



The Prince's Dispatch



Major General John Bankhead Magruder Chapter 258

Military Order of the Stars and Bars

Fredericksburg, Virginia

Volume 6

Number 3

September 2015

Preserving our Southern Heritage and Honoring the Courageous Service of the Confederate Officers Corps and Civil Officials.

Pledge of the 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."





Major General John "The Prince" Bankhead Magruder

Chapter Meetings

The Major General John B. Magruder Chapter 258 was chartered by the Virginia Society of the Military Order of the Stars and Bars on the 9th of August 2000.

Chapter meetings scheduled for 2065:

Location: Salem Church Library
2607 Salem Church Rd
Fredericksburg, VA 22407

Dates: 1 February
4 April
6 June
1 August
3 October

Time: 6:30 p.m. thru 9:00 p.m.



2015 Virginia Society Officers

Commander – Joseph H. Wright, Jr.

Lt Commander -- Conway Moncure

Adjutant -- Joseph Judson Smith, III



This is an election year for our Chapter, so in the near future, this will likely change.

2014 - 2015 Chapter 258 Officers

Commander	Charles A. Embrey, Sr.
Lt Commander	Col. (Ret) Jan V. Harvey
2 nd Lt. Commander	Joseph H. Wright, Jr.
Adjutant	Christopher H. Ezelle
Chief-of-Staff	L. Craig Rains
Judge Advocate	Ronald C. Gordon

Treasurer	Charles A. Embrey, Jr.
Chaplain	Robert B. Hester
Assistant Chaplain	John M. Embrey, Jr.
Sgt-At-Arms	Louis Buttgen, III
News Letter Editor	Christopher H. Ezelle
Appt. Webmaster/ Historian	H/M Daniel "Big French" Pierre Janzegers



General Thomas J. "Stonewall" Jackson's favorite scripture:

"And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose" (Rom. 8:28).



2016 General Convention

Military Order of the Stars & Bars
79th Annual General Convention
Fairhope, Alabama May 19-21, 2016.

Registration form can be found at the following URL below and by pressing your control button and the Enter Key:

http://www.militaryorderofthestarsandbars.net/pdf/temp/2016_RegistrationForm.pdf.



**Upcoming Chapter Events
2015**

17 Oct 2015, 11:00 a.m., Saturday - A re-dedication ceremony for 7 CSA

Soldiers with Southern Crosses, hosted by the 13th Virginia Regiment #441 and the Loudoun UDC Chapter #170. The ceremony will be held at the Rhoadesville Baptist Church, Rhoadesville, Orange County, Virginia (Highway 29). A light luncheon and refreshments will be served after the ceremony.

17 November 2015, 6:30 p.m., Tuesday - A Fredericksburg UDC Chapter #163 event at 6:30 p.m at the Ruritan Club on Route 3. The UDC's meeting will be short in order to accommodate a presentation on the history of the Confederate Flags by Mr. Robert Silvrants. Following the presentation a pot luck meal will be served.



Dr. R. Finley Hunt



You have probably never heard of Dr. R. Finley Hunt, but if his invention had worked he'd probably be as famous as any of history's great

inventors. Halfway through the Civil War, a dentist in Richmond, Virginia, Dr. Hunt, of unknown engineering ability theorized that he could build an airplane. Dr. Hunt thought his steam-powered vehicle could help the Confederacy. So he wrote to President Jefferson Davis of his “invention of a flying machine intended to be used for war purposes in the existing conflict.” He had a very special suggestion: He could turn the tide of the war with a [steam-powered military flying machine](#) that could bomb the enemy from above—a truly groundbreaking idea at a time when the height of aerial technology was only the hot air balloon. Jeff Davis was excited about the idea and introduced Hunt to General Robert E. Lee, who put him in contact with the Chief of the Engineer Bureau for the Confederacy. They immediately started researching the idea.

At least on paper, Hunt's idea was a fairly good one. Sadly, his lack of engineering background proved to be a hindrance to the project, and the Engineer Bureau soon reported that the machine could not be built. Its whole concept might have been lost in the annals of history if its blueprints (photo above) hadn't accidentally been found in a bookstore in 2011.

