



The Prince's Dispatch



Major General John Bankhead Magruder Chapter 258

Military Order of the Stars and Bars
Fredericksburg, Virginia

Volume 6

Number 4

December 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 2016:

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

Dates: 1 February
4 April
6 June
1 August
3 October
December – Meeting/Dinner TBA
Time: 6:30 p.m. until 9:00 p.m.



2016 Virginia Society Officers

Commander – Joseph H. Wright, Jr.

Lt Commander -- Conway Moncure

Adjutant -- Joseph Judson Smith, III

Officers Call

Officer’s Call Vol 7, Issue 11 has been issued. If you look at the back cover, there is a request for your opinion on several topics. If you would like to submit; as the *Prince’s Dispatch* Editor, I would gladly assist and/or review your paper.



2015 was an election year for our Chapter.

2016 - 2018 Chapter 258 Officers

Commander	Christopher H. Ezelle
Lt Commander	Col. (Ret) Jan V. Harvey
2 nd Lt. Commander	Joseph H. Wright, Jr.
Adjutant	Vic Cole
Chief-of-Staff	L. Craig Rains
Judge Advocate	Ronald C. Gordon
Treasurer	Charles A. Embrey, Sr.
Chaplain	Robert B. Hester
Assistant Chaplain	John M. Embrey, Jr.
Sgt-At-Arms	Louis Buttgen, III
Chapter Genealogist	Dr. Robert “Bob” Massey
News Letter Editor	Christopher H. Ezelle
Appt. Webmaster/ Historian	H/M Daniel “Big French” Pierre Janzegers

Commander’s Message

I would like to take this opportunity to thank our now Past Commander Charles A. Embrey, Sr., for his role leading our Chapter. His leadership style was and still is well-accepted and he leads with the pride and conviction of an outstanding officer.

I would also like to thank the Officers of the Corps for this year’s election results and permitting me to lead as Commander of the Chapter. I am committed and will do everything that I can to make this Chapter even better.

This year I would like to grow our numbers and continue to carry out the pledge of the MOS&B with honor, dignity, and the truest inner sense of pride that we all have within. May God guide us on our journey into and through the New Year, and bless each of us, family members not present, our families, our friends, all veterans, and our military that are fighting for our freedoms today.

Chris Ezelle
Commander, Chapter 258



General Robert E. Lee’s favorite book: General Lee preferred the Bible to any other book. In a letter to Markie, the young cousin of his wife Mary, he said there was enough in it

“to satisfy the most ardent thirst for knowledge; to open the way to true wisdom; and to teach the only road to salvation and eternal happiness.” Lee’s pocket Bible was his constant companion in times of peace and war. It had accompanied him since he was a lieutenant colonel in the United States Army and was on his bed stand during his final illness in Lexington. Its pages were worn out from constant reading, its passages underlined for emphasis. Perhaps more than any other book he loved the Old Testament Book of Job, which he quoted often. As for the Psalms, his favorites were the 23rd, the 91st, and the 120th.

**Robert E. Lee’s Favorite Song:
“How Firm a Foundation”**



2016 General Convention

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

The registration form can be found at the following URL below and is a direct link. All you have to do is depress your control button and then press the Enter Key:
http://www.militaryorderofthestarsandbars.net/pdf/temp/2016_RegistrationF

[orm.pdf](#).



**Upcoming Chapter Events
2016**

16 January, Saturday, 5:30-10:00 p.m., the Chapter will hold its late Christmas/very early spring meeting and dinner at the Rt 3 Ruritan Club in Fredericksburg, VA. Period dress for men (if you have uniforms), and the ladies may dress as they desire. Bring your favorite dishes. Come share the food, music, and family comradery.

There will be more to follow on upcoming events as we progress through the year and they are relayed to us from our brothers and sisters of the same cause. I will provide you with a supplement to the Prince’s Dispatch.



FACT: There were around 28,693 Native Americans who served both in the Union and Confederate Army. The Confederate Army had Black Americans and Chinese.

Reference:

<http://www.historynet.com/confederate-army>



2016 Event Participation



2016 Culpeper UDC Chapter 173 Lee-Jackson Commemoration and Awards Ceremony. Left to right: VA MOS&B Society Commander Joseph Wright, Jr., Chapter 258 Adjutant Vic Cole, Chapter 258 Commander Chris Ezelle, Ms. Teresa Roane special guest speaker, Chapter Treasurer Charlie A. Embrey, Sr., Chapter Chaplain Robert B. Hester, Rev. Beverly Greg Randall, George T. (Tex) Wells, and Chapter 258 member John Johnston.



