



LONE STAR DISPATCH

NEWSLETTER OF

THE MILITARY ORDER OF THE STARS AND BARS—TEXAS SOCIETY

2025, Spring Edition



Volume 7, Issue 4



COMMANDER'S COMMENTS

by George W. Williamson

Wow! Spring is here and the new green in The Woodlands is so beautiful and I'm sure it is wherever you live. 2025 is moving fast. As you will read in this publication, our new Ft. Worth Chapter was chartered in March and is up and running.

We had a fabulous Easter celebrating the most important event in the history of the world—the resurrection of Jesus Christ!

May 29th will be here before you know it and we will be going to Foley, Alabama for the 88th Annual General Convention and then in June to Bryan College Station for the Texas Society Convention. This is when we will elect a new Commander and Lt. Commander for the Texas Society.

I'm so proud to be part of this professional organization and to be a part of the Officer's Corps of the Confederacy where we pay honor to our Confederate ancestors and the price they paid for the cause for which they believed.

God bless the MOS&B,
George W. Williamson
Texas Society Commander



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CHAPLAIN'S COMMENTS

by Raymond Holder

A SURRENDERED LIFE



"When a man's ways are pleasing to the Lord, He makes even his enemies to be at peace with him." Proverbs 16:7

This past April of 2025, we acknowledged the 160th anniversary of the surrender of the Army of Northern Virginia by Robert E. Lee at the McLean home at Appomattox, Virginia. Good Friday, April 7th, was also the day we of our Christian faith acknowledge the death by crucifixion of Jesus Christ. Our Lord surrendered His life as a ransom for the redemption for all who so ever will accept the Lordship of God through His Son, Jesus Christ. A surrendered life is that of a life of Faith, knowing that God holds our future. Robert E. Lee walked down the steps of the Mclean house at Appomattox as a surrendered man who was a true soldier of the cross as many years earlier he surrendered his life the Lordship of Jesus Christ.

Peace with God means a surrendered life to God. The southern armies had surrendered, but not its soul and spirit. The door which represented an independent Confederate States of America was closed as Robert E. Lee surrendered his forces on that fateful day. Most often we represent surrender with giving up and in a real sense it is. The Confederate States of America apparently was not to be as the southern armies began to surrender, as this page of American history was turned and the door on the life of the government of the Confederacy was closed. If the progress for southern independence was a drama or play, the curtain closes on the first act as the commander of Southern armies, Robert E. Lee walks down the steps of the Mclean house at Appomattox and rides away on his horse, Traveler.

General Grant's terms of surrender to the Confederates armies was summed up in four words, stop fighting-go home. Indeed our confederate ancestors did just that. The south reinvented itself through surrendered lives of faith. We southerners have through our individual churches and faith denominations have and still are sending and supporting missionaries throughout the world telling people in foreign lands about the love of God through Jesus Christ. We are doing this through relief efforts, building and operating hospitals, schools, and in the process being Ambassadors for Christ.

The south consumes and exports what I would call the southern gospel of which I just described. In my native Mississippi the two main crops are still cotton and soybean, which also represents a static population meaning a higher percentage of the population stay put than the rest of the nation. The south as a whole population has maintained their family roots including their faith in the God of their fathers. As stated in Romans 1:17, the righteousness of God being revealed from faith to faith, so a higher percentage of the South's population consumed the overflowing love of God in their heart, so overflowing, they sent missionaries around the world to tell other people in foreign lands of that love of God. A surrendered life makes this possible. The confederate soldiers, many of them, walked home hundreds of miles, after the surrender at Appomattox and other places the Confederate armies surrendered. This is exactly what my two great-grandfathers did.

The second act on this great drama of American history begins as the curtain rises on the lone figure of Robert E. Lee as he goes home and starts a new life, eventually, in Lexington, Virginia as the president of Washington College which was renamed later in his honor, Washington and Lee

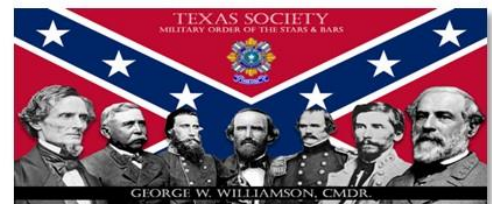
(continued...) College. He and his family had lost all of his inherited family estate of Arlington. His last official act of any kind was that of a promist to pledge a difference in the stipend to be paid to the minister of the Episcopal Church of which he was one of its leaders. On his way home on that early October day of 1870, he became ill and latter suffered a stroke which ended his iconic life. This soldier of the cross, Robert E. Lee, lea a surrendered life to his Lord and to his principles of the character we so much admire. The surrendered life of faith will cost the Christian who takes up the cross of Jesus the Christ, will cost much and those who do not surrender their life to the call of our Lord Jesus Christ, it will cost even more. When you and I view the Arlington estate which was once the home of Robert E. Lee and his family, it represents to me the surrendered life of Robert E. Lee. He showed through his example about how the south might go forward in the future. The curtain of this drama comes down as a musical interlude of Dixie plays with soft orchestration.

