



Clarion Call

Texas Society, Military Order of Stars & Bars

Volume 12, Issue 2

August in the Year of Our Lord 2016

THE TEXAS SOCIETY COMMANDER'S REPORT

Jack Dyess, Commander

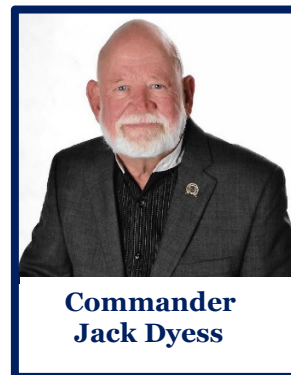
April 29 and 30, 2016 we held our annual convention at the Y.O. Resort and Convention Center in Kerrville, TX. According to some of our members who have been around much longer than I, it was the largest turn-out ever. All who attended seemed to have a great time. We had excellent facilities, great food, a great program, and an interesting and productive business meeting.

A copy of our Constitution and By-Laws, as amended, as well as a copy of the business meeting minutes will be posted on our website.

Please start planning now to attend next year's Convention. It will again be in April and is the most fun for the buck you will find in the MOS&B. More information will be provided as it becomes available.

Last February we introduced our first annual MOS&B cruise departing from Galveston with ports of call in Key West, Florida, Freeport and Nassau, Bahamas. We filled eight cabins and had a great time. It was so successful we have decided to do it again next February. This time we will depart Galveston with ports of call in Cozumel, Mexico, Belize City, Belize and Roatan, Honduras. We have already booked thirteen cabins. We would love for you to join us. If you would like more information, contact me at 817-946-2099 or jplsail@earthlink.net.

During the past year, several administrative problems have occurred that have resulted in wasted time for our officers and general inefficiency. The problems were a direct result of confusion concerning how and when to handle various required administrative actions. We are in the process of publishing



**Commander
Jack Dyess**

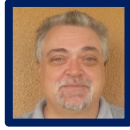
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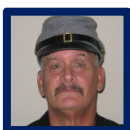
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Texas Society Commander's Report

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Standing Orders that describe and explain in detail the exact process for handling these actions. We have already completed *Standing Order #16001—Procedures for Processing Membership Applications* and *Standing Order #16002—Procedures for Processing Annual Membership Dues*.

We are in the process of drafting *Standing Order #16003—Procedures for Processing Membership Transfers*, *Standing Order #16004—Procedures for Processing Scholarships* and *Standing Order #16005—Procedures for Processing Award Nominations*. These instructions will be sent to all Chapter Commanders and Adjutants and posted on the Texas Society website so they can be accessed by any of our members.

We are also developing a Society Awards Program. We have found it rather difficult to secure awards for our members through the National MOS&B Awards Program. We have many members that go beyond what most members do and should be recognized for their work. That program will be completed before our next Convention and the membership will have an opportunity to approve or disapprove it at that time.

We are also forming a *Traveling MOS&B Store*. We will have a number of the more popular or clearance items carried in the online MOS&B store that we can bring to Chapter meetings for direct sale. Just let us know if and when you want us to do so.

I know it may not be visible to the average member of our organization but all of your officers are making headway in revitalizing our Society. We are attempting to find solutions to administrative problems; provide opportunities for our members to socialize with and get to know other members; communicate better with our membership; and generally make our organization better. However, we need your help. If you have any ideas what-so-ever about how to improve our Society, please contact me and let's discuss it. I may be reached at 817-946-2099 or jplsail@earthlink.net. I sincerely want to hear from you. I, and all of your officers, want to do the very best we can to improve our organization. Please help us.

Sincerely,

Jack

Visit our web site

texasmosb.com

Annual Dues Due Soon



From Texas Society Adjutant Jay Bowden

As we approach the time we start collecting dues for 2017, I feel a refresher is needed on the procedure for the dues process.

It is the responsibility of the Chapter Adjutant to collect all dues for his chapter. This includes the Chapter Dues (set by Chapter), the State Society Dues (\$10.00) and the National Dues (\$35.00). These dues must be listed and shown by member with their member number. Deposit the money in your Chapter's bank account.

