captain who died with his crew during sea trials, was manned by a crew of nine: eight to turn the hand-cranked propeller and one to steer the vessel.

Left, sketch and deck plan of the Hunley by Simon Lake from a description of the vessel by crewmember Charles Hasker. Published in McLures Magazine in January 1899 and available at the National Archives. Researched by Mark K. Ragan.



...Continued from front page

Isabella "Belle" Boyd

Confederate Spy

When it comes to the American Civil War there were important women on both sides of the conflict who made important contributions. Maria Isabella "Belle" Boyd was one of those women. She was a confederate spy who went to extremes to deliver information to General Stonewall Jackson. When she began spying as just a kid of about 17, she did so by reporting what she saw or heard from union soldiers who were stationed outside of her house. She eventually went to such extremes as walking out onto fields where battles were taking place to supply the Confederate Army with information. Belle Boyd became such an important female heroine of the south during the Civil War.

Boyd was born to a slave holding family in Virginia. Her parents were Benjamin Reed and Mary Rebecca Boydin. The beginning of her involvement in the war got out to Union soldiers that she was home. They responded by hanging a growing up a tomboy who enjoyed climbing trees and playing in the woods, Boyd was also a staunch defender of her family. When a union officer spoke unkindly to her mother, she had no problem taking the family pistol and killing the offender. Ultimately, the union soldier was exonerated but from that point on she was kept under a close eye on her, even keeping watch outside her house. Boyd's good looks, flirty ways and fearlessness helped her in her spying activities. On more than one occasion, she was able to charm a union officer into giving her secret information which she then relayed to Stonewall Jackson.



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ly in May of 1844 in Martinsburg, West Virginia. Her parents were Benjamin Reed and Mary Rebecca Boydin. The beginning of her involvement in the war got out to Union soldiers that she was home. They responded by hanging a growing up a tomboy who enjoyed climbing trees and playing in the woods, Boyd was also a staunch defender of her family. When a union officer spoke unkindly to her mother, she had no problem taking the family pistol and killing the offender. Ultimately, the union soldier was exonerated but from that point on she was kept under a close eye on her, even keeping watch outside her house. Boyd's good looks, flirty ways and fearlessness helped her in her spying activities. On more than one occasion, she was able to charm a union officer into giving her secret information which she then relayed to Stonewall Jackson.

Boyd did not rely on her good looks and charm alone. She often secretly listened to conversations among Union soldiers for important information she could supply to the Confederate soldiers. Just before Stonewall Jackson and his men began the Battle of Front Royal, Belle Boyd bravely slipped onto the battlefield to clue Jackson in to some last minute information she had about the Union positions.

For her notorious ways as a confederate spy during the Civil War, she was arrested at least six times. It was the summer of 1862, however, before she was finally imprisoned for her actions. She was in and out of prison until December of 1863 when she was ultimately released and forced to go south.

After the war, Boyd fled to Canada and then England where she married for the first time. By the time she returned to America in 1866, she was a widow and the mother of one child. Boyd went on to marry two more times and had four children with her second husband before divorcing him.

Belle Boyd turned her life experiences into memoirs and even began an acting career, but when she passed away at the age of 57 she was living in poverty.

In Memory of Our Compatriot



It is with great sadness, we announce the passing of Ross Lynn Leone, 76, who passed away March 1, 2023. Ross Lynn Leone was born in Houston, and attended Spring Branch High School there. Ross is retired and has three children. Ross Lynn Leone has been a resident in recent years of New Braunfels, Seguin, Mountain City and Driftwood, Texas.

Ross earned a degree in management and marketing from Louisiana State University. Leone's career experience includes working with the IRS.

He worked as a federal employee for the IRS for 25 years in Austin and Houston and at the National Headquarters in Washington, D. C. Ross ran for election to the U.S. House to represent Texas' 15th Congressional District in 2022.

Ross was a longtime member of our chapter and was faithful to attend the MOS&B State Conventions. He was a childhood friend of our Phil Whitley.

*Please keep our compatriots,
friends & family in your prayers*





Zebulon Baird Vance

Military Order of the Stars and Bars
86th Annual General Convention
Atlantic Beach, North Carolina
May 4-6, 2023



Convention Registration Form

Name: _____ (members only) Title: _____

Chapter Name and Number: _____

Phone Number: _____ E-mail: _____

Spouse/Guest(s): _____

Registration (for MOS&B members only) @ \$75.00 \$ _____
Late Registration after April 15, 2023 @ \$85.00 \$ _____

** The deadline for all preregistrations is April 15, 2023 **
**No Refunds after April 15, 2023 **

Thursday, May 4th

Commander General's East Coast Boil Reception @ \$ 50.00 \$ _____

Friday, May 5th

7:30 AM - Forrest Cavalry Corps Breakfast - Cost to be announced at a later date - Pay at the door

MOS&B Southen Picnic Awards Luncheon @ \$ 40.00 \$ _____

Saturday, May 6th

MOS&B Carolina Sunrise Prayer Breakfast @ \$ 25.00 \$ _____

Women's Bus Tour to Beaufort Historic District @ \$ 32.00 \$ _____
This tour is limited to the first 29 registrations

Commander General's Reception/Banquet @ \$ 65.00 \$ _____

Ancestor Memorial (See supplemental information sheet) @ \$ 5.00 \$ _____

Additional Convention Medal (if available) @ \$ 20.00 \$ _____

Additional Convention Program (if available) @ \$ 10.00 \$ _____

TOTAL ENCLOSED (check) \$ _____

Make check payable to: NC Society MOS&B and mail to:
Byron Brady, 1332 Garden Crest Circle, Raleigh, NC 27609
John Howard Talley, III, Convention Chairman/
grendl1@ec.rr.com/(910) 395-4499s



**Supplemental Registration Information Sheet
86th Annual General Convention**

Ancestor Memorial _____ @ \$5.00 = \$ _____
Limited to 3 lines per Confederate ancestor. (Attached to Registration Form)

**Please print legibly - Use additional sheet if necessary
Deadline Submittal Date - April 15, 2023**

Ancestor's Name _____

Ancestor's Rank _____

Ancestor's Unit _____

Ancestor's Name _____

Ancestor's Rank _____

Ancestor's Unit _____

Ancestor's Name _____

Ancestor's Rank _____

Ancestor's Unit _____

Ancestor's Name _____

Ancestor's Rank _____

Ancestor's Unit _____

