



Clarion Call

Texas Society, Military Order of Stars & Bars

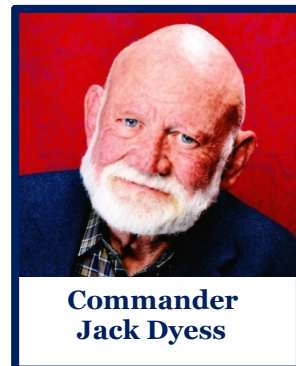
Volume 13, Issue 1

February in the Year of Our Lord 2017

THE TEXAS SOCIETY COMMANDER'S REPORT

Jack Dyess, Commander

As our Annual Convention quickly approaches it signals the end of another year in our organization. I sincerely thank you for the opportunity to have served as your Society leader during the past two years. I especially thank the previous two Society commanders, Larry Wilhoite and Glenn Toal for their assistance and advise, Jay Bowden for his steady, competent performance of the duties of Adjutant and the other members of the Society Executive Council, Gary M. Loudermilk, Gary L. Loudermilk, Ewell Loudermilk, Russ Lane and, prior to his death, Jim Templin, for their support and guidance during a very difficult period. I also take this opportunity to thank those who provided tremendous assistance as members of various committees; Jay Bowden, Bill Carrell, Jim Cantrell, James Graham, Raymond Holder, Russ Lane, Gary M. Loudermilk, David Routh, Tony Sinclair, Richard Smoot, Max Strozier, Michael Upchurch, David Whitaker and Jimmy Lee Wright. A special thank you goes to our Clarion Call editor, Larry Wilhoite, and the publisher, Pam Wilhoite. I would be severely remiss if I failed to thank two individuals whose assistance and advise were invaluable to me; Society First Lady, Diane Dyess, and former First Lady, Pam Wilhoite.



**Commander
Jack Dyess**

Almost the entire first year of my term was occupied by resolving a major problem that, according to what I have been told by previous commanders, was unprecedented and certainly more than I expected when I accepted the position. The remainder of the term was largely productive.

You will recall that last year we started an annual social event for our members who wished to participate – a Caribbean cruise. We filled eight cabins with 16 Texas MOS&B members, their spouses and friends and sailed from Galveston to Key West, Freeport and Nassau. At the end of the

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Texas Society Commander's Report

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cruise, all who participated agreed they had a wonderful time, got to know other members better and last week we completed the 2017 cruise. This year we filled 12 cabins with 24 individuals and sailed from Galveston to Cozumel, Belize and Honduras. (See photograph elsewhere in the newsletter.) Again, all participants agreed we should continue the practice in 2018 with a cruise from Galveston to Grand Cayman, Jamaica and Cozumel and in 2019 from Galveston to either Cuba or the Panama Canal. Please mark your calendar for mid-February of these years and plan to join us. We missed you. Our goal is to have 30 in 2018 and 40 in 2019.

In an attempt to increase the accuracy of our record keeping and efficiency of the business functions of our Society, this year we have written "Standing Orders" that simplify and provide detailed instructions on several administrative functions. Hopefully, these Standing Orders will clarify for the chapters the correct way to submit various types of required forms and, in so doing, reduce the time and effort required both at the chapter and Society levels.

Completed Standing Orders to date include *SO#16001 PROCESSING MEMBERSHIP APPLICATIONS*, *SO #16002 PROCEDURES FOR COLLECTING ANNUAL DUES*, *SO #16003 PROCEDURES FOR APPLYING FOR AN ALBERT SIDNEY JOHNSTON SCHOLARSHIP AWARD* and *SO#17001 PROCEDURES FOR SUBMITTING ANNUAL REPORTS*. We are working on *SO #17002 TEXAS SOCIETY AWARDS PROGRAM AND PROCEDURES* to be presented to the membership at the Annual convention for approval or rejection.

We also awarded two \$500 scholarships during the period.

Last Year our membership dropped from 184 to 153; a drop of 31 members. This year the numbers moved upward slightly; 153 to 173; a gain of 20. Although that slight gain is encouraging, it is obvious that we have a long way to go. The average for the last ten years indicates a significant decrease in membership that, should the decline continue, the Texas Society will cease to exist by 2025 (eight years from now). If each chapter would work sufficiently hard to just get every living member during the last three years to renew his membership, we would increase by approximately 100.

