



LONE STAR DISPATCH



NEWSLETTER OF THE
TEXAS SOCIETY
MILITARY ORDER OF THE STARS AND BARS

2025 Fall Edition

Volume 8, Issue 1



COMMANDER'S COMMENTS

By Michael Smith

It is a great honor to have been elected last June to serve as Commander of the Texas Society, Military Order of the Stars and Bars. For the next two years, I will work with you to further the goals of our organization and to build up the Texas Society. We are a growing organization. Of all the heritage organizations out there, the MOS&B is the only one whose membership is increasing. We need to work hard to keep that momentum going.

We definitely live in challenging times. A big part of the problem we face in honoring our ancestors is that ever since the War, that great conflict has been portrayed as a battle between the noble, unselfish forces of Good, whose only goal was to free those who were enslaved, and the cruel forces of Evil, whose only goal was to continue enslaving. Of course, we all know which side is portrayed as Good and which side is portrayed as Evil.

Although this gross distortion of history was unfair, the descendants of both sides could at least get along with each other. For the last decades of the Nineteenth Century and almost the entirety of the Twentieth, Southerners and Northerners agreed to tolerate each others' views of history. No one was tearing down monuments or demanding that the dead be dug up and removed.

In the Twenty-first Century, however, that has changed. For at least two generations now, radical politicians and our schools have gone on the offensive. Not content any longer to let both sides co-exist in peace, these forces have led the way in reopening every old wound, reviving old accusations, and pouring gasoline on every flame of resentment and hatred. They have invented new

terms and new insults to hurl at people who have been dead for over a century. They have encouraged, and even demanded, the destruction of our nation's shared history, up and including the Reconciliation Monument in Arlington National Cemetery, which did not celebrate slavery or the Confederacy, but the peaceful reconciliation of our great country after a long and terrible War.

Although the "wokeness" that had seized our country for the last several years is now at least partially in retreat, the people who foisted it upon us never give up. We will be fighting this ideological battle for a long time. A big part of our task is to educate others about the true causes of the War. And before we can educate others, it is important for us to review the truth about the beginnings of the War. In this issue, you will find the first in a series of short articles that will focus on that very important topic - Was the War About Slavery? I hope you will find the series to be a good "refresher" course, and I hope it will provide you with information you can use!



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CHAPTER 312 HONORS NAMESAKE'S 197TH BIRTHDAY

Chapter 312 in Bryan gathered on Saturday, 09AUG, to celebrate the 197th anniversary of the birth of Chapter namesake Col Briscoe Gerard Baldwin (born 12AUG1828). Col



Col. Baldwin

Baldwin was Lee's ANV Chief of Ordnance. Following the war, Col Baldwin moved to Bryan TX where he served as Superintendent of Schools for the remainder of his life. He was so beloved by the public that the ladies of the local UDC L. S. ROSS Chapter 100 raised monies to furnish the large marble headstone for his grave.

Members of the recently formed Chapter 312 Honor Guard met to recall his life and service to the CSA. Commander Lance led them in a soldier's prayer followed by a 21-musket salute at his gravesite in Bryan City Cemetery.

Chapter 325 Holds First Meeting

The inaugural meeting of the Col. Charles Lynn Pyron Chapter 325 in Boerne was held on Zoom on the evening of Wednesday, October 8, 2025. It was conducted by Charles C. "Chuck" Hand IV, the Commander of the new Chapter. The meeting was attended by the Commander of the Army of Trans-Mississippi, Larry "Joe" Reynolds, who administered the oath of office to Commander Hand. ATM Commander Reynolds also swore in Chapter 325's new Lt. Commander Rex W. Shaddox, Sr., and Adjutant Robert R. "Bob" Hazelwood. Also attending were Texas Society Commander Michael Smith and Lt. Commander Michael Gonzales. Chapter 325 is now the newest Chapter in the Texas Society, in the Army of Trans-Mississippi, and in the entire Military Order of the Stars and Bars. Congratulations to Commander Hand and all the other Charter Members! We welcome you and look forward to working with you!



