



Lone Star Dispatch

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

COMMANDER'S CORNER

by Larry "Joe" Reynolds



Compatriots,

As we enter into this new year of 2022, I can only hope that it will be better than the last couple of years. COVID 19 has touched many friends and family, and there is none that have not been affected by it in some manner.

Our Chapters have started meeting again, Our members are getting out, Our Society is once again starting to grow. However, we must all work together in order to keep our Society the largest in the MOS&B. Missouri has really started to grow; it appears that they are doing everything right! I was told that their secret was very simple, every man recruit just one other man and you will double your force.

We have a Society Executive Council meeting coming up on March 26th in College Station and dearly hope that we will have a representative from every Chapter in attendance. We need to vote on some important items for the upcoming 2022 Texas Society Convention which is just around the corner on May 20-21. I hope that we will have one of our best ever, I would love to see a large attendance this year!

Also remember that our 85th Annual National Convention at Pickwick is fast approaching.

*Deo Vindice,
Joe Reynolds
Society Commander*

UPCOMING EVENTS

SEC Meeting

March 26th, 2022

Hilton Inn and Convention Center
College Station, Texas

GEC Meeting

April 22-23, 2022

Hampton Inn & Suites
1222 Kelli Drive, Athens. AL 35613

Texas Society MOS&B Reunion

May 20-21, 2022

Hilton College Station & Conference Center
801 University Drive East, College Station, TX

85th National General Convention

July 7-10, 2022

Lodge at Pickwick Landing State Park
120 Playground Loop, Counce, TN 38326
(713) 689-3129



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

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SOUTHERN

THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN "US" AND "THEM"...



When Confederate General John B. Gordon entered York, Pennsylvania in the summer of 1863, he found the population in a state of panic, fearing retaliation from the Confederate soldiers for Union atrocities against Southern civilians. General Gordon gathered a large crowd of women in the state and told them this:

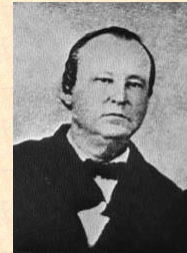
"Our Southern homes have been pillaged, sacked and burned, our mothers, wives and little ones driven forth amid the brutal insults of your soldiers. Is it any wonder that we fight with desperation? A natural revenge would prompt us to retaliate in kind".

"But we scorn to war on women and children. We are fighting for the God given rights of liberty and independence as handed down in the Constitution by our fathers. So, fear not. If a torch is applied to a single dwelling, or an insult offered to a female of your town by a soldier of this command, point me out that man, and you shall have his life".

Such is the difference between "us" and "them"...

TEXAS HEROES

JAMES EDWARD HARRISON 1815 – 1875



James Edward Harrison, older brother of Thomas, was born in Greenville District, South Carolina, April 24, 1815. His family soon moved to Alabama and then to Mississippi where he eventually served two terms in the state senate. Moving to Texas in 1857, he settled near Waco, and in 1861, was commissioner to treat with the Indians on behalf of the State of Texas. He also became a member of the Texas secession convention.

Harrison entered Confederate service in the 15th Texas Infantry, with which almost his Entire army career was in comparatively minor operation west of the Mississippi River. He participated under the command of Gen Tom Green in the Louisiana campaigns of 1863 and 1864. In both campaigns he received favorable mention by Green and Gen. Richard Taylor. He was appointed brigadier general to rank from December 22, 1864.

After the war he returned to Waco, where he was prominent in local affairs and served as a trustee of Baylor University until his death on February 23, 1875. He is buried in Fort Fisher Cemetery in Waco.

Lieutenant Commander's Comments

by George Ward Williamson



Spring is on the way! February is almost at our back door. I'm excited about the building of our new chapter in Temple, Texas. We will be meeting on February 26th at our future Commander, Michael Gonzales' home in Temple. **If anyone would like to help establish this new chapter, please contact Michael or me.**

Michael Gonzales: email:
speedygon10@aol.com

George Williamson: email:
g2948@aol.com

As I stated in our past newsletter I would be visiting chapters. So far I've visited San Angelo and enjoyed meeting the members. I also attended the Lee Jackson Christmas Party Dinner in San Antonio which was outstanding.

I'm looking forward to attending the GEC meeting in April at College Station. Also I've already made reservations for the 85th Texas Society Annual National General Convention at The Lodge at Pickwick Landing State Park Tennessee.

