



David's Dispatch

1ST LT. DAVID RICHARD REYNOLDS

HEADQUARTERS CHAPTER #1

SOCIETY OF CONFEDERATE DESCENDANTS



Vol. 2 No. 6

Copyright 2026

June 2026

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

by Larry "Joe" Reynolds



Greetings Compatriots,

As summer approaches, the weather gets warm, well down here in Texas, it gets Hot!

We need to heed the warning and start getting hot with our Society of Confederate Descendants! We need to start growing and performing the duties that are sworn to in our obligation. We need Men and Women to fulfil or vows to Preserve, Promote, and Educate.

The Society of Union Veterans, that was just started a few months ago, has already folded. I think it was due largely to the fact that it's hard to get people to make a commitment now days. At last month's Meeting I called for our members to volunteer to fill our current vacancies of our officers. To date, only one, Renee Hamilton has volunteered to assume the duties of Quartermaster General, Thank You Renee!

An organization must have officers to guide and direct it. One man cannot do it alone. I need Men and Women to assist me in keeping it going. What happens next year when it comes time for me to step down? We currently don't even have a Vice-President General who can take over.

Will it be like my MOS&B Chapter, 8 years ago I was the Lieutenant Commander and when it came time for me to move up, I was also elected as the Texas Society Commander, so I asked a friend to take over as Chapter Commander, 8 years later he still hasn't found anyone to take over as Chapter Commander.

Compatriots, I'm 81 years old, and although I'm in good health and feel fine, we spent a few days this past week looking at some Assisted Living places due to my Wife's health. What happens if we are forced to move into a place that doesn't have the capability or Internet that has the

accessibility to hold Zoom meetings? It's things like this that we need to think about and plan for. Once again, I'm asking people to look at the following vacant positions, ask questions about them or volunteer your service to fulfill them:

- Vice-President General
- Chief of Staff
- Parliamentarian
- Membership Chairman
- Communications General
- Editor General

Please be prepared to discuss the elections at our next meeting on June 8th!
See Ya Then

Joe Reynolds
President General

UPCOMING EVENTS

NEXT MEETING

Monday, June 8th, 7:00 p.m.
Zoom Meeting

Our Mission

To fulfill the Charge handed down to us and to perpetuate the legacy of our ancestors by proudly preserving our heritage and faithfully promoting goodwill In our community.

Our Vision

We dare to envision a culture that values its history and honors those who helped make it.



TRIVIAL PURSUIT OR - DID YOU KNOW THIS?

Comment: We all sit around from time to time and discuss events, people, and places related to the War of Northern Aggression. But check out how many of these you knew before today. I hope you enjoy this edition. The Editor.

(Answers on Page 9)

1. What was the armament on the CSS Mississippi, considered one of the first true dreadnaughts?
2. Who was the last CSA General to surrender?
3. Where did the last battle of The War take place?



BIRTHDAYS, ANNIVERSARIES & OTHER IMPORTANT DATES

- Jun 07Cindy Gayle Swartz
- Jun 13 Laura Lee Bennett
- Jun 17 David Lee Holder
- Jun 19Larry Joe Reynolds
- Jun 22David Kyle Routh
- Jun 23Caitlyn Birrenbach-Lytle
- Jun 24 Henry Francis King, III

June 3rd – This day in 1808 President Jefferson Davis was born in Fairview, Kentucky. Confederate Memorial Day for Kentucky, Louisiana and Tennessee.

June 8th – This day in 1861 Tennessee secedes from the union.



BATTLES FOUGHT DURING THE MONTH OF MAY



Battle of Cold Harbor - Cold Harbor Virginia

1-3 June 1864 - General Robert E. Lee verses General Ulysses S. Grant. Casualties: {Unknown} Confederate, 12,000 Union!

Battle of Philippi - Philippi Western Virginia

3 June 1861 - General Robert S. Garnett verses General George B. McClellan. Casualties: 15 Confederate, 2 Union!

Battle of Cross Keys - Cross Keys Virginia

8 June 1862 - General Richard S. Ewell verses General John C. Fremont. Casualties: 288 Confederate, 584 Union!

Battle of Port Republic - Port Republic Virginia

9 June 1862 - General Thomas J. "Stonewall" Jackson verses General John C. Fremont. Casualties: 800 Confederate, 1018 Union!