As I have indicated above, we have had our problems during the past two years but we have also had some great successes. I enjoyed fulfilling the responsibilities you gave me to the best of my ability and pledge my whole-hearted support and assistance to the next Texas Society Commander.

I truly hope each of you will attend the Annual Texas Society Convention May 5-6 and participate in the selection of new officers. Detailed information is contained on page 11 of this newsletter.

Sincerely,

Jack

Visit our website texasmosb.com

2017 MOS&B National Convention

Wilmington, North Carolina August 6 - 8

The last major seaport of the Confederacy, Wilmington, NC, will be the site of the 2017 national convention of the Military Order of the Stars and Bars. The host hotel will be the Best Western Coastline Inn & Conference Center located on the historic Cape Fear River in downtown Wilmington. All of the hotels rooms are waterfront and look out over the river and the USS *North Carolina*.

For details regarding the convention visit www.militaryorderofthestarsandbars.org

2017 Cruisers



Left to right front row – Jack Dyess and Richard Smoot Left to right back row – Nicholas Gilliam, William Carrell, Glenn Toal, James Woodlock and James Graham - Bruce Wilson unavailable at time of photo

Across the State - Texas Society Chapter News

COL. W. H. PARSONS Chapter 273 Ennis

Our chapter meets on the 4th Tuesday of the first month of the quarter except July, which we move up to Memorial Day. We held our quarterly meeting on 26 September 2016 at Cancun's Ameri-Mex Restaurant in Waxahachie. We were privileged to have Dr. Richard Lee Montgomery of Denton come and present his program entitled *Union Soldier, Yankee Atrocities*. This was an excellent program which dealt with Yankee atrocities against our Southern ancestors. The program was enjoyed by everyone present.



Dr. Richard Lee Montgomery, speaker,
and Commander Robby Kever



New member Joe Walker and
Commander Robby Kever

Our next meeting was held 24 January 2017 at our usual meeting site. We had the privilege of swearing in our newest member, Joseph L. Walker of Waco. Joe joins the MOS&B on the Confederate Service of Captain William W. Grant, Co. K, 65th Georgia Infantry. Our own Lt Commander Tony Sinclair presented a wonderful program on *Beast Ben Butler*, better known as "Spoons Butler" because of all the silver spoons and other items he stole from the citizens of New Orleans.

We continue to monitor our cemeteries, Confederate sites and memorials for any incidents of vandalism. Glenn and Susie Toal and Commander Robby Kever have been very active in this area.

We added one new member since the last newsletter and have one delinquent member. Our current membership stands at 22 with a couple of good prospects.

Our next meeting will be held 25 April 2017 at Cancun's in Waxahachie. Any member or their guest are most welcome to attend. The program will be a Show & Tell type program presented by our Commander, Robby Kever.

Major John Loudermilk Chapter 264 Comanche

By Ewell Loudermill

I had the honor to participate in a Confederate “occupation” of Ft. Chadbourne, Texas recently. On November 4th-6th of 2016 several Confederate re-enacting groups assembled at the Fort and attempted to recreate the temporary occupation of the Fort that occurred during the War Between the States.

A little bit about the current situation of the Fort. The Fort is unique in that it is privately owned and managed. It is located on a working ranch about 15 miles NE of Bronte Texas on Oak Creek. The owners are Garland and Lana Richards. They manage the beautiful visitors’ center and have overseen all of the reconstruction of the barracks and officer’s quarters.



Ewell Loudermill and Leland Hamner
at Fort Chadbourne

The visitors’ center contains over 30,000 artifacts that have been found on the grounds. The thing that will strike you if you can make a visit to this place is how balanced a view of history is presented. Mr. Richards has told me that he is “interested in historical accuracy not political correctness”. You will be met at the door by a portrait of General Lee above the entrance to the auditorium and by a 1 1/2” bronze cannon that was cast at Vicksburg during the siege and fired from the ramparts defending the city. There isn’t a rope or barricade around this cannon and you can touch it. Having had immediate ancestors serve at Vicksburg, you can imagine how this feels to be able to touch an artifact that your Great Grandfather probably heard fire. Throughout the visitors center you will see artifacts from every time period of the Fort from its antebellum construction to the War Between the States to the Indian Wars to its use as a stop on the Butterfield Stage route. Below is the Fort’s web site and I encourage you to visit that but more importantly take a trip if you can to the Fort to see a very refreshing and unbiased take on history. <http://fortchadbourne.org/>

A brief history of the Fort begins with its founding in 1852 by elements of the United States Infantry. Prior to the War Between the States, United States Colonel Robert E. Lee was ordered to take command at Ft. Chadbourne and one of the officer’s quarters that has been restored was built for him to occupy but he received orders redirecting him to Ft. Mason and he took command there instead. The Fort was peacefully surrendered by Federal troops to Confederate militia and home guard troops on February 28th, 1861 prior to the shelling of Ft. Sumter. It served throughout the War as a way station for Confederate forces trying to defend the Texas frontier from Indian raids. Most notable it served as a meeting point for Confederate regular troops and militia on their way to the ill-fated battle against the Kickapoo nation at Dove Creek in the bitterly cold winter of 1864-1865.