Now that I'm over the China virus, I'll be venturing out again.

God bless the South!

George W. Williamson
Lt. Commander

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

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.

RECOGNITION FOR MAINTAINING A VETERAN'S GRAVESITE "JACKSON MEDAL"

Adopt a Confederate officer's grave, commit to its care and you might wear the "Jackson Medal". This is not a commitment to be taken lightly, nor was it intended to be. If you accept this challenge, do so with two thoughts in mind: 1. It is a year-to-year commitment 2. Your efforts should be towards perfection Certificates and medals are awarded on a point basis. For more information see the [details here!](#)

ANNOUNCEMENT FOR CANDIDACY



REQUEST FOR ARTICLES

for upcoming Editions of the
Lone Star Dispatch

I am announcing that I am a candidate for the office of Army of Trans-Mississippi Executive Councilman. Over the course of the past four years, I have served as the Commander of the Army of Trans-Mississippi. I would like the opportunity to help complete what we have begun in the Military Order of the Stars and Bars. I believe I can assist the new commander in accomplishing the goals we set in order to achieve our mission.

I have attended all the General Executive Council meetings and all reunions for the past four years. I will continue to do the same in the future, God willing.

I received the Distinguished Commander Service Award (DCS) in 2019 and the Gold Star Award in 2021. I have also received the Southern Cross of Honor, Rebel Club, Pelham Award, and the General Patrick Cleburne Award.

I graduated from Brownsboro High School and received the Associate of Science degree from Tyler Junior College in Tyler, Texas. I attended Sam Houston State University and graduated from the University of Texas with a Bachelor of Science degree. I was inducted into Alpha Chi for my academic achievement and graduated with honors.

I served in the United States Army from 1968-1969 and received an honorable discharge.

I was employed at Goodyear Tire and Rubber Company for 33 years in the management and engineering development departments. I was also involved in new plant startups and in the development of "Just in Time Stacker Systems".

Reta and I were married in 1970 and we have one son, Darren, who lives in Loveland, Colorado. We have three grandchildren and eight great-grandchildren.

I am a life member of MOS&B. My membership is in Chapter 261, Richard B. Hubbard, Tyler, Texas. I am also a life member of the Texas and National Sons of Confederate Veterans. I am also a member of the Sons of the American Revolution, in the

William Barron Chapter 55, Tyler, where I served as Vice President and Color Guard Commander. I am a member of Piney Woods Chapter 52 of the Sons of Texas Revolution. I belong to Lodge 1371, Henry Marsh Bell, Whitehouse, as a Master Mason.

I humbly ask for your support and vote. I pledge that I will bring younger members into our great Society of Military Order of Stars and Bars.

This we do to preserve our ancestors' memories and deeds to further the MOS&B mission.

"I will say to the North: Give up, and to the South: Keep not back." Isaiah 43:6

Long live the South!

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TAKING A FELLOW BACK HOME

By Bill Boyd, Chapter 310



While visiting Bryan Cemetery sexton Robert Jackson a few days ago, I noticed a partial VA headstone for Jack Lewis in the bed of Robert's pickup. I enquired as to how he came to possess it and the reply was that 'someone had found it under a house in north Bryan' and had given it to him. It had been in his truck for several months and he was at a loss as to how to find its home location. I told him I thought I could help him; promptly took a photo; forwarded it to Baldwin Chapter 312 Commander Lee Lance, an electronic genealogist extraordinaire;

and, followed up with a call to Lee. Within a few minutes, Lee had found Mr. Lewis' military service papers and death certificate. Lewis' death certificate noted his burial site as the Bryan Colored Cemetery; however, the issue was that there are at least three black cemeteries in Bryan. Unfortunately, we didn't know which of them would have been referenced as such in 1957.

Late in the day, Lee sent me an email with images of the documents he had found. I then contacted Chapter 312 Adjutant Henry Mayo, who is also the Brazos County Historical Society President, and inquired if he could help identify which might be the correct cemetery. Henry then forwarded the info to several folks in his group and, by the next morning, Bill Paige had located Lewis' Veterans Administration Application for Headstone form. The form had been completed by Mr. Lewis' wife and the burial location was listed as Brushy Cemetery overseen by the Daniel Funeral Home of Bryan. We are coordinating with the current Daniel & Son Funeral Home to discover any further information that might be had regarding his exact interment plot within the cemetery.