Culpeper UDC's Writer and Artist Award Winners for 2016

10 January, Sunday, 2:00 p.m., the Culpeper UDC held their Annual Lee-Jackson Event at the Brandy Station Fire Hall, Brandy Station, Virginia. The honored guest speaker was Ms. Teresa Roane who spoke on "Minorities in the Confederate Military". She is answering the question, "Were there blacks that served in the Confederate Army? Her answer is undeniably, Yes, and she has proof.



10 January, Sunday, 2:00 p.m. Ms. Ann Howard, President of Culpeper UDC Chapter 173, surprises Virginia Society MOS&B Commander Mr. Joseph Wright, Jr. (Chapter 258, 2nd Lt Commander) by awarding him the UDC's Stonewall Jackson Medal for his undying support to goals and objectives of their Chapter.



Who was Sam Davis?



Sam Davis (above) is often referred to as the "Boy Hero of the Confederacy," and has long been held by southerners, in similar standing to the great Revolutionary War spy Nathan Hale.

In 1861, at the age of 18, Sam Davis joined the 1st Tennessee Volunteer Infantry, and went to war for the Confederacy.

He and his unit took part in Stonewall Jackson's Shenandoah Valley Campaign and the Battle of Shiloh. In October, he was wounded at the Battle of Perryville and had to take time to recover.

After recovering, Davis joined Coleman's Scouts, a band of Army scouts who spied and delivered information and messages for the Confederate Army of Tennessee. This unit was under the command of Captain Henry B. Shaw (a.k.a. E. C. Coleman).

In 1863, Union troops held Nashville, Tennessee, and the Confederate Army of Tennessee was desperate for information concerning the plans of the Union forces in the state. Captain "Coleman" and his scouts had a very well developed intelligence network in the area and were a great source of information for their Generals.

Sam Davis's position in Coleman's Scouts was that of a courier, and it was while performing those duties that he was captured during November 1863.

Capture, Questioning, and Trial

By this time, "Coleman" and his scouts had become somewhat notorious, and Union authorities were very interested in putting a stop to their activities.

In late 1863, Captain "Coleman" and a number of his men were spying out the Union forces in the Nashville area. When they had gathered sufficient information, several men were dispatched to carry the reports to Confederate General Braxton Bragg.

One of these men was Sam Davis, but he never made it to General Bragg. He and several other couriers were captured by the 7th Kansas Cavalry, known in the area as the "Kansas Jayhawkers." These men were placed under arrest for being southern sympathizers.

When Davis was captured, the Union men found, hidden in his saddle, some very detailed maps of the fortifications and defenses of Nashville, and an in depth report concerning the Union Army in Tennessee. More troubling for Davis, however, was the sealed letter they found in his boot. It was a letter from the infamous Captain "Coleman" to General Bragg's command.

These items immediately identified Davis as a spy, and he was brought before the local Union commander, General Grenville M. Dodge. Thirty years later, General Dodge recalled

the interviews that took place over the next couple days thus,

"When brought to my office I met him pleasantly. I knew what had been found upon him, and I desired to locate "Coleman" and ascertain, if possible, who was furnishing the information, which I saw was accurate and valuable, to Gen. Bragg. Davis met me modestly... ..I tried to impress upon him the danger he was in and that I knew he was only a messenger, and held out to him the hope of lenient treatment if he would answer truthfully, as far as he could, my questions. He listened attentively and respectfully to me, but, as I recollect, made no definite answer, and I had him returned to the prison."

At this point, a Union spy was placed in prison with the captured Confederates to try to make friends with them and gain some information,

"...they all kept their own counsel, and we obtained no information of value from them..."

*...I had Davis brought before me again after my provost marshal had reported his inability to obtain anything of value from him. I then informed him that he would be tried as a spy, that the evidence against him would surely convict him, and made a direct appeal to him to give me the information that I knew he had. **He very quietly but firmly***

refused to do it. I therefore let him be tried and suffer the consequence...

...I am under the impression that some of them... ..endeavored to induce him to save himself, but they failed..."

After Sam Davis repeatedly refused to betray anyone connected to the information he was carrying, General Dodge was forced to appoint a Military Commission to try him. Not surprisingly, this was the Commission's verdict:

"The Commission does therefore sentence him, the said Samuel Davis, of Coleman's Scouts, in the service of the so-called Confederate States, to be hanged by the neck until he is dead, at such time and place as the commanding general shall direct, two-thirds of the Commission concurring in the sentence."