Battle of Brandy Station - Brandy Station Virginia

9 June 1863 - General James "J.E.B." Stuart verses General Alfred Pleasonton. Casualties: 523 Confederate, 936 Union!

Second Battle of Winchester - Winchester Virginia

14-15 June 1863 - General Richard S. Ewell verses General Robert H. Milroy. Casualties: 269 Confederate, 4443 Union!

First Assault on Petersburg - Petersburg Virginia

15-18 June 1864 - General Robert E. Lee verses General Ulysses S. Grant. Casualties: {Unknown} Confederate, 8150 Union!

Siege of Petersburg - Petersburg Virginia

19 June 1864 - 2 April 1865 - General Robert E. Lee verses General Ulysses S. Grant. Casualties: 28,000 Confederate, 42,000 Union!

Battle of Mechanicsville - Mechanicsville Virginia

26 June 1862 - General Robert E. Lee verses General Fitz-John Porter. Casualties: 1484 Confederate, 361 Union!

Battle of Gaines' Mill - Gaines' Mill Virginia

27 June 1862 - General Robert E. Lee verses General Fitz-John Porter. Casualties: 8751 Confederate, 6837 Union!

Battle of Kennesaw - Kennesaw Georgia

27 June 1864 - General Joseph E. Johnston verses General William T. Sherman. Casualties: 442 Confederates, 2051 Union!

Battle of Savage's Station - Savage's Station Virginia

29 June 1862 - General Robert E. Lee verses General George B. McClellan. Casualties: 626 Confederate, 1590 Union!

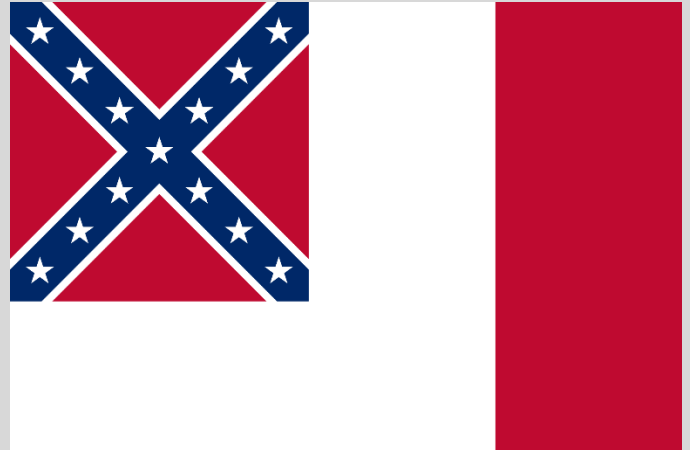
Battle of Hanover - Hanover Pennsylvania

30 June 1863 - General James "J.E.B." Stuart verses General E.J. Farnsworth. Casualties: 117 Confederate, 215 Union!

“All that the South has ever desired was that the Union as established by our forefathers should be preserved and that the government as originally organized should be administered in purity and truth.”

Robert E. Lee

THE PROCLAMATION OF INDEPENDENCE!



Confederates States National Flag, the third and now permanent national flag. This flag is Referred to as the Blood Stained Banner

The Proclamation of Independence! An English Professor, wishing to remain anonymous, drafted the Proclamation of Independence in mid-1990's, whose name has been lost with passing time. The document is based upon the people's right to determine who shall govern over them, and what nation shall be theirs. The Confederate States Constitution was adopted by the Southern States, and has never been 'constitutionally' rescinded, which means it remains in effect, only suppressed as a result of force. All that is needed to reactivate this constitution, are Confederate States National Elections, to fill the now valid but vacant seats.