Our occupation was very unique in my experience as a re-enactor, consisting of elements of various Confederate Artillery, Cavalry and Infantry re-enacting units but no Federal troops. We marched in to “occupy” the Fort around 9:30AM on Saturday November 5th, 2016 and raised an 8’X10’ First National Flag of the Confederacy over the parade grounds that flew there all day Saturday. There were several civilian re-enactors there as well, showing visitors to the Fort various aspects of life on the frontier in 1860’s Confederate Texas. During the day the military units drilled and had musket and

cannon firing demonstrations for visitors. A retreat ceremony for the colors was performed in early afternoon (around 4PM) with all branches assembled on the parade grounds. A period wedding (renewing of vows) was performed in the barracks around 5:30 that evening after which troops retired to their respective camps for Confederate fellowship and the renewing of fraternal bonds. The weather which had been a very wool friendly overcast all weekend finally broke about 5:30 Sunday morning and the couple of events scheduled for Sunday morning were scrubbed but other than that it was a most enjoyable weekend for all the participants and if we are lucky enough to be invited back by the Confederate friendly owners I would very much recommend any and all of our MOSB members, their family and friends make the trip out to West Texas, it’s well worth the drive.



7th Texas Infantry Reenactors

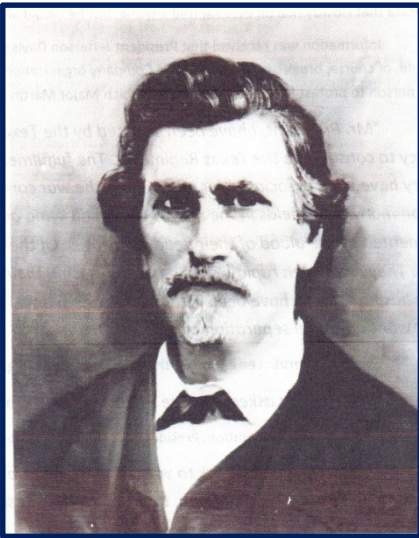


Major William H. “Howdy” Martin



By Larry Wilhoite

There is some confusion as to the exact year William Harrison Martin was born. Some records say 2 September 1822 and some 1823. However, it appears the correct date is 2 September 1822 in Twiggs County, Georgia. There is also confusion as to his father's name. Some list it as “Benjamin” Martin and others “Robert” Martin. The LDS records show his father to be Robert Martin and his mother Charlotte Harrison, daughter of Revolutionary War Major Benjamin Harrison. Harrison was also a member of the convention that framed Georgia's constitution.



In 1834, the Martin family moved to Alabama where William received his early education in the Common Schools. He then began to study law at Troy State College, passed the Bar and was admitted to the Alabama Bar in 1850.

The Spring 1851 found Martin in Athens, Texas, having arrived via horseback with 50 cents in his pocket. There he opened his law practice and was very successful, being known for his shrewdness in court.

Martin entered politics in 1853 when he was elected to the Texas State Senate representing Freestone, Limestone, Henderson and Navarro Counties. He served in this capacity until 1858, when he returned to his farm in Henderson County.

With the coming of the War Between the States, Martin quickly embraced secession and the Southern cause. On 31 March 1861, he organized the 13th Texas Infantry Brigade with 12 officers and 78 enlisted men from Henderson County. He trained these men in the Fincastle community of Henderson County, arriving there 18 May 1861. Two local ladies, Jurusha Walker and Dulcina Averiette, presented Martin with a beautiful First National flag with 11 stars and the motto *Victory or Death* on the middle bar of the flag. Upon acceptance, Martin stated “*One Confederate can beat a hundred Yanks. We have ‘um fer breakfast and be back fer supper.*”

Upon arrival in Richmond in the Fall of 1861, the Brigade was formed into Company K, 4th Texas Infantry and assigned to Hood's Texas Brigade, Longstreet's First Corps, Army of Northern Virginia.