With one check and the list, forward accumulated State Dues to me at 722 Nandina Way, Waxahachie, TX 75165. Write another check and with the list, send the accumulated National Dues to the MOS&B Adjutant at MOS&B IHQ, P.O. Box 18901, Raleigh, NC 27619-8901. Dues are to be received and registered by not later than the 31st of December for the following year or they are considered delinquent. Therefore, it is suggested that you begin collecting the dues about October 1st. Please do not have your members send their dues in as individuals as this creates undue and excessive work and does not allow you to know for sure which of your members are active.

Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact me.

Second Annual MOS&B Cruise

February 18 – February 25, 2017

**Departing Galveston
Cozumel, Mexico
Belize City, Belize
Roatan, Honduras**

Discount prices available thru August 30, 2016

For more information, contact Commander Dyess

Texas Society Awards Two Scholarships

By Scholarship Chairman Tony Sinclair

The Scholarship Committee is proud to announce the awarding of two \$500 scholarships to two very deserving applicants. It was decided at the 2015 convention of the Texas Society that since no one applied for the scholarship that year, two would be awarded in 2016.

Savannah Nicole Woodrum of Fruitvale, Texas is the first recipient. She is the daughter of Richard Harvey and Sheri Tunney. Savannah applied on the Confederate service of her ancestor, Captain Thomas C. Moore II, 14th Georgia Infantry. Having graduated from Alba-Golden High School in Alba, Texas, Savannah is currently attending Kaplan University working on a Bachelor's of Science Degree in Criminal Justice.

The second recipient is James Patrick Agerton of Corpus Christi, Texas. He is the son of Dr. William and Barbara Agerton. James applied on the Confederate service of 1st Lieutenant James D. Reed, Co. D, 25th Texas Cavalry. James graduated from Burroughs High School in Ridgecrest, California and is currently attending Texas A&M Corpus Christi majoring in circuit design and civil engineering. James hopes to continue his education at Texas A&M in College Station and become the third generation in his family to do so.



Savannah Woodrum



James Agerton

Congratulations to these two fine scholarship recipients who we know will make us and their Confederate ancestors proud.

Save the Date – Wilmington 2017

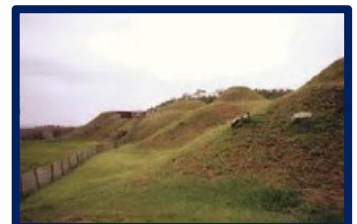
2017 MOSB National Convention Wilmington, North Carolina August 6,7, & 8th

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*.

The Confederate Officers of North Carolina Society MOSB will be hosting three days of conventions activities. Proposed activities include tours of Fort Fisher, Fort Anderson, and the USS *North Carolina* Battleship Memorial.

More specific details regarding the convention will be posted on the MOSB web page in the coming months.

For more information on this convention, contact Byron Brady at byronbrady@aol.com.



Across the State - Texas Society Chapter News

THE TEXAS CHAPTER Chapter 5 Houston

Texas Chapter #5 was the first chapter in the Texas Society, chartered on 30 June 1970, in Houston, Texas.

When the Chapter was first organized, the idea was conceived to present a replica of the Davis Guard Medal to any person who made a substantial contribution to the preservation of Southern Heritage.

The Davis Guard Medal was the only medal awarded by the CSA during the War Between the States. It was given to Lt. Dick Dowling and his small group of men who defeated the Yankees as they attempted to invade Texas at Sabine Pass.

We have a list of all the past recipients of the Davis Guard Award and it looks like a Who's Who of great Texas Compatriots. There was a lapse of a few years when no medal was presented. This is something we hope to change. The first recipient of this award since restoring the order, was to Adjutant General Dr. Toni Turk in 2010.



Lois Davidson with Dinah and David Whitaker

On April 2, 2016, it was with much admiration and respect that David Whitaker presented the Davis Guard Medal posthumously to our dear friend and compatriot, Bobby Gene Davidson. We had the honor to present this medal to his lovely wife, Lois. Bob Davidson was a dear friend and was always an avid supporter of Confederate History and all it stands for. Lois was always working right beside him all the way. This medal can be worn by Lois.

Bob was a friend to all who knew him; and he never met a stranger who did not become a friend. He was a true example of a Southern gentleman. We all remember him fondly, and we all miss him very much.

LONE STAR Chapter 137 Dallas

Early this Spring, the Lone Star Chapter #137 conducted the formal induction of members and installation of officers for the newly reactivated chapter.