Confederate States of America

Proclamation of Independence

We the People of the Sovereign States and Territories constituting and entitled the Confederate States of America hereby proclaim before Almighty God and all who may read these presents that as our forefathers law-fully, peacefully and constitutionally seceded from that voluntary union of States entitled the United States of America and formed a new nation, according to their reserved political rights,

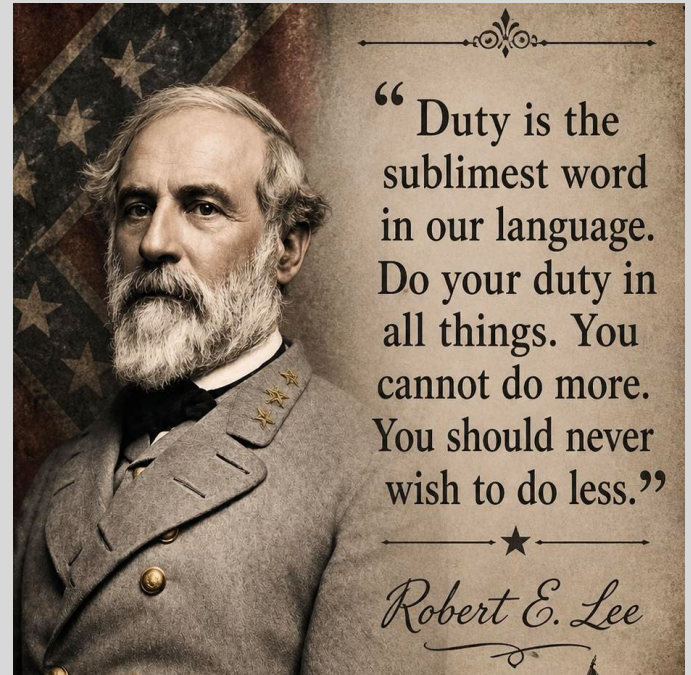
and the unalienable rights endowed them by their Creator, so the aforementioned States and Territories were, are, and remain now Sovereign political entities within a voluntary national Confederation, conjointly constituting one independent nation amongst the nations of this world, and styled 'The Confederate States of America.'

We further declare that these unalienable truths are, and in no way can be, negated or compromised by the historic fact that the nation so founded was once aggressively, arrogantly and illegally invaded, overrun, occupied and subjugated by a superior external force, and thus subjected to war crimes and other crimes against humanity and brutally denied rights of life, liberty and due process of law, nor by the fact that our citizenry (when no longer able to defend their homes or persons and denied, by that brute force the basic human right to self-determination and choice of manner of government) were compelled, as States and Territories, to retract their articles of secession and rejoin, against their manifest will, their former and repudiated union.

We hereby declare that all such pretended acts, having been performed without the mandate or consent of the governed, and outside the duly ratified Confederate States Constitution, were, are, and forever shall be null and void, and so the dates of Secession of the several States and Territories (each acting in its Sovereign capacity) continue in unbroken validity from the said dates, as shall the dates of Secession of any such further States of the American union as may, at any time, choose to resume their sovereign status among the nations of the world.

And we declare before God Almighty, and call the peoples of the world to witness, our belief that, as men are created equal under Him, so are nations sovereign and equal in His sight, and as no man has the right to oppress another, so no nation may oppress another nation, enter their lands by force, or force their political will or culture upon another people, by means direct or indirect.

Upon these just and unbreakable grounds we confidently pray the Grace and Divine Providence of Almighty God, that our cause may be vindicated and our right to self-determination again openly acknowledged before Him



Our Honored Ancestors

**WILLIAM STARNES WELLBORN
PRIVATE,
COMPANY G, RUSSELL'S
BATTALION, PARTISAN RANGERS**

William enlisted for Confederate service on September 7, 1862 at Larkinsville, Alabama, by Capt. Henry F. Smith. He enlisted as a Private, Captain Smith's Company G, Russell's Battalion of Partisan Rangers on Muster-In Roll of September 22, 1862 at camp near Taylor's Store, Tennessee. Valuation of horse: \$175.00, Horse Equipments: \$20.00. He is on the roll of March 1st to April 30, 1863; November 1 to December 31, 1863. His age on muster-in roll is given as 23, but he was 36.

According to family stories, William also joined the Union Army to give false information, serving as scout and spy. It was William who Ulysses S. Grant was speaking of when he said that if it would not have been for one particular spy, that supplied us with false information, this war would have ended six months ago.

Six Alabama Cavalry companies which had been serving as a battalion under Alfred A. Russell joined with four companies from the Third Tennessee Cavalry and became Russell's Regiment. Russell operated under General Forrest in the Tennessee Valley, continually active in the winter of 1862-63 raiding Union lines, destroying provisions and communications.