The Brushy Community is a loosely organized black community west of the TAMU campus near the Brazos River. It was historically associated with the pre-Texas Revolution Jones family's Mexican land grant/plantation. [Note: Mr Lewis' WWI Draft Card shows his employer to be L S Jones and his job as Farmer] The cemetery is heavily overgrown, closed, and on private property. A group of us are planning an expedition to see if we can locate the bottom portion of the headstone. In the meantime, we will be requesting a granite replacement marker for World War I Veteran, Private Frank Lewis, Co C, 341st Labor Battalion, Quartermaster Corps, US Army. We hope to "take this fellow home" and have his gravesite properly marked for his descendants in the very near future.

The image shows two documents from the WWI draft registration process. The left document is a 'REGISTRATION CARD' for Jack Lewis, No. 1215, dated 1-25-1915. It lists his name, address (Bryant, Tex), date of birth (Sept 1892), and military service details. The right document is a 'REGISTRAR'S REPORT' signed by G. G. Foster, dated June 1917, reporting on the registrant's status.

Frank Lewis WWI Draft Registration Card

This is a 'CERTIFICATE OF DEATH' from the Texas Department of Health, Bureau of Vital Statistics, State of Texas. It details the death of Jack Lewis on 1-6-57 at the Bryan Veterans Administration Hospital. The certificate includes information on the decedent, cause of death (Congestive Heart Failure), and burial location (Bryan Colored Cemetery).

Frank Lewis Death Certificate

This is a 'VA APPLICATION FOR HEADSTONE OR MARKER' form for Frank Lewis. It includes fields for the decedent's name (Lewis, Jack), date of death (1-6-57), and the applicant's name (Lizzie Lewis). The form is filled out with details about the veteran's service and the requested headstone.

Frank Lewis VA Application for Headstone

ANNOUNCEMENT FOR CANDIDACY



Compatriots of the Military Order of Stars and Bars:

I would like to officially announce my candidacy for the position of Commander General of the MOS&B. I feel that I have the qualifications and desire to serve you in this capacity.

My record and qualifications are listed on the attached resume. I have attended the GEC meetings and Conventions and served as Chairman of the 2021 Convention Committee. Currently I serve as a member of the Search Committee for Executive Director and was a member of the Constitutional Review Committee. As an SCV member, I was Texas Division Commander and Army of Trans-Mississippi Commander, serving on the National General Executive Council.

The MOS&B is at a turning point. Over the next few months we will hire an Executive Director and the transition will require several upgrades to our National office. This will be an opportunity for us to make beneficial changes to our operation and generally upgrade many aspects of our procedures.

The MOS&B has been blessed with a good growth rate over the past few years. This is a result of hard work by you, our members, and the Chapters, Armies, and National Officers. However, we can do better, and we must, if we are to continue to grow and be a viable and thriving organization. We can never be satisfied with our recruiting and retention.

Improved communication is always an area to be addressed.

In closing, I want to stress that I believe in strict adherence to the Constitution, the will and direction of the GEC, and the wishes of the membership. It will be my goal for the MOS&B to be a better, more dynamic and prosperous organization at the end of my term than when I was elected. I will give you transparency, openness, and honest, concerned leadership.

I humbly ask for your consideration and support.

Respectfully,

Johnnie L. Holley, Jr., DCS



HOW THE CONFEDERACY ARMED ITS SOLDIERS.

[How the Southern Confederacy developed a great industry in the manufacture of firearms and munitions while handicapped by the demands of active warfare is brought out in this article from the Springfield (Mass.) Republican, published while the World War was raging. The wonderful accomplishment of establishing a government, organizing, and equipping an army with weapons of its own manufacture — all this o'n practically nothing — has never been equalled to this day. It was the spirit of self-determination that put it through—and that was the spirit which fought the World War.]