There is some question as to how Martin came to be known as “Howdy” Martin. The most popular version is that one day Martin and his company passed by General Robert E. Lee and his staff. Instead of saluting, Martin is said to have raised himself in his stirrups, tipped his hat and yelled “howdy” to General Lee. Martin is said to have never saluted anyone but greeted all with a tip of the hat and “howdy.” Others think that he already had the nickname as he always greeted people with “howdy.” Either way, the nickname stuck.



Martin was promoted to Major in April 1864. The soldiers learned that President Davis had issued an order to consolidate the Texas regiments. This was not well received by the soldiers and they elected Martin to protest the order. Martin then wrote to President Davis:

Mr. President, I have been selected by the Texas soldiers to protest against the order of Your Excellency to consolidate the Texas Regiments. The fulfillment of the order would break the hearts of our men. They have been associated for years, since the war commenced. The bones of their comrades are bleaching upon many battlefields in the South. Those still living are bound together by ties of deepest friendship, cemented by the blood of their dead associates. Of the 4,900 men we had at first, only a few hundred are left. They have been rapidly passing away—losing their lives on the skirmish line—on the battlefield and in the hospital. A few have been returned to their homes, broken in health forever. Those of us who remain do not want any cruel separation of brothers in arms.

General Lee endorsed the protest as follows:

I have never asked that the Brigade to hold a position that they did not hold it.

Davis responded:

Major Martin, go back to your Texas soldiers and comrades and tell them that as long as there is a soldier left to carry the battle flag, their organizations shall not be abandoned.

The 4th Texas spent the entire war with the Army of Northern Virginia and fought in many furious battles such as Elkhorn Tavern, Seven Pines, Seven Days around Richmond. They also fought at 2nd Manassas, Sharpsburg, Gettysburg, Chickamauga and the Wilderness. The regiment, or what was left of it, was with General Lee at Appomattox. Major Martin and Captain W. T. Hill gathered the survivors and lead them back to Texas. Only seven of the nearly 100 men Martin took to Virginia were left to return to Texas, noting that *the others sleep beneath the blood-stained battle-fields where fought the great Army of Northern Virginia.*

Upon returning to Henderson County, Martin resumed his law practice.

On 12 February 1867, he married Martha Elizabeth Gallemore of Navarro County. Martha was much younger, having been born 22 June 1846 in Twiggs County, Georgia. The Martins had seven children: Jane Cornelia 1869-1930; Sibyl Gertrude 1872-1940; Robert Benjamin 1874-1917; William Harrison, Jr. 1876-1967; Martha Elizabeth 1878-1963; John Gallemore 1879-1939 and Charlotte Elizabeth 1883-1915.

Martin re-entered politics in 1872 when he was elected District Attorney for Kaufman, Henderson, Smith and Anderson Counties. He served one 2-year term then retired to private life and farming.

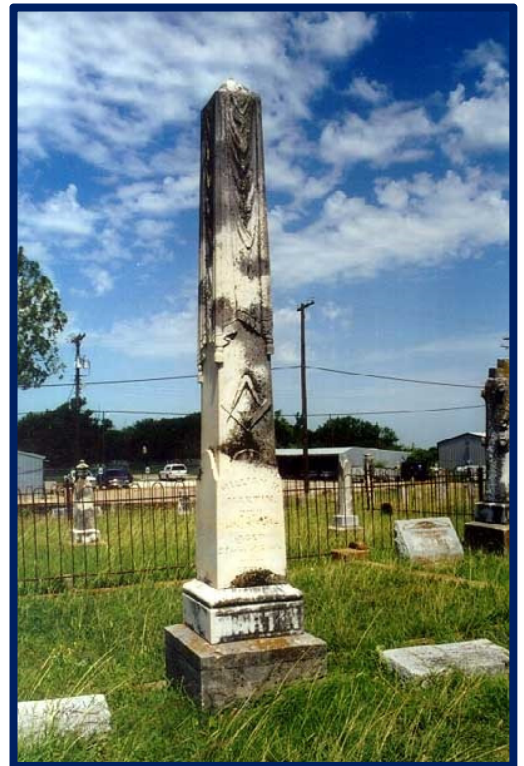
Martin burst on the national scene when on 12 February 1887 he was elected to the U. S. House of Representatives as a Democrat to fill the unexpired term of John H. Reagan, who was elected to the U. S. Senate. Reagan and Martin were very close friends. Martin served in the U. S. House from 4 November 1887 to 3 March 1891, representing the 2nd Texas Congressional District. He was very effective in the House and was noted for his oratory.