Soon after the unit was formed it was assigned to the Army of Tennessee. It served in that Army until early in 1865. Then it joined the Department of Alabama, Mississippi, and East Louisiana, for the remainder of the war.

The Fourth (Russell's) Alabama Cavalry took part in more than one hundred and ten various type engagements during its career. The first engagement was at Spring Creek, Tennessee on December 19, 1862. The last engagement before surrender was April 2, 1865 at Selma, Alabama. W.S. Wilbern, Corporal, appears on the Roll of Prisoners of War of Co. B, Fourth Regiment Alabama Cavalry who surrendered May 4th to Major General E.R.S. Canby, U.S.A., paroled May 14th at Gainesville, Alabama; residence, Coffeetown, Jackson County, Alabama.

Russell's Alabama Cavalry had a skirmish at Mill Creek, Tennessee on January 8, 1863. They had already had ten skirmishes in Tennessee since the first on December 19, 1862. This is a copy of a letter from William Starnes Wellborn to his wife, Elizabeth (Reynolds) Wellborn on the day after the skirmish.

State of Tennessee
Jiles County
January the 9th, 1863

Dear Companion,

It is with pleasure that I one time more have been blest with the privildge of riting you a few lines to let you no that I am in reasonable health at this time. hoping that those few lines may pass in haste and find you all in good health. I have nothing vary interesting to rite to you. I am now at Pulaski as a hospitle detailed to wate on the sick. We came here yesterday. Our commder is gone to Columbia. I have bin down nearly to Padduco on an expedition and we have had hard times. You may be sure we was across the river in the swamps three weeks and old Forrest fought the yankees twelve times and he whiped them. They had histed the white flag and at that moment was reinforced by four thousand more and we had to leave in a hurry. I rode my litle hors to death in that expedition. I have rode a hundred miles without stoping or feeding him and I swaped him off for a good hors and have to pay ninty dollars to boot and I have ruined his back. I would be glad to see you all once more. You have no idea how bad I want to bee there. I want you to kiss the children for me and tell them that I think I will get to come home and see them, tho I can't tell when. I want you to write to me and tell me how you are getting along and how you have done with your affairs and who is attending to your business. I want you to have your corn hauled home and take cear of it and not weist it.

turn over

Tell farther that I would be glad to see him and if he can't come to see me and I can't get to come home I would be glad he would right to me and let me no how the times is, what the people is all doing back there. Tell your farther I have not forgotten him. Tel the girls to rite to me. Tell Martha Wellborn that James is well. There is a good deal of sickness in camps. James B. Hillin is here very low with fevor, William Vaught is very low with consumption, Jessee Boyd is sick with a brest complaint but is going about. Gesse Wellborn with one finger shot. Wallis McFarlin is here with his feet frozen. That is a list of the disable men of our company. Tell Mary

Davis that Gilbert is well. Tell all of my friends to rite to me.

Elizabeth I want you to wright to me as soon as you get this letter, and direct your letter to Pulaski Tennessee, Russell's Regiment in cear of Capt. H.F. Smith, and if I have left here it will follow me. Give my respects or all inquiring friends and tell tem to rite to me. I have but little time to rite and they have plenty of time-- so I must Birng my lines to a close. So nothing more, only I will Remain your affectionate husband untill death farewell.

William S. Wellborn to

Elizabeth Wellborn

It is told that William Starnes was very sick after returning from the Civil War, he developed Jaundice during the war, and that he never got better. He died on June 28, 1867 and is buried in the Boyd Cemetery in Langston, Jackson County, Alabama.



SHELBY PARK IN EAGLE PASS, TX

submitted by Compatriot Cletis Millsap



National Guard soldiers stand on the banks of the Rio Grande at Shelby Park in Eagle Pass, Texas, on January 12. Brandon Bell/Getty Images

Shelby Park in Eagle Pass, Texas, has become a staging ground for state forces, the epicenter of a standoff with the federal government and a stark symbol of dysfunction at the border.

But there's another story about this park that's far less well known than the recent legal battle over immigration enforcement in this border city.

The 47-acre park along the Rio Grande was named after a Confederate military leader who fled to Mexico in 1865 rather than surrendering to Union troops.

A Federal Emergency Management Agency case study describing the park notes that it was named for General Joseph Orville Shelby, known to some as the "undefeated rebel."