We are living the final act and drama of our South. Our pillars of our faith are not only being played out in our communities, but also around the world through Christian missionaries and those of us who represent a surrendered life to our Lord. God has a plan for the life of each of us and that is the surrendered life of Faith through the love of God in Jesus Christ.

Raymond Holder, B.S.,M. Div., B.C.C.
Chaplain
The Military Order of the Stars & Bars



**MOS&B TEXAS SOCIETY
FACEBOOK PAGE**



We encourage you to join our Facebook page, set up by Commander Michael Gonzales. Type in Texas Society—Military Order of the Stars and Bars, click to join and answer the questions. You will wait to be approved by the Page Administrators. Also, our Military Order of the Stars and Bars—Texas Society website will include the link to our new Facebook page.



CHAPTER VISITS

Chapter 5 Houston, Texas



Induction of new member Dusty Cobb.

Left to right: Jamie & Dusty Cobb & Commander George W. Williamson



Guest speaker and author Edward Cotham & Commander George W. Williamson

UPCOMING EVENTS

88TH ANNUAL NATIONAL GENERAL CONVENTION

May 29—June 1, 2025
Hampton Inn 3152 Abbey Lane
Foley, Alabama

TEXAS SOCIETY MOS&B CONVENTION

June 20—21, 2025
Hilton Garden Inn of College Station
3081 University Drive East
Bryan, Texas



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Fall Edition.....	October

CHARTERING OF NEW CHAPTER

Brigadier General Ben McCulloch Chapter # 72 Fort Worth, Texas

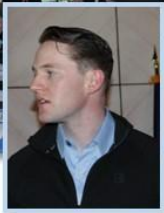
On Saturday, March 15, 2025, The Brigadier General Ben McCulloch Chapter #72 was chartered in Fort Worth, Texas. Trans Mississippi Executive Councilor Larry Joe Reynolds, Texas Society Commander George W. Williamson and Commander Michael Gonzales of Chapter #318 officiated the chartering of this new chapter. Camden L. McCulloch was installed as the new chapter Commander. Robert J. Devine was installed as the Lt. Commander. The invocation was given by Sterling Burdine. Two new members were installed, Mark Brandon Griffin and Aaron Garagg. The charter members are as follows: Camden L. McCulloch, Robert J. Devine, David K. Routh, Michael K. Bennett, William H. Carrell, Glenn E. Carroll and Mark B. Griffin. Commander Michael Gonzales was instrumental in the start of this chapter's chartering.



Trans Mississippi Executive Councilor Larry Joe Reynolds officiates the new charter. Left to right: Robert Devine, Branden McCulloch, Tx Society Commander George W. Williamson & Commander Chapter # 318 Michael Gonzales



Tx Soc. Commander George W. Williamson installs new officers. Left to right: Lt. Commander Robert Devine, Commander & Adjutant Camden McCulloch, Commander George W. Williamson & Commander Michael Gonzales



Sterling Burdine

As the opening of the chartering ceremony began, Sterling Burdine gave the invocation.



Brigadier General Ben McCulloch Chapter #72 officers. Left to right: Lt. Commander Robert Devine, Commander & Adjutant Camden McCulloch,

CHARTERING NEW CHAPTER



Texas Society Commander George W. Williamson installs new chapter members: Mark Griffin & Arron Gragg as new Commander Camden McCulloch stands by



Left to right: Texas Society Commander George W. Williamson, Robert Devine, Mark Griffin, Arron Gragg, Commander Camden McCulloch & Commander Michael Gonzales



The Brigadier General Ben McCulloch Chapter #72 proudly displaying their official charter





GENERAL ROBERT E. LEE'S PAROLE AND CITIZENSHIP

On a spring day 140 years ago, Union Gen. Ulysses S. Grant and Confederate Gen. Robert E. Lee met face to face in the parlor of Wilmer McLean's house in Appomattox Court House, Virginia. On that historic occasion, April 9, 1865, the two generals formalized the surrender of Lee's Army of Northern Virginia, thus bringing an end to four years of fighting between North and South.

After agreeing upon terms of the surrender, the generals each selected three officers to oversee the surrender and parole of Lee's army. Later that day, Lee and six of his staff signed a document granting their parole.

On May 29, 1865, President Andrew Johnson issued a Proclamation of Amnesty and Pardon to persons who had participated in the rebellion against the United States. There were fourteen excepted classes, though, and members of those classes had to make special application to the President.