Deprived of 90 per cent of her iron ore, 80 per cent of her iron and steel manufacturing plants, and 50 per cent of her coal resources, France, besides keeping her own army of millions fully equipped, has, nevertheless, sent 600,000 rifles, 300,000,000 cartridges, hundreds of field pieces, and millions of projectiles to Russia, and contributed in general to her allies nearly 25 per cent of the total amount of munitions used. Such an achievement of industrial organization has never been duplicated. The industrial organization of the Great War has never

been duplicated. Yet the Southern Confederacy, which was never "deprived" of its iron and steel industries because it had never had any, without twentieth century industrial organization, shut off from the commerce of the world by a hostile blockade, armed itself largely by its own labor for a four-years' struggle with what was in 1864 and 1865 the greatest military power in the world. "We began in April, 1861," wrote Gen. Josiah Gorgas, chief of ordnance of the Confederate army, in a monograph to President Jefferson Davis, "without arsenal or laboratory, or powder mill of any capacity, and with no foundry or rolling mill except in Richmond; and before the close of 1863, or within a little over two years we supplied them. During the harassments of the war, while holding our own in the field defiantly and successfully against a powerful enemy, crippled by a depreciated currency; throttled by a blockade that deprived us of nearly all the means of getting material or workmen; obliged to send every able-bodied man to the field; unable to use slave labor, with which we were abundantly supplied, except in the most unskilled departments of production; hampered by want of transportation of even the commonest supplies of food; with no stock on hand even of such articles as copper, leather, iron, which we must have to build up our establishments—against all these obstacles, in spite of all these deficiencies, we persevered at home mined as our troops did in the field against a more tangible opposition; and in that short period created almost literally out of the ground foundries and rolling mills at Selma, Richmond, Atlanta, and Macon; smelting works at Petersburg; chemical works at Charlotte, N. C.; a powder mill far superior to any in the United States and unsurpassed by any across the ocean; and a chain of arsenals, armories, and laboratories equal in their capacity and improved appointments to the best of those in the United States, and stretching link by link from Virginia to Alabama"

In spite of the proof-supported charge that Gen. John Floyd of Virginia had utilized his position as war secretary in Buchanan's cabinet to secure the removal of arms and ammunition to the Southern arsenals

against the day of rebellion, the outbreak of hostilities found the South woefully unprepared. There were six arsenals within the limits of the seceding States, not counting Harper's Ferry, Va., destroyed by the regular army soldiers before evacuation, namely - a State arsenal at Richmond and government institutions at Fayetteville, N. C., Charleston, Augusta, Ga., Mount Vernon, Ala., and Baton Rouge, La. None of these was a manufacturing plant. They were storehouses, that was all, and despite Floyd's services to his unborn government not any too heavily stocked. Altogether, according to Jefferson Davis's "The Rise and Fall of the Confederate Government," these half a dozen contained just 15,000 rifles and 120,000 muskets, the latter mostly of out-of-date pattern. Confronted by this situation, the new government began with an impressive innocence, by attempting to supply deficiencies by purchase in the North. Capt. Raphael Semmes, of Alabama, afterwards to command the famous commerce raider of that name, went into the Union States with a commission to buy all that the munition makers could supply. There was no trouble about signing the contracts. According to President Davis, Semmes "would have been quite successful if it had not been for the intervention of civil authorities preventing delivery." Major Huse, of Alabama, at the same time went to England, but found the supply of arms on hand low and the difficulties of blockade running great. His contributions to the Southern cause, while considerable, did not equal what was accomplished through home production.

"The appalling contemplation of the inauguration of a great war," wrote President Davis, "without powder or a navy to secure its importation from abroad, was soon relieved by the extraordinary efforts of the ordnance department and the directing skill of Gen. G. W. Rains." This Gen. George Washington Rains, a North Carolinian, who had been professor of chemistry at West Point, left a prosperous engineering business in New York in 1861 to enter the service of his native State. He was almost at once put in charge of the proposed powder factory at Augusta, Ga. That meant he had to build the factory,

and he did. Meanwhile, he set parties at work exploring the caves of the Tennessee and Virginia mountains for saltpeter. Others too weak to fight searched old cellars and old tobacco barns for niter, and still others started immense niter beds in Columbia and Charleston, S. C., Savannah, Augusta, and Mobile. By 1862 a salt-peter refinery was running at Nashville. All the material obtained in this way was sent to Augusta, where, under Gen. Rains's direction, the powder mill became the most famous example of Southern industrial efficiency.

Meanwhile the weapon industry had suddenly leaped into life. The Southerners were a "gun-toting" race, so that there were enough firearms for the first round of the struggle at Bull Run. But the time of need was coming, and preparation was made in advance. When the Union soldiers evacuated Harper's Ferry, leaving the flames still burning, civilians, under the lead of Chief Armorer Armistead Ball, rushed into the ruins and saved a large part of the machinery. The rest of the Southern arsenals had hardly a machine above the complexity of the foot lathe. But before the end of 1861, the Harper's Ferry machines, set up in Richmond and in Fayetteville, were turning out thousands of rifles, rifle-muskets, rifles with sword bayonets, and firearms of every description.