Joseph Orville Shelby was a Confederate general who famously fled to Mexico in 1865 rather than surrendering to Union forces. - FLHC

DC2211/Alamy Stock Photo

"What struck me about it is the irony of all this," says historian Jeremi Suri, who wrote about Shelby and other Confederate exiles in his 2022 book, "Civil War by Other Means: America's Long and Unfinished Fight for Democracy."

Most people likely aren't familiar with Shelby's story. But there's a clear resonance between this moment and Shelby's rarely recalled chapter of American history, Suri says.

"I see those attitudes now as well," says Suri, who holds the Mack Brown Distinguished Chair for Leadership in Global Affairs at the University of Texas at Austin. "The reason these exiles are important is they kind of (are used to) legitimize this discussion of secession...which is really sticking your middle finger up at the federal government and

saying, ‘we’re going to do it our way, and you can’t make us do it differently.’”



An illustration depicts Shelby in battle. He was known for wearing a plumed hat and often praised for his prowess on the battlefield. - Universal History Archive/Universal Images Group/Getty Images

The park’s name, Suri says, reveals more about the current dispute than any argument in the immigration debate.

“What this is really about is about power for groups that have power and don’t want to give up power. The naming of that park, rather than naming it Martin Luther King Jr. park or Cesar Chavez park, was an assertion of power, and the irony is that assertion has now become militarized in that space again,” he says.

How a Texas border city became known as the ‘grave of the confederacy’

In the prologue to his 2010 book “General Jo Shelby’s March,” the late historian Anthony Arthur painted a dramatic picture of Shelby and his troops leaving Eagle Pass and heading south. As the group stood in the Rio Grande, they plunged the Confederate battle flag into the river rather than letting Union forces get their hands on it.

“He withdrew the black plume from his hat brim and laid it gently within the folds of the flag before it vanished beneath the muddy water,” Arthur wrote.

Local historian Jeff Taylor Sr. says rumors have swirled over the years that the flag was later retrieved from the waters. But the myth of that moment has endured, earning a nickname for Eagle Pass as the “grave of the Confederacy.” For years, a painting depicting the scene hung in the Eagle Pass City Hall. Reenactors would even travel to the border city to relive it.

“It was just something kind of famous. ... Nobody really thought about it,” Taylor told CNN.

Taylor, 67, grew up in Eagle Pass and takes pride in knowing and sharing the city’s history. For years he was the curator at the city’s Fort Duncan Museum.

Taylor says he isn’t sure when exactly Shelby Park got its name, or who was behind the effort to name it. One thing he is sure about: Most residents of Eagle Pass aren’t familiar with the history behind the man the park was named for.

“I’ll ask people, ‘Do you know who Shelby is?’ They’ll say, ‘I never heard of him. Did he play football with the Eagles?’” Taylor says, referring to the local high school team. “They just have no idea.”

A colony in Mexico was home to hundreds of exiled Confederate soldiers

Eagle Pass may have become known as a graveyard for the Confederacy, but for Shelby and the troops who accompanied him into Mexico that day in 1865, their cause lived on. Maximilian I, the French-installed emperor ruling Mexico at the time, rejected the group’s offer of military services, but provided them land for a colony of exiled Confederate soldiers that was known as La Carlota, after the emperor’s wife.

The group’s time in Mexico was short lived. By 1867, the year Maximilian was executed, Shelby and most of his followers had returned to the US.

“He comes back to the US and declares himself a hero because he never bent his knee to Yankee power,” Suri says.

The next year, President Andrew Johnson pardoned all Confederate soldiers. And decades later, President Grover Cleveland appointed Shelby as U.S. marshal for the Western District of Missouri.

Suri says he's not aware of when or why the Eagle Pass park was named after Shelby.

The case study on FEMA's website says the park was built in the late 1990s as part of a mitigation plan after flooding in the area. If that's when the park got its name, the timing would dovetail with a revival of neo-Confederate groups in pockets across the US, Suri says, but it's unclear whether there was a connection.

Some activists see a connection between what's happening today and the park's name

Last month, the Texas Attorney General argued that state authorities had seized Shelby Park from the city "for law-enforcement and disaster-relief purposes." State officials claim they were forced to take action after large numbers of migrants arrived in the area, and they argue that federal authorities still have access to the park for medical emergencies — something the Biden administration has disputed in court filings.