Though it was to be expected for an enemy spy, Davis had made an impression on General Dodge who was sorry to carry out the verdict.

"...I regretted to see the sentence executed; but it was one of the fates of war, which is cruelty itself, and there is no refining it."

Execution of a Spy



The night before he was to be executed, Sam Davis joined the other prisoners in a short devotional with Union Chaplain, Rev. James Young, and the Chaplain later remembered Davis's participation, "...Mr. Davis joined with us in singing the well-known hymn, 'On Jordan's Stormy Banks I Stand,' in animated voice."

That same night Davis penned a letter to be given to his parents when they came for his body:

"Dear Mother:

Oh, how painful it is to write you! I have got to die to-morrow morning-- to be hanged by the Federals. Mother, do not grieve for me. I must bid you good-by forevermore. Mother, I do not fear to die. Give my love to all.

Your son, Samuel Davis

Mother, tell the children all to be good. I wish I could see you all once more, but I never will any more.

Mother and Father, do not forget me. Think of me when I am dead, but do not grieve for me. It will not do any good. Father, you can send after my remains if you want to do so. They will be at Pulaski, Tenn. I will leave some things, too, with the hotel keeper for you. Pulaski is in Giles County, Tenn., south of Columbia.

S.D."

November 27, 1863, dawned "fair and warm," and Davis was shackled and brought out of prison for his final ride. He was helped into the back of a wagon and took a seat on his coffin for the trip to the gallows.

It was his 21st birthday.

During the ride to the gallows, the fetters on his feet pinched his feet so severely that he had Chaplain Young cut his boots to relieve the pressure. At "five minutes past ten o'clock," the wagon rolled up to the scaffold, Sam Davis's final moments were at hand.

"The prisoner then stepped from the wagon and seated himself upon a bench at the foot of the scaffold. He displayed great firmness, glancing casually at his coffin as it was taken from the wagon. Turning to Capt. Armstrong, he inquired how long he had to live, and was told that he had just fifteen minutes. He then remarked: 'The boys will have to fight the rest of the battles without me.'

Capt. Armstrong said: 'I am sorry to be compelled to perform this painful duty.'

The prisoner replied with a smile: 'It does not hurt me, Captain. I am innocent and I am prepared to die; so do not think hard of it.' "

Davis asked for news of the war and was told that the Confederates and General Bragg had just been defeated at Missionary Ridge. He is said to have expressed regret upon hearing that news. Davis then went up the steps to the gallows, where he was asked one more time to denounce his sources and give up Coleman so that he could live. According to tradition, he responded by saying, "*Do you suppose that I would betray a friend? No, sir; I would die a thousand times first!* "

Davis then asked Chaplain Young to pray with him, and took his place on the trapdoor.

Only later did General Dodge learn that Sam Davis's calm acceptance of his fate was even more impressive than it would first seem. One of the other men captured the same day as Davis and imprisoned in the same jail was none other than the much sought after Captain "Coleman."

The Captain was disguised as an unkempt and grizzled old man, and had given his real name, Shaw, when he was captured. Davis had known all

along that if he had only alerted his captors to that fact, Shaw would have hung in his place; but Sam Davis was unmoved. When General Dodge learned of Captain "Coleman's" being captured at the same time as Davis, he had this to say,

"This is where Davis showed himself a true soldier: he had been entrusted with an important commission by an important officer, who was imprisoned with him, and died rather than betray him. He knew to a certainty that if he informed me of the facts Shaw would be executed, as he was a far more important person to us than was Davis."

...and that is why Sam Davis is still remembered as the, "Boy Hero of the Confederacy."

Reference:

<http://www.americancivilwarstory.com/sam-davis.html>



New Members

This is a new area for any new member joining the Chapter. The new member will be required to provide Chapter Members with a short biography of his qualifying relative.



BUY, SELL, TRADE

This is a new area in the Dispatch. If you have something you want to buy, sell, or trade, you can have it listed here. If a supplement is issued, it will be included in it.



MYTHS and FACTS

MYTH - The Confederate Battle Flag was flown on slave ships.

FACT - NEVER. NONE of the flags of the Confederacy or Southern Nation ever flew over a slave ship. Nor did the South own or operate any slave ships. The English, the Dutch and the Portuguese brought slaves to this country, not the Southern Nation.