Chap 312 Honor Guard (L-R) Commander Lee Lance (CAPT USN Ret), Dan Wood (Capt USAF Ret), Darryl English (LtCol USAF Ret), State Commander Mike Smith, Dennis Beal (Col USMC Ret), Wayne Strickler (2d Engineer USMM), Bill Boyd (Commander, SCV 1457). Their uniforms are based on the gray shirts and butternut pants worn by certain Texas cavalry units.

CHAPLAIN'S COMMENTS

by Raymond Holder

The Cross

1 Corinthians 1:18, "For the message of the Cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved, it is the power of God."

Jesus challenged the Jewish authorities of His day beginning with His birth and until He was nailed to a cross by the Roman authorities. His last words were, "it is finished", so thought the Jewish and Roman authorities. The central question to be asked of each of us, Is Jesus finished with you and me?

That is to me a very frightening question. Is Jesus finished with you and me? God sent His Son, Jesus the Christ, to offer Himself for us. For this the Jewish and Roman authorities nailed Him to a Roman cross which was the most horrible death they could administer to a person. The Romans did not invent the cross as a way of execution, but they did perfect it as a means of execution. The early Christians of the church all the way up to this present moment of our Faith are using the Cross as the universal symbol of the Christian Faith. Just as our Jesus the Christ has been turning the world right-side up, so has the despised method of execution by the cross has been flipped to represent the "Hope of Glory" for you and me.

In 1970, a very popular song called, "Bridge over Troubled Waters", by Simon and Garfunkel, can be a metaphor for the Cross as the bridge we can use as the pathway between life for our redemption through Christ. Let each one of us not forget the overwhelming message of Easter. Jesus the Christ is risen, He is risen indeed, the Hope of Glory.

Raymond Holder, B.S., M. Div., B.C.C.
Chaplain, Texas Society,
Military Order of the Stars and Bars

UPCOMING EVENTS

Fall General Executive Council Meeting

- Saturday, October 25, 2025
- Beauvoir, Home of President Jefferson Davis
- Biloxi, Mississippi

Texas Society Executive Council Meeting

- Saturday, November 1, 2025
- Larry J. Ringer Library, Meeting Room B
- 1818 Harvey Mitchell Pkwy. S.
- College Station, Texas 77845
- There is no official hotel - Attendees may choose their own accommodations



LONE STAR DISPATCH
NEWSLETTER OF
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| Winter Edition..... | January |
| Spring Edition..... | April |
| Summer Edition..... | July |
| Fall Edition..... | October |

Was The War About Slavery? (Part One in a Series)

The Corwin Amendment

by Michael Smith



Several weeks ago, I was talking with an acquaintance of mine. After we had chatted about other topics, he switched gears. He said he knew I was a member of “some Confederate groups,” and he wanted to know more. So I told him about the MOS&B and SCV, thinking he might be interested in joining, but the conversation went in another direction. He seemed baffled by the whole concept of a group of modern-day men upholding the honor of the Confederacy and its cause, and he wound up by making the observation, “So you’re a revisionist!”

This is a good example of what we are up against. People who have accepted the revisionist history that was taught to them in school and have swallowed it hook, line, and sinker accuse us of being the revisionists when we try to set the record straight. We probably should not blame them for their ignorance, because the distorted history they have learned is repeated not just in classrooms, but over and over again in movies, books, and television shows, reinforcing the false ideas they cling to. Most people in our day and time have been taught that it was a war “to free the slaves,” and they have never been presented with the truth about the beginnings of the War. A big part of our duty is to make people aware of what really happened, so they can start to understand who the real revisionists are.

No one disagrees that slavery, and the question of whether it was to be allowed to expand into new states forming to the west, was one of the biggest bones of contention between the North and the South. But the idea that the North went to war “to free the slaves,” and that the South went to war to try to hold onto the slaves is a simplistic fantasy. And it’s not just simplistic - it is a dishonest fantasy that was generated by the North later in the War to try to turn the tide of public opinion, to convince

themselves and the rest of the world that they held the moral high ground and were engaged in a noble struggle for freedom and human dignity, rather than an attempt to subjugate a new nation that was trying to assert its independence. It was a re-branding effort that succeeded.