Last year, Texas officials sued the Biden administration for cutting razor wire at the border. And last month the Supreme Court ruled that Border Patrol agents could remove razor wire installed in the Eagle Pass area as part of Texas' Republican governor's security initiative while the state's legal challenge to the wire-cutting plays out.

The Department of Homeland Security has demanded Texas give it "full access" to the border, arguing that immigration enforcement is a federal matter. Gov. Greg Abbott and other Texas officials have vowed not to back down.

"It's ironic that it's in this park," Suri says. "No one planned that."

Still, some local activists, like Amerika Garcia Grewal, say they see clear symbolism connecting the park's name with what's currently unfolding there.

"It's appropriate that a symbol of racism should be so covered in concertina wire. It's like an outward manifestation of the hate that others feel," she says.

Garcia Grewal is the cofounder of Border Vigil, a group that's been meeting regularly in Shelby Park to honor the lives of migrants who died in the Rio Grande.

Weeks before the recent state takeover of the park, the group planted hundreds of crosses in a field there as a memorial to the people believed to have perished along the US-Mexico border in 2023.

"It was over half an acre of land that was covered by all these crosses. It's incredibly powerful to realize that human actions killed this many people. ... Our policies are basically condemning people to death," she says.



These crosses were planted last year in Shelby Park in Eagle Pass, Texas, as a memorial to hundreds of migrants believed to have died along the US-Mexico border. - Amerika Garcia Grewal/Border Vigil

In recent years, Garcia Grewal says she and others have petitioned for officials to change the names of places honoring Confederate leaders in Eagle Pass. An elementary school previously named for Robert E. Lee started the 2021-2022 school year with a new name after a unanimous school board vote.

CHAPTER MINUTES 04-14-2025

The meeting was called to order by President General Joe Reynolds at 7:12 pm.

Invocation was given by Chaplain General Eve Holder.

Pledges to the United States, Headquarters Chapter and Confederate Flag were led by President General Joe Reynolds.

President General Joe Reynolds presented the SCD's Mission and Vision Statement.

Present for the meeting were:

Members

Larry Joe Reynolds, President General
 Alvin Rex McGee, Secretary/Treasurer General
 Cletis Milsap, Judge Advocate General
 Eve Holder, Chaplain General
 Dave Adcox
 Sam Bennett
 Hal Cardwell
 David Routh
 Darlene Sams
 Ryan Springer
 Jola West

Guests

Randy Coward

The minutes of the March meeting were emailed to all members one week prior to the meeting. There was a motion by Hal Cardwell and a Second by Cletis Milsap that the minutes be approved as received, and the motion passed unanimously.

The Treasurer Report was read with the following noted: For the month of March 2026, we started the month with a balance of \$1,020.66, we had \$20.00 income, which was a Guardian Membership Application from Bill Wilcoxson. The only expenses were \$11.60 for postage in mailing his

Certificates and Guardian Lapel Pin, and for Birthday and Anniversary Cards. This left a balance of \$8.40 for the month and a total balance of \$1,029.06.

There was no Old Business this month.

Under New Business we discussed the following:

- Status of Membership
- We discussed the status of our Society and what we need to survive and grow.
- We discussed our Guardian Program and other programs we could start.
- For tonight's Program, a video called "44 Weirdest American Civil War Facts (That Actually Happened)" was shown.

The Benediction was given by Chaplain General Eve Holder.

The Meeting was adjourned at 8:20.

TRIVIAL PURSUIT ANSWERS!

1. Twenty big guns.
 2. Brig Gen Stand Waite; news reached the West much later. Stand Waite, a Bonafide Indian Chief, refused to surrender to anyone except another Indian Soldier.
 3. CSS Shenandoah, under command of LCDR James Waddell fired a shot across the bow of a whaler in the waters off the Aleutian Islands. He would become the last CSA commander to surrender command [to the British Government] on 06 Nov 1865 in the River Mersey near Liverpool, UK.
-

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Opinions expressed by individual writers are their own and do not necessarily reflect official positions of the 1st Lt. David Richard Reynolds Headquarters Chapter #1. Letters and articles may be submitted to: Joe.Reynolds@davidrreynolds.org (Cutoff for articles is 20th of the month)