On April 25, 2016, Lone Star Chapter #137 held its quarterly meeting at the Olive Garden in Addison, Texas. Guests included Past Society Commander and *Clarion Call* editor Larry Wilhoite, Society Adjutant Jay Bowden, Communications Officer Glenn Toal, and numerous lady guests.

The meeting featured the formal induction of the following members into the Military Order of the Stars and Bars: Allen Harrison, Larry Johnson, Michael Upchurch, Dick Brown, and Richard Smoot. Society Commander and Lone Star member Jack Dyess officiated at the swearing-in, as well as at the installation of officers.

Officers installed were: Richard Smoot, Commander and Michael Upchurch, Adjutant. Lt Commander Nick Gilliam was unable to attend.

The Lone Star Chapter hopes to be a vital element of the Texas Society, and trusts that its location in Dallas will prove appealing to potential members residing in the Dallas area.



Lone Star Chapter Members
from left -Jack Dyess, Michael Upchurch, Allen
Harrison, Larry Johnson, Richard Smoot, and Dick
Brown



Texas Society Commander Jack
Dyess swears in Lone Star Chapter
Commander Richard Smoot

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 April 2016 at Cancun's Ameri-Mex Restaurant in Waxahachie. David Vantreese of the O. M. Roberts Camp 178, SCV, Waxahachie presented our program on *Confederate Generals and Their Nicknames*. The program was very interesting and enjoyed by all in attendance.

The chapter was well represented at the Texas Society Convention held at the end of April at the Y O Resort and Conference Center in Kerrville. Currently members from our chapter hold the offices of Society Adjutant (Jay Bowden); temporary State Genealogist (Glenn Toal); temporary State Chaplain (Larry Wilhoite); Clarion Call editor (Larry Wilhoite); and Chairman of the Scholarship Committee (Tony Sinclair). Bowden, Toal and Wilhoite also serve on the Texas Society Executive Council.

We continue to monitor our cemeteries, Confederate sites and memorials for any incidents of vandalism. Glenn and Susie Toal have been very active in this area. A Confederate marker which holds a flag was found near the grave of Josiah Thomas Blakey, Co. F, 16th Texas Infantry, CSA. Glenn took the marker and restored it to its original patina. Here Glenn is shown restoring the marker at Blakey's grave.



Memorial Day found several of our members joining the Daffan-Latimer Chapter 37, United Daughters of the Confederacy, Ennis, at Myrtle Cemetery for a memorial service. Glenn and Susie Toal flagged many of the Confederate graves. About 100 Confederate soldiers claim Myrtle Cemetery as their final resting place. Following the memorial service, several of the group met at Denny's for lunch. It was a great time of remembrance and fellowship.

We have added one new member since the last newsletter and had one transfer. Our current membership stands at 23 with a couple of good prospects.

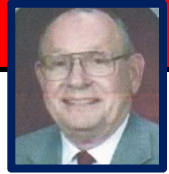
Our next meeting will be held October 24th at Cancun's in Waxahachie.



from left – Larry Wilhoite, Glenn Toal,
Commander Robby Kever and Jay Bowden



The Big Guns of Fayette



By the late Jim Templin

If I had asked you what you could tell me about the Fifth Texas Field Artillery, I feel sure that most of you would say that you never heard of it—and that would come as no surprise. This group of men served out the entire war in the state of Texas, until very near the end, when they crossed into Louisiana for their one and only battle. Yet their history is interesting. It tells a lot about the times and about how the military was handled during those years. If I may, I'd like to tell you a little about them.

First, let's look at some of the people who made up the Fifth Texas: It was organized by Edmund Creuzbaur, who became its captain. He was a former Prussian Artillery officer who had settled in Austin County, Texas and later moved to High Hill in Fayette County. The names of some of the other members were: Frederick Baumgarten, Adolf Bock, Gerhard Bruns, Ferdinand Fahrenthold, Gustav Froelich, Gustav Heinzelmann and William Guhrs.

By now you have probably recognized one fact about the Fifth Texas: it was made up primarily of German immigrants—this despite the stories that the Germans would not fight for the Confederacy. These Germans did.

FORMATION OF THE COMPANY

The battery, or company, as it was called in those days, was recruited in Fayette County, Texas in the Summer of 1861 by Edmund Creuzbaur and J. Fritz Ernst. Most of the men came from that county, from the towns of La Grange, High Hill, Round Top, and other settlements, but some came from Austin county, from towns such as Cat Spring, New Ulm, and Shelby. A few came from Bastrop County, and some from Colorado County and Comal County. Many of the men were very recent immigrants to this country. My great-grandfather, Otto Templin, a member of the company, had arrived in Texas in 1856, and had not, at the time of secession, become a citizen of the United States.