Steam was put in at the Charleston arsenal. The Mount Vernon institution was moved to Selma, nearer the district where the hardest cast iron in America was being turned into gun bores. Ancient field pieces of 1812 were replaced by new cannon from the Tredegar iron works in Richmond. By January, 1862, 1,500 seacoast pieces of various caliber fronted the ocean between the mouth of the Potomac and the Rio Grande. The South had no skilled laborers to speak of, but a handful of men like Ball, who followed the "cause," worked themselves half to death—Ball did die of overwork—training the hundreds who were willing.

Lead at the rate of nearly 80,000 pounds a month came in from the mines near Wytheville, Va., to be smelted in the new government plant at Petersburg. Battle fields were combed for gunstocks, bores, and

bullets, with excellent results. Buildings were erected for a general government armory at Macon, Ga., and machinery, run in through the blockade from Bermuda, was actually installed before the collapse came. The Confederacy fell not so much because it had not been able to make arms, as because all the places where the arms were made fell before the Union armies.



God Bless America?

American discourse is dwindling to the level of memes, t-shirt slogans, and bumper stickers. We see them all around us: "These colors don't run." "I bleed red, white, and blue." "Don't ever mistake my silence for ignorance, my calmness for acceptance, or my kindness for weakness." These are just a few I observed on my drive home this evening. But the one slogan and phrase that never fails to raise my ire is: "God Bless America." Our politicians utter it, songs contain it, and it even has become a phrase used in Divine worship.

My question to you is, "Why would a Holy and Pure God continue to bless America?" I do not doubt that

He has in the past. He certainly could in the future, but right here, right now, why would He? Everywhere we turn our Republic is infected with rot and corruption. In the name of political correctness and expediency, we have allowed the very fabric of the nation to be torn asunder. The innocent are slaughtered in the womb, they are massacred in the streets, and they are slain in the pursuit of money. We lie, cheat, and steal nationally, locally, and privately. We certainly do not “love our neighbor as ourselves” or “love the Lord your God with all of your heart, mind, and soul.”

President John Adams once wrote, “Our Constitution was made only for a moral and religious people. It is wholly inadequate to the government of any other.” And yet, we are surprised that we seem to be losing the Constitution at every turn?

We are not without hope. We are told in II Chronicles 7:13-14 “If I shut up the heavens so that there is no rain, or if I command the locust to devour the land, or if I send a plague among My people, (14) and My people who are called by My name humble themselves, and pray and seek My face, and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and I will forgive their sin and will heal their land.” [New American Standard Bible, The Lockman Foundation, 2020].

Following the trend toward memes and pithy sayings that have become our language of discourse: “America Bless God” should become our cry. Maybe some enterprising folks could put this on a bumper sticker or a t-shirt. Perhaps an even better idea would be for us to put this in our hearts and minds. Brothers we must humble ourselves and seek His face if our society, our families and our nation are to be healed.

Dr. James L. Newsom
Chaplain
Texas Society, Military Order of Stars and Bars

REPORT FROM THE SOUTHERN MEMORIAL ASSOCIATION

I received the following information from Compatriot Troy Massey about some work done at the Confederate Cemetery: Texas Friends, this is an FYI on an SMA member, Christine Keller, her daughter and her two grand babies, who cleaned the Texas Section of leaves recently. 21 trash bags full! So as y’all can see, we’re all pitching in to keep our Confederate Cemetery in its pristine condition!

So today Sarah and I (and grandbabies Isabelle and Thomas) went to the cemetery to rake leaves. We cleared away all the leaves in the Texas section, and it was 21 trash bags full! It took us two hours. I suppose we're not as efficient as the men, lol. (I will use the leaves in my garden, which Al said is fine.)



When I wrote Christine to thank her, I received the following: Above is a picture of my daughter Sarah and my two grandbabies (Sarah's niece and nephew) with our pile of leaf bags. As we raked, we talked about the men buried there who gave the ultimate sacrifice and the poor wives and mothers whose men are buried there. Our little kindness to them seems so meager. They are not forgotten!

Blessings, Christine



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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)