Lee sent an application to Grant and wrote to President Johnson on June 13, 1865:

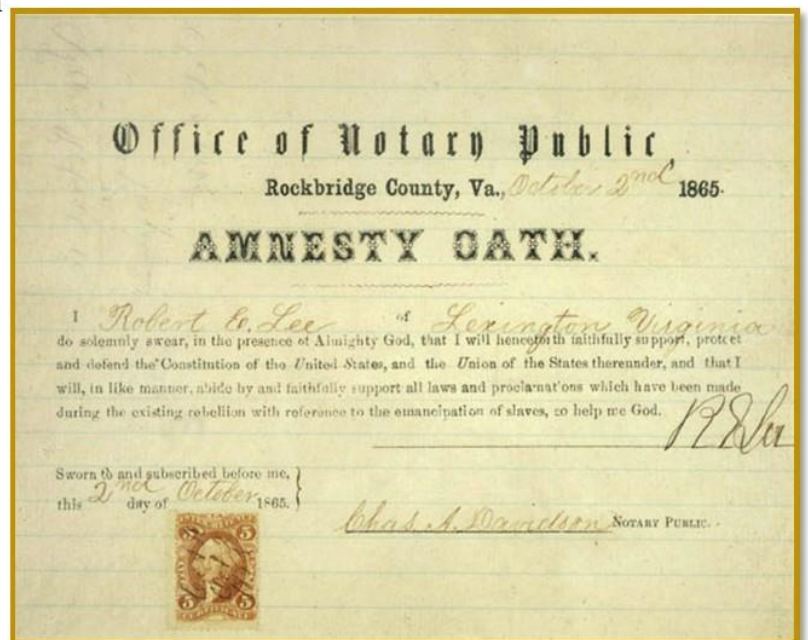
"Being excluded from the provisions of amnesty & pardon contained in the proclamation of the 29th Ultio; I hereby apply for the benefits, & full restoration of all rights & privileges extended to those included in its terms. I graduated at the Mil. Academy at West Point in June 1829. Resigned from the U.S. Army April '61. Was a General in the Confederate Army, & included in the surrender of the Army of N. Va. 9 April '65."

On October 2, 1865, the same day that Lee was inaugurated as president of Washington College in Lexington, Virginia, he signed his Amnesty Oath, thereby complying fully with the provision of Johnson's proclamation. But Lee was not pardoned, nor was his citizenship restored. And the fact that he had submitted an amnesty oath at all was soon lost to history.

More than a hundred years later, in 1970, an archivist at the National Archives discovered Lee's Amnesty Oath among State Department records (reported in *Prologue*, Winter 1970). Apparently Secretary of State William H. Seward had given Lee's application to a friend as a souvenir, and the State Department had pigeonholed the oath.

In 1975, Lee's full rights of citizenship were posthumously restored by a joint congressional resolution effective June 13, 1865.

At the August 5, 1975, signing ceremony, President Gerald R. Ford acknowledged the discovery of Lee's Oath of Allegiance in the National Archives and remarked: "General Lee's character has been an example to succeeding generations, making the restoration of his citizenship an event in which every American can take pride."




TEXAS SOCIETY LEADERSHIP

COMMANDER: George W. Williamson
g2948@aol.com

LT. COMMANDER: David Paul McMahon
dmctx.mosbtx@gmail.com

CHIEF OF STAFF: Col. Michael W. Gray
mike@gray.cpa

ADJUTANT: Robert Stevens Melton
smelton7@yahoo.com

COMMUNICATION OFFICER: David Paul McMahon
dmctx.mosbtx@gmail.com

JUDGE ADVOCATE: Michael Arthur Smith
md@mddsmith.net

INSPECTOR GENERAL: Philip Donald Whitley
eaglechief70@yahoo.com

PARLIAMENTARIAN: David Underdown
DavidUnderdown@chevron.com

GENEALOGIST: Charles C. Hand IV
chuck.hand4@yahoo.com

SURGEON GENERAL: Dr. John Burdine
jtburdine@gmail.com

SERGEANT AT ARMS: Michael S. Gonzales
speedygon10@aol.com

CHAPLAIN: Raymond Holder
natchez62@icloud.com

WEB MASTER: Larry Joe Reynolds
Joe.Reynolds@txmosb.org

NEWSLETTER EDITOR: George W. Williamson
g2948@aol.com

AWARDS COMMITTEE: Larry Joe Reynolds

Joe.Reynolds@txmosb.org

GRAVES ADMINISTRATOR: David Dempsey Tidwell
pmltidwell@yahoo.com

SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE: Michael S. Gonzales
speedygon10@aol.com



“Do your duty in all things.
You cannot do more, you
should never wish to do
less.”

Robert E. Lee