JOINING THE CONFEDERATE ARMY

After formation, the company left Fayette County, in route to San Antonio to become a part of the Confederate Army. On Sunday, October 6, 1861, they reached New Braunfels and established a camp and that night the company band played for a dance at Sippel's Hall. On Saturday, October 12, they broke camp and left for San Antonio where they were mustered into the services of the Confederate Army by Lt. J. P. Baltzell for the duration of the war.

MOVE TO BROWNSVILLE

On October 25, the company departed for Fort Brown in Brownsville to man the heavy guns at the post. At this time, the unit listed sixty two men as members.

Why Brownsville? Much of the cotton grown in the Confederate States was taken by wagon to Brownsville, transferred across the river into Mexico, and shipped to Europe on European ships—the Union Navy could not stop European ships, so the Confederate cotton got to market. Brownsville had to be defended from a Union attack. There was also the problem of relations with Mexico. The border had to be guarded against incursions from the Mexicans who still did not accept the loss of Texas and much of the other lands ceded to the United States after the Mexican war of 1846-48.

During this time, Charles Welhausen, brother-in law of Edmund Creuzbaur had moved up to the rank of Senior First Lieutenant, a fact this will become important later on.

Things did not go well at Fort Brown. Col. P. N. Lockett had assumed command of the troops stationed in the lower Rio Grande, and on January 4, he ordered that Creuzbaur's battery was to appear daily upon garrison parade and drill as infantry. This did not set well with Creuzbaur; he considered it an insult to himself and the other Artillerists in his company. And so, for the first time, he requested transfer for his unit "Out of Texas to active service elsewhere." The request was denied. The company continued to drill as infantry and to work on the fortifications at Fort Brown.

MOVE TO RINGGOLD BARRACKS

In May, Creuzbaur and a detachment of thirty men were detailed to guard a shipment of heavy artillery on a steamboat heading 150 miles up the Rio Grande to the Ringgold Barracks. The water level in the river fell, the boat got stuck 25 miles below Ringgold, and a mule train had to be dispatched to retrieve the guns. Creuzbaur's men, on foot, escorted the wagon train. Then on the 31st, the rest of the battery was ordered to march, on foot, to Ringgold Barracks. When they arrived there, they found the place to their liking, even though they were once again serving as infantry instead of artillery. They did, however, continue to train on artillery while there. Creuzbaur was placed in command, and the men began to put the fort into good order. They patrolled the line of the Rio Grande above and below the post and into the interior. All in all, it was a pleasant post and the roads nearby were heavy with the traffic in cotton and military stores. Nevertheless, Creuzbaur still continued to request transfer to active service elsewhere.

CONFUSING ORDERS

In late January, 1863, Creuzbaur was told that his heavy ordinance was coming from San Antonio and when it arrived he was to return to Fort Brown. The guns never came and the unit was reclassified as a Light Battery. In June, they returned to Fort Brown, finally with some light artillery. In October, they were ordered to Liberty, then to Sweet Home. Creuzbaur went on to District Headquarters in Houston, where he found himself in a maze of conflicting orders. On November 8, the orders sending them to Liberty were rescinded and he was to return to Brownsville and report to General Bee. These were changed on November 12, ordering him to report to Bee at Goliad, San Patricio, or Kings Range—the precise location of Bee not being known at the time. Creuzbaur never received either of these orders, and he was then ordered to Sweet Home.

It was here the company was reorganized. All the muskets that they had were turned in, horses and tack were secured, and the unit was finally organized as a light artillery unit. On December 5, 1863, the unit was ordered to proceed to Columbus and place the battery on the railroad cars and move as rapidly as possible to Virginia Point, the last point of land before Galveston Island. Creuzbaur still sought active duty as an artillery unit. His unit, the one that he had organized trained for over two years, had yet to fire a shot at the enemy. This was definitely not what Creuzbaur had organized the battery for. He wanted action, and he wanted it now.