But what if someone built Hunt's flying machine after all? UFO sightings were commonplace in the later parts of 19th Century, and [some have speculated](#) that at least some of these sightings could be because some other aeronautically minded inventor—perhaps one with more engineering talent than Hunt—ironed out the problems in his plans and made their own functional flying machine.

Also, there's this: While the Bureau dismissed Hunt's invention as impossible, they absolutely loved his idea of using steam machines for military purposes, and promised to start discussing the idea "in great measure." History tells us they never got around to actually building any of these steam weapons, but who knows what war monsters they were secretly working on? If the war had lasted for a few more years, there's no telling what sort of steam machines the South would have unleashed on their unsuspecting opponents.

Written by Pauli Poisuo

Reference:

<http://listverse.com/2014/02/15/10-strange-mysteries-of-the-civil-war/>



General Thomas Jonathan "Stonewall" Jackson's Prayer Tree



In the spring of 1862, after General Jackson completed his Shenandoah Valley campaign, he and about 15,000 men set up an encampment between the Middle and South rivers.

It was under this great and old white oak where General Jackson and his battle-weary Confederate soldiers gathered for prayer in June 1862.

This old diseased and weak tree finally came down about 27 May 2011. It was located southeast of Harrisonburg, between Weyers Cave and Grottoes.

Editor: With time comes age and weakness. We can be strong in mind, but the shell that soul borrows will eventually sleep forever.



THE HANGING OF

HENRY WIRZ

1865 — ANDERSONVILLE, GEORGIA



Henry Wirz was born in Zurich, Switzerland in 1822. After graduating from the University of Zurich he obtained medical degrees from Paris and Berlin. Wirz immigrated to the United States in 1849 and established a medical practice in Kentucky. After marrying he moved to Louisiana.

On the outbreak of the American Civil War, he joined the Confederate Army, A sergeant in the Louisiana Volunteers, Wirz was badly wounded at the battle at Fair Oaks, (May, 1862) and lost the use of his right arm. Unable to continue in active service, Wirz became a clerk at Libby Prison in Richmond. His commanding officer, Brigadier General John Henry Winder, was impressed by Wirz and he was soon promoted to the rank of major.

Wirz spoke fluent English, German and Dutch, and on the advice of General John Henry Winder, President Jefferson Davis, decided to send him on a secret mission to England and France.

When Wirz returned to America he rejoined General John Henry Winder, who was now in charge of all Union Army, prisoners east of the Mississippi. During the summer of 1863 an agreement under which Union and Confederate captives were exchanged, came to an end. There was now a rapid increase in the number of prisoners and so it was decided to build Andersonville Prison, in Georgia. In April, 1864 Winder appointed Wirz as commandant of this new prison camp.

By August, 1864, there were 32,000 Union Army, prisoners in Andersonville, The Confederate authorities did not provide enough food for the prison and men began to die of starvation. The water became polluted and disease was a constant problem. Of the 49,485 prisoners who entered the camp, nearly 13,000 died from disease and malnutrition.

When the Union Army arrived in Andersonville, in May, 1865,

photographs of the prisoners were taken and the following month they appeared in *Harper's Weekly*. The photographs caused considerable anger and calls were made for the people responsible to be punished for these crimes. It was eventually decided to charge General Robert Lee, James Seddon, the Secretary of War, and several other Confederate generals and politicians with "conspiring to injure the health and destroy the lives of United States soldiers held as prisoners by the Confederate States".

In August, 1865 President Andrew Johnson, ordered that the charges against the Confederate generals and politicians should be dropped. However, he did give his approval for Wirz to be charged with "wanton cruelty". Wirz appeared before a military commission headed by Major General Lew Wallace, on 21st August, 1865. During the trial a letter from Wirz was presented that showed that he had complained to his superiors about the shortage of food being provided for the prisoners. However, former inmates at Andersonville testified that Wirz inspected the prison every day and often warned that if any man escaped he would "starve every damn Yankee

for it." When Wirz fell ill during the trial Wallace forced to attend and was brought into court on a stretcher.