BUT, even more monumental, it is also very important to know and understand that Federal, Yankee, Union ships brought slaves to America! These ships were from the New England states, and their hypocrisy is atrocious.

These Federals were ones that ended up crying the loudest about slavery. But without their ships, many of the slaves would have never arrived here. They made countless fortunes on the delivery of slaves as well as the products made from raw materials

such as cotton and tobacco in the South.

There has always been a problem with Yankee history: History is overwhelmingly portrayed incorrectly by most of the Federal & Yankee books and media.

To know the truth we must delve into the old books that are authored by real Southerners that tell the real truth.



The Battle of Philippi

Battle of Philippi Articles From History Net

Account of the Battle Of Philippi

On the morning of May 14, 1861, Confederate Colonel George A. Porterfield of Charles Town, Virginia, stepped off the train from Harpers Ferry at Grafton. He had been ordered to the town by General Robert E. Lee, who assured Porterfield that he would be greeted by 5,000 Virginians who were rushing to enlist in the Confederate Army and by trained militia from nearby counties. With these troops, and the arms and supplies furnished by the War Department in Richmond, he was to capture and hold the railroad north to Wheeling and southwest to Parkersburg, both important points on the Ohio River.

The Battle of Philippi, fought June 3, 1861, in what is now West Virginia, is known as the "first land battle of the Civil War" or the "first inland battle of the Civil War." A minor affair that lasted less than 20 minutes and resulted in no fatalities, it would barely be a footnote of the American Civil War except that it marked the first inland clash between significant numbers of troops. It also was an important step on George B. McClellan's road to becoming commander of the Army of the Potomac, the largest Union army, only later to be fired by Lincoln.

Philippi, a town of less than 500, held little military significance. The real prize was Grafton, some 25 miles north. There, the Parkersburg-Grafton Railroad joined the Baltimore & Ohio, the only continuous east-west connector between the East Coast and the Ohio River and the states of the Old Northwest.

General Robert E. Lee, commanding all military forces in Virginia, sent Mexican War veteran Col. George Porterfield to organize the troops mustering at Grafton and hold the rail lines. Lee underestimated the level of long-standing resentment in that part of Western Virginia toward the government in Richmond, however, and Porterfield found only a handful of troops, with whatever weapons they had brought from home and little or no military training. He

eventually received a few — very few — reinforcements from the Shenandoah Valley and "about 1,000 rusty muskets," along with 1,500 percussion caps meant for shotguns. Unable to hold Grafton—primarily a Union town — he withdrew to secession-supporting Philippi. At the governor's suggestion, Porterfield burned a few bridges to slow any movements against him from Wheeling in the state's northern panhandle. That provided Major General George B. McClellan, commanding the Department of the Ohio, the opportunity he had been waiting for. Both McClellan and Porterfield had been restrained by their superior officers pending Virginia's vote on seceding. With that issue now decided in favor of secession, McClellan sent infantry and artillery across the Ohio River to protect the lives and property of Union-loyal Virginians, most of who lived in the most northwestern counties.

One regiment of such Virginians had already formed at Wheeling, under Col. Benjamin Kelley, and another was being raised there. Using the railroads, Kelley and a portion of the troops sent by McClellan traveled to Grafton, where they were joined by Ohio and Indiana troops that arrived on trains from Parkersburg.

On the storm-swept night of June 2–3, Col. Ebenezer Dumont of

Indiana led 1,400 men, along with two cannon of the Cleveland Light Artillery, southeast toward Philippi. From the northeast, Kelley led another 1,600 rain-soaked men. Dumont was to hold the Rebels in place with a demonstration from the west while Kelley intersected the Beverly Road and swept in from the southeast to bag the lot. The plan went awry when Kelley took a wrong turn and entered Philippi not far from where Dumont's men were.

Porterfield was well aware of his opponents' plan and had made preparations for his little army to move to Beverly higher in the mountains the next morning. By pushing on through the stormy night, Kelley and Dumont caught the Confederates sleeping. Some of the defenders made a brief stand while others took to their heels in the direction of Beverly, giving the battle the derisive nickname "the Philippi Races."