ARRIVAL AT VIRGINIA POINT

Upon arrival at Virginia Point, the company was literally lost in all the activity, but soon adjusted to the routine of garrison duty. On January 3, 1864, Creuzbaur was authorized to construct quarters for his men at Virginia Point. These quarters were quickly finished, and on January 28, the battery was ordered to Galveston Island to serve as a fort battery. The need for horses was thus reduced and seventy-five horses were sent inland with the battery keeping only 16. Once again Creuzbaur was denied action against the Union.

ORDERED TO SABINE PASS

On March 11, 1864, the battery was ordered to proceed to Sabine Pass with as little delay as practical. They moved by rail to Beaumont, then by boat to Fort Griffin—the site of Lt. Dick Dowling's earlier victory, then on to Fort Mannahassett, seven miles southwest of the pass.

CREUZBAUR RESIGNS

Soon after arriving at Mannahasset, Creuzbaur was ordered to Houston to appear before a Board of Examination for the examination of “such disabled, disqualified and incompetent officers as may be reported to said Board.” The battery was classified as “of questionable value.” Creuzbaur after three years of inactive service took the order as a personal affront. He had begged for active duty for three years, but had never been given the big guns of a heavy battery; instead given light artillery. His men had been forced to train as infantry, and had been moved from one place to another, never given the opportunity to fight. He had had enough. He declined to appear, submitting instead his resignation. The board recommended his resignation be accepted and forwarded the recommendation through channels to Gen. E. Kirby Smith. Creuzbaur returned to duty at Fort Mannahasset to await word on his resignation. During the next few days, eight men from the company, tired of the inactivity, deserted, leaving less than sixty men in the battery.

CALCASIEU PASS

During the first days of May, it was reported that a Federal gunboat had entered Calcasieu Pass, thirty miles to the east of Fort Mannahasset, and had shelled the abandoned fort. It was assumed that this was to be a flank attack on Sabine Pass. Infantry and Cavalry units were dispatched to the area, and Creuzbaur's Battery with Creuzbaur still in command was ordered to the Pass. Finally the chance for action. At this time the unit consisted of two officers, fifty-six men, sixteen horses and four guns--all light artillery. They arrived late on May fifth, and prepared for battle. They found two Union gunboats in the narrow pass, the Wave and the Granite City. This was not an advanced unit for a flank attack, but for picking up supplies and refugees (Union sympathizers still in Louisiana.)

On the morning of the sixth, the attack commenced. Creuzbaur's guns advanced within a thousand yards and opened fire, the infantry kept up a steady rifle fire to prevent the manning of the guns on the boats. The attack came as a complete surprise to those on the boats and lasted one hour and fifteen minutes, one hundred and eighty rounds of ammunition were expended, and the two gunboats and their crews were captured. The Wave had been hit sixty-five times by the artillery during the battle. The men of the battery considered this not a bad score for a combat unit considered “of questionable value.” The battery had one man killed, and six wounded, three mortally. Of special note during the battle are the actions of Pvt. William Guhrs, second cannoneer. During the battle the first cannoneer was killed and Guhrs took over both jobs. He was then shot in the leg, and continued servicing the gun while on his knees. He later died of his wounds. Several years ago, he was awarded the Confederate Medal of Honor and a marker was placed on his grave in Fayette County.

AFTER THE BATTLE

After the battle, the battery returned to Sabine Pass, and Creuzbaur left the company, his resignation having been accepted. His brother-in-law, Charles Welhausen was promoted to Captain and took over command of the battery. But a wave of resentment over the treatment of Creuzbaur and his resignation developed, and a clamor for his re-instatement was made from several quarters. So on May 25, he was directed to report to headquarters for duty. He was, however, through eating crow, and told the board that his battery had been ill-equipped, forced into training as infantry, and placed far from the action. His cause was taken up by several Confederate officers. Col. Griffin especially had praise for his actions at Calcasieu Pass. Nevertheless, Creuzbaur was recommended for promotion to major and assigned to a post commensurate with that rank. This terminated his service with the battery, and it became known as Welhausen's Battery for the balance of the war. It never saw battle again, being assigned to the area around Brenham to wait out the balance of the war.

Welhausen is buried in the City Cemetery in Shiner, Texas.

Captain Creuzbaur is buried in the Old High Hill Cemetery near Schulenburg. His grave was recently the recipient of a marker honoring his service by the Military Order of the Stars and Bars. In the plot next to his is my great-grandfather, Otto Templin, who served as one of his second cannoneers. They served together, finally got to fight together, farmed on farms next to each other after the war, and now are buried next to each other.