Wirz was found guilty on 6th November and sentenced to death. He was taken to Washington, to be executed in the same yard where those involved in the assassination of Abraham Lincoln, had died. Alexander Gardner, the famous photographer, was invited to record the event.

The execution took place on the 10th November. The gallows were surrounded by Union Army, soldiers who throughout the procedure chanted "Wirz, remember, Andersonville." Accompanied by a Catholic priest, Wirz refused to make a last minute confession, claiming he was not guilty of committing any crime.

Major Russell read the death warrant and then told Wirz he "deplored this duty." Wirz replied that: "I know what orders are, Major. And I am being hanged for obeying them."

After a black hood was placed over his head, and the noose adjusted, a spring was touched and the trap door opened. However, the drop failed to

break his neck and it took him two minutes to die. During this time the soldiers continued to chant: "Wirz, remember, Andersonville."

The crowd openly displayed satisfaction that Wirz was dead. The public had been made aware of the deaths caused by atrocious conditions at Andersonville; the press had printed photographs of the worst of the surviving prisoners; those prisoners who had survived despised Wirz; the public had cried out for vengeance and all had waited through a trial lasting sixty-three days for retribution to be had. Forgiveness was not possible as reflected by Walt Whitman regarding Andersonville when he wrote, "There are deeds, crimes that may be forgiven but this is not among them. It steps its perpetrators in blackest, escapeless, endless damnation."

NOTE: Henry Wirz rejected an offer of a pardon the night before his execution. The offer was conditioned on his agreement to testify that former Confederate President Jefferson Davis was responsible for the deaths at Andersonville. Wirz advised that such a statement would be untrue

and he would not base his freedom on a lie.

BURIED: [Mount Olivet Cemetery](#)
Washington, District of Columbia,
District Of Columbia, USA.



A PRAYER FOR OUR ENEMIES.

EVANS & COGSWELL,

No. 3 BROAD STREET,

Charlotte, North Carolina

1861.

O GOD, we beseech Thee, forgive and pardon our enemies, and give us that measure of Thy grace, that for their hatred we may love them; for their cursing we may bless them; for their injury we may do them good; and for their persecution we may pray for them. They have laid a net for our steps, and they have digged a pit before us; Lord, we desire not that they themselves should fall into the midst of these, but we beseech Thee keep us out of them,

and deliver, establish, bless and prosper us for Thy mercy's sake in Jesus Christ our Saviour, to whom with Thee and the Holy Spirit, we desire to consecrate ourselves and our country, now and forever, imploring Thee to be our GOD, and to make us Thy people.

Amen.

Reference:

<http://veteransprayers.tripod.com/id9.html>.



NOTICE

If you have ideas for our Newsletter, let me know. I'll do the research and build a short story, or change the character of the newsletter.

Forward to Chris Ezelle, Editor, at christofer2@verizon.net



Battles of Fredericksburg, Chancellorsville, The Wilderness, and Spotsylvania Court House Medals

All specially designed, one of a kind, medals are available through the Chapter/Editor; please contact the

editor for more information. Cost is only \$15.00 per medal. We will mail one medal, singly for \$20.00.



I'm sure that many of us have children and their children have children. It would be so nice to have them as part of the Confederate family for heritage's sake. Ask them and see if they are interested. We are willing to help build a ancestral package for them.



Ref: World Atlas Travel: worldatlas.com

Interested in joining the MOS&B? Contact the editor. Membership in the Military Order of the Stars & Bars is limited to male descendants, either lineal or collateral, of the officers who served honorably in the Army, Navy and other commands of the Confederate States of America and

male descendants of the elected and appointed civilian officials of the Confederate States; the national Confederate Government; and the Five Civilized Tribes which allied with the Confederacy. All members must be at least twelve years old. Ancestral documentation must accompany all applications for membership.

<http://www.militaryorderofthestarsandbars.org/join-us/>

The Military Order of the Stars and Bars Needs You!