An Indiana regiment of Dumont's command stormed across a covered bridge over the Tygart River into town about the time Kelley's men swept in from the east. Riding up the street in pursuit of the fleeing Confederates, Kelley was seriously wounded by a bullet in the chest, fired by one of Porterfield's men who had concealed himself. Kelley survived and rose to the rank of brigadier general, in command of the

Department of West Virginia. Dumont would be likewise promoted but would cut his military career short after being elected to Congress the following year. Though both sides claimed to have killed several of their opponents, there were no fatalities in the brief affair. One young Confederate, J. E. Hanger, was wounded by a cannonball and had to have his leg amputated by a Union surgeon. Returning home to the Shenandoah Valley, the former engineering student created the world's first realistic, flexible prosthesis and went on to found what is now Hanger Prosthetics and Orthotics, still the largest such company in the world.

Porterfield was largely exonerated by a court-martial inquiry but never held field command again. McClellan, who was not present at Philippi but was in charge of the department, won accolades. Another victory soon after at Rich Mountain propelled him into command of the Army of the Potomac after the Union embarrassment at the Battle of First Manassas) in eastern Virginia on July 21.

The covered bridge that Dumont's troops crossed is still standing; a memorial to the first land battle of the War Between the States.



Photo Reference:
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Philippi_Covered_Bridge

Story Reference:

<http://www.historynet.com/battle-of-philippi>



Religious Revivals during the Civil War

by Steven E. Woodworth

Religious revivals during the War Between the States (1861–1865) were characterized by surges in religious interest and observance among large numbers of soldiers in both the Union and Confederate armies. Although they came not long after the Second Great Awakening, which was primarily a Baptist and Methodist phenomenon, the soldier revivals tended to be ecumenical and to cross class boundaries. They were often marked by frequent, fervent, and heavily attended religious ceremonies, including preaching services, organized prayer meetings, and "experience meetings," or gatherings in which individual soldiers took turns sharing with the group how God had

brought them to faith in Christ. They were also evidenced by much private Bible reading and small informal prayer meetings among the troops.

Revivals occurred more or less equally in both the Union and Confederate armies, in all theaters of the war, and throughout most of the conflict. Some historians have suggested that they began in the Confederate Army of Northern Virginia and became most noticeable beginning in the spring of 1863, though they occurred before then, as well. In fact, revivals generally followed an army's first experience of heavy fighting and high casualties. A Confederate chaplain was not alone in writing that it was a well-established pattern that "scores of men are converted immediately after great battles."

In Virginia, heavy and sustained fighting on a very large scale began with the Peninsula Campaign in the spring of 1862. Several weeks later, as soon as the tempo of military operations allowed, the stirrings of revival began in both the Union and Confederate armies. Both chaplains and the soldiers themselves cited two reasons for the increased religious activity. First, many of the men were thankful that they had survived battle. "What cause for gratitude to God that I was not cut down when my comrades fell at my side," wrote a Confederate soldier. In addition, their

proximity to death and suffering brought to mind questions of their own mortality and afterlife. After witnessing the death of a fellow soldier, a Pennsylvania soldier wrote, "The fact that I must die became to me living and real."

Revivals in the armies took different forms. In 1862 a Georgia soldier serving in Virginia wrote that although there had been none of what he called "revival meetings"—large, enthusiastic, often highly demonstrative religious services—nevertheless a strong religious movement was in progress, characterized by nightly prayer meetings in many regiments and a large upsurge in Bible reading among the troops. At other times the army revivals included more traditional displays of heightened religious interest. During the first months of 1864, delegates of the United States Christian Commission, an organization established by Northern churches to minister to the spiritual and material needs of the soldiers, set up a tent in the Vermont Brigade of the Union's Army of the Potomac. Though the tent could hold two hundred men, it hosted overflow crowds at nightly meetings, with many men unable to get close enough to hear the preaching. Services lasted an hour and a half, with a short sermon followed by a lengthy experience meeting in which many soldiers took part. Similar meetings

were taking place throughout the Army of the Potomac that winter, as well as in the camps of

The revivals in the armies continued until combat operations made them impractical, then they sprang up again when the campaigning stopped. The War was the occasion for a series of revivals, occurring in both armies from 1862 until 1865, interrupted by the fighting of battles. The new faith that the soldiers found through these revivals helped to sustain them amid the carnage and hardship of war and may have mitigated somewhat the demoralizing effects of warfare on the men who waged it.

Reference:

http://www.encyclopediavirginia.org/Religious_Revivals_During_the_Civil_War



NOTICE

If you have ideas for our Newsletter, please share them. 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 our Confederate family for heritage's sake. Ask them, and see if they are interested. We are willing to help build an ancestral package for them.

**The Military Order of
the Stars and Bars
Needs You!**



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.

Reference:

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