When the War began, and Lincoln and his generals started sending troops southward, there was no mention of freeing the slaves. The invasion of the South was “to put down the Rebellion” or “to preserve the Union.” Slaves were completely off the radar. A lot more can be said about the way this re-branding was accomplished, and the timing of it, but that is another article for another time. For our purposes today, let us consider one of the most effective ways to present the truth about the “war to free the slaves.”

Our educational system would have everyone believe that Northern boys lined up to enlist so that they could go help free the slaves in the distant South, and that Southern boys lined up to enlist so that they could help the small percentage of Southerners who owned slaves to hang onto them. When you are talking to people who believe all of that, you need to introduce them to the Corwin Amendment. I can almost guarantee that they have never heard of it, because it is almost completely ignored in our schools. It is just about the best and quickest way to puncture the “War to Free the Slaves” delusion. What was the Corwin Amendment? It was a proposed amendment to the U.S. Constitution that would have been the Thirteenth Amendment, if it had been enacted. It was a last-ditch attempt by the North to persuade the Southern states not to secede.

In late 1860, secession sentiment in the South had been growing stronger and stronger.

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Abraham Lincoln was elected President in November, 1860, but before he took office in March, 1861, the actual secessions began. South Carolina was the first, leaving the Union on December 20, 1860. The Northern states recognized, correctly, that the situation was critical. President Buchanan called upon Congress to come up with an “explanatory amendment” to the Constitution, to make it clear that the Federal government would not have any authority to interfere with slavery in any state where it was permitted. To comply with the President’s request, the House of Representatives formed a committee of 33 members, headed by Representative Thomas Corwin of Ohio. The committee quickly produced a proposed Amendment, which was informally named after the Chairman, Congressman Corwin. The Amendment was worded this way:

No amendment shall be made to the Constitution which will authorize or give to Congress the power to abolish or interfere, within any State, with the domestic institutions thereof, including that of persons held to labor or service by the laws of said State.

One would think, if the Northern states were so vehemently against slavery that they were only a month and a half away from going to war to end it once and for all, that this Amendment would stand no chance of passing and being enacted. People who wanted to see the slaves freed would certainly not enact a Constitutional amendment to lock slavery into place and forbid the Federal government from ever taking any action to interfere with it. But what happened? The proposed Amendment sailed through Congress on a wave of Northern support. It passed in the House on February 28, 1861 and in the Senate on March 2nd. In both chambers, it passed by a supermajority of 2/3, which is the requirement for Constitutional Amendments. The vast majority of votes in favor of it were cast by Representatives and Senators from Northern states. It had almost no Southern support. The major reason for this is that there weren’t a whole lot of Southerners left in Congress when the matter came up for a vote. As mentioned above, South Carolina had seceded on De-

ember 20, 1860. It was followed by Mississippi on January 9, 1861, Florida on January 10th, Alabama on January 11th, Georgia on January 19th, Louisiana on January 26th, and Texas on February 1st. By the time the Senate passed this Amendment on March 2nd, Southerners were in short supply in Washington.

Soon after Abraham Lincoln was inaugurated on March 4, 1861, he sent the Amendment to the Governors of each of the states, so that the next step in the process of amending the Constitution could be completed. To be adopted and become a part of the Constitution, an Amendment must be ratified by three-fourths of the States. This is where the Corwin Amendment failed. Kentucky was the first State to ratify the Amendment, on April 4, 1861. But eight days later, Southern forces fired on Fort Sumter, and the War was on. Even after this event, Northern states continued the effort to enact the Corwin Amendment. Ohio ratified it on May 13, 1861, followed by Rhode Island on May 31st, Maryland on January 10, 1862, and Illinois on February 14, 1862. The only Southern “State” that voted to ratify the Corwin Amendment was “Virginia,” but it must be noted that this was an entity called the “Restored Government of Virginia,” which was really several counties in northern Virginia plus the counties that were later formed into West Virginia.

Anyone who looks at these facts honestly will agree: the Corwin Amendment proves that the true goal of the North was to keep the Southern states in the Union, not to free the slaves. It also clearly shows the priority of the Southern states, which was to exercise their rights as independent States, and leave a Union that they no longer wanted to be a part of. If the South’s goal was to keep its slaves, it could have easily done so by staying in the Union and embracing the Corwin Amendment, as the Northern states had so enthusiastically done. Not a shot would have been fired.