After his time in the House, Martin retired back to his farm in Henderson County. Two years later, he moved his family to Hill County, settling on his estate "Eufaula" near Hillsboro. He became very active in the United Confederate Veterans in Hill County.

On 5 February 1898, at age 75, Howdy Martin crossed over the river and was buried in the Hillsboro City Cemetery, escorted by members of the Hill County United Confederate Veterans.

His obituary was recorded in the Confederate Veteran, Volume 6, 1906 on page 276. It reads:

At his home, on his farm in Hill County, near Hillsboro, in the 76th year of his eventful life, on Saturday, February 5, 1898, the brave spirit of the loved and honored William Harrison Martin to the country known as Howdy Martin, took its flight from the scenes of life to the Courts above. He leaves surviving him his wife and seven children, three of whom are happily married, and the balance remaining on the homestead with their mother.



Texas Society Annual Meeting – May 5 - 6

*You are most cordially invited to attend our 2017 Texas Society Annual Meeting on
May 5&6 at the YO Ranch Convention Center in Kerrville, TX.*

After an extensive search for a location near the geographic center of our membership, with lodging, dining and meeting rooms in the same facility and at reasonable rates we could not find a location comparable to the YO Ranch and Convention Center in Kerrville, Texas. Many of the attendees at last year's convention requested we return to this location. We are also going to be able to keep our registration and meal costs the same as they were last year.

Since our Annual Meetings traditionally close early on Saturday afternoon immediately following the luncheon and everyone leaves for home, we have limited time to socialize. To increase the opportunities to socialize, and get to know our brothers and sisters a little better, we want to emphasize the Friday night event. We will have a full blown Prime Rib Dinner Buffet. The menu includes; Prime Rib, Fried Seafood, Pineapple Chiller, Trout, Vegetables, Soup and Salad Bar, Dessert Bar, Bread and Condiments, Tea and Coffee and a Cash Bar. Afterwards, we can adjourn to the spacious lobby or adjacent lounge where they have a live country western band and a dance floor.

Our luncheon on Saturday will consist of a huge Fajita and Mexican Buffet. We will go just outside the meeting room to get our food and return to meeting room to eat. (Note: Both of above described meals are subject to change.)

Our guest speaker for Saturday's Luncheon will be Dr. Richard McCaslin, Chairman of the History Department at the University of North Texas. He is an accomplished speaker and author of numerous WBTS books, papers and articles.

Saturday afternoon will be on your own. There are several interesting sites to visit and we will provide you information on some of them when you register. The Annual Meeting should conclude between 2:00 and 2:30 PM Saturday.

We have 30 rooms set aside for the rate of \$109 (Single King Bed) or \$119 (Double Queen Beds) through March 10th. To prevent having to pay for unused rooms, all unreserved rooms will be released after that date and the reduced MOS&B rates will no longer apply.

Jack G. Dyess

Commander

Texas Society, MOS&B

REGISTRATION FORM

Full Name: _____

Guest(s): _____
 (Please list member and guest names as you wish them to appear on names tags)

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

MOS&B Chapter and Number: _____

Telephone number: _____ Email address: _____

Registration Fee (MOS&B members only) _____ @ \$25 each = \$ _____

Late Registration Fee (After April 22, 2017) _____ @ \$30 each = \$ _____

Commander's Reception & Dinner
 Friday, May 5, 2017 _____ @ \$20 each = \$ _____
 Reception 5:30 to 6:30 PM
 Dinner 6:30 to 8:00

Luncheon-Saturday, May 6, 2017 _____ @ \$25 each = \$ _____

[NOTE: Meal reservations cannot be guaranteed after April 22, 2017]

Total Enclosed: \$ _____

Please make checks payable to: Texas Society, MOS&B

Mail registrations and checks to: Jack Dyess
 3912 Wisteria Lane
 HaltomCityTX 76137

Accommodations: Y. O. Ranch Hotel & Conference Center
 2033 Sidney Baker, Kerrville, Texas 78028
 (830)257-4440, Be sure to ask for MOS&B rate
Cut off April 14th

King Bed = \$109* or Two Queen Beds = \$119*

* Extra charge for more than two in a room.