REMINDER:

**Dues and Renewals are due to your
Chapter’s Adjutant by December 31st**

The Character of Robert E. Lee - President Eisenhower's Opinion

During the Republican National Convention of 1960, Dwight Eisenhower mentioned that he kept a picture of Robert E. Lee in his office. That prompted a dentist from New York to send the following letter to the White House:

August 1, 1960
Mr. Dwight D. Eisenhower
White House
Washington, D.C.

Dear Mr. President:

At the Republican Convention I heard you mention that you have the pictures of four (4) great Americans in your office, and that included in these is a picture of Robert E. Lee.

I do not understand how any American can include Robert E. Lee as a person to be emulated, and why the President of the United States of America should do so is certainly beyond me.

The most outstanding thing that Robert E. Lee did, was to devote his best efforts to the destruction of the United States Government, and I am sure that you do not say that a person who tries to destroy our Government is worthy of being held as one of our heroes.

Will you please tell me just why you hold him in such high esteem?

Sincerely yours,
Leon W. Scott

Despite undoubtedly having more important things to do as president, Eisenhower must have felt his answer was of such importance that he took the time to send Dr. Scott the following reply from the White House:



August 9, 1960
Dear Dr. Scott:

Respecting your August 1 inquiry calling attention to my often expressed admiration for General Robert E. Lee, I would say, first, that we need to understand that at the time of the War between the States the issue of secession had remained unresolved for more than 70 years. Men of probity, character, public standing and unquestioned loyalty, both North and South, had disagreed over this issue as a matter of principle from the day our Constitution was adopted.

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General Robert E. Lee was, in my estimation, one of the supremely gifted men produced by our Nation. He believed unswervingly in the Constitutional validity of his cause which until 1865 was still an arguable question in America; he was a poised and inspiring leader, true to the high trust reposed in him by millions of his fellow citizens; he was thoughtful yet demanding of his officers and men, forbearing with captured enemies but ingenious, unrelenting and personally courageous in battle, and never disheartened by a reverse or obstacle. Through all his many trials, he remained selfless almost to a fault and unfailing in his faith in God. Taken altogether, he was noble as a leader and as a man, and unsullied as I read the pages of our history.

From deep conviction, I simply say this: a nation of men of Lee's calibre would be unconquerable in spirit and soul. Indeed, to the degree that present-day American youth will strive to emulate his rare qualities, including his devotion to this land as revealed in his painstaking efforts to help heal the Nation's wounds once the bitter struggle was over, we, in our own time of danger in a divided world, will be strengthened and our love of freedom sustained.

Such are the reasons that I proudly display the picture of this great American on my office wall.

Sincerely,
Dwight D. Eisenhower

Source:
Dwight D. Eisenhower Presidential Library, "Dwight D. Eisenhower, Records as President, 1953-1961; White House Central Files, President's Personal File Series, Box 743, Folder: PPF 29-S Lee, General Robert E."



TEXAS SOCIETY LEADERSHIP

COMMANDER - Michael Smith
smithmosb@gmail.com

LT. COMMANDER - Michael Gonzales
lcmdrtxsoc@aol.com

CHIEF OF STAFF - William E. "Bill" Boyd
docbill72@gmail.com

ADJUTANT - Steve Melton
rsm2.mosbtx@gmail.com

INSPECTOR GENERAL - Johnnie L. Holley
mrjlholley@gmail.com

JUDGE ADVOCATE - John Richard Kuna
jrkunalaw@sbcglobal.net

PARLIAMENTARIAN - David Underdown
drdrunderdown@gmail.com

CHAPLAIN - Raymond Holder
natchez62@icloud.com

GENEALOGIST - Charles C. "Chuck" Hand IV
txmosb.genealogy@gmail.com

WEBMASTER - Larry "Joe" Reynolds
Joe.Reynolds@txmosb.org

NEWSLETTER EDITOR - Michael Smith
smithmosb@gmail.com

