

A Society of the Descendants of Confederate Officers

Old Dominion Officer's Call

The Official Newsletter of the Virginia Society
Military Order of the Stars and Bars

September 2006



FROM THE COMMANDER



I would like to thank all who attended the 2006 Virginia Society Convention for your confidence and support in electing me as your Commander. It is an honor and a pleasure to serve the Society. Join me in welcoming some very capable and dedicated people to the Society staff, Ray Ryan as Lieutenant Commander and Lee Scouten as Adjutant. Our genealogist, Jim Cooke, has agreed to continue serving in that capacity, as has Norris Edgerton as 2nd Lieutenant Commander. A very sincere thank you is due Jerry Keathley for his service to the Virginia Society and for his leadership over the years.

There are a few things I would like to see us accomplish during the next two years. First is to recruit more qualified members, especially younger members who will be the future of our organization. Once they are members we are obligated to engage, train and educate them to represent us in the larger community. Second is to be more visible as the honorable hereditary organization we are. Increase participation in local cultural events, Iron Cross dedications and veteran's grave preservation and marking. Finally, we must partner with other hereditary organizations who share our love of Southern history and honor to our ancestors.

Plans are in the works for our 2007 Virginia Society Reunion to be held in Fredericksburg, Virginia in the spring. The host chapter is Major General John Bankhead Magruder Chapter 258. Commander Embrey assures us of a good time and an entertaining program. Details will follow but make plans to attend now.

Although not confirmed, there is a very good possibility The Virginia Society may host the 70th General Convention in Richmond in 2007. This is an especially significant event because 2007 marks the 200th Anniversary of the birth of General Robert E. Lee. In addition, America will commemorate the 400th Anniversary of the landing at Jamestown. There has never been a better time to plan a Virginia vacation. The committee will provide updates as they occur.

Deo Vindice

Ray Gill

VIRGINIA SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP REMINDERS

Membership dues are payable by 31 December 2006. Virginia Society Dues are \$5 per member. National Dues are \$25 per member. Life members pay only Virginia Society Dues. Notices will be sent to all Chapter Adjutants no later than 30 November.

Virginia Society policy is that all applications for membership in the VA Society and its chapters must be reviewed and approved by the VA Society Genealogist, James E. Cooke, Jr., before they are submitted to the Genealogist General. The VA Society also requires that all applications include proof of service, proof of the circumstances under which service terminated, and proof of the applicant's genealogical ties to the individual who served as an officer or elected or appointed official in Confederate States service.

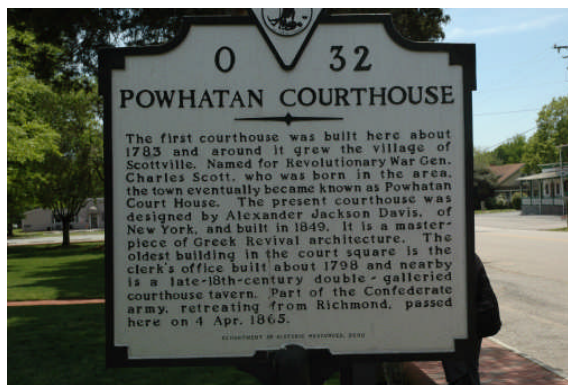
NEWS FROM THE VIRGINIA SOCIETY CONVENTION 29 April 2006 POWHATAN, VIRGINIA



Past Commander General Joe Gay administers the oath of office to Lee Scouten, Ray Ryan, and Ray Gill.



Commander Dan McGuire of Cooper Chapter and Bill Graham of the Immortal 600 Chapter chat on the Courthouse Lawn.



Our deepest appreciation is extended to the members of the Skipwith Dance DeNoon Chapter for an excellent job of hosting the 2006 convention. Powhatan is a quaint and historical community. We encourage everyone to visit and explore its rich history.



Past Commander Clarke Magruder and newly elected Lieutenant Commander Ray Ryan share some stories.

Election of Officers:

The following members were elected to office for 2006-2008.

- Commander – Raymond W. Gill, Jr.
- Lieutenant Commander – Raymond W. Ryan, Jr.
- Adjutant – Robert E. Lee Scouten

Awards Presented:

- Newsletter Award: *The Cavalry Officer*; Major Edgar Burroughs & The Princess Anne Cavalry Chapter No. 281; Mike Rose, Editor
- Commander's Award: Commander Charles A. Embrey, Sr.; Major General John Bankhead Magruder Chapter No. 258
- Sir Moses Ezekiel Award for Artistic Achievement: David P. Bridges, for his book *"Fighting with Jeb Stuart: Major James Breathed and the Confederate Horse Artillery"*

REPORT ON THE 69th MOS&B CONVENTION Mobile, Alabama

The 2006 General Convention was held 20-22 July 2006 in Mobile, Alabama. Phil Law was elected Commander General with Dr. Anthony Hopkins elected Lt. Commander General. Brett Bradshaw was elected Commander of the Army of Virginia.

Tours included the Bragg-Mitchell House and the battleship USS Alabama. A Historical Symposia was new to the convention. Mr. Walter Brian Cisco, author of the new Wade Hampton book, was a guest speaker and fielded questions from the audience after his lecture. Dr. Hodges and Jeff Massey spoke on the history of the United Confederate Veterans and PCIC Earl Faggert spoke on *Being a Patriotic Southerner in Modern Times*.

The Saturday Night Ball and Banquet saw over 100 in attendance. The 5th Alabama Band, from Tuscaloosa, provided hours of great period music. Attendees heard from the Order's newest Honorary Member, Col. John Eidsmoe. Colonel Eidsmoe was unanimously approved by the convention delegates on Friday, and he and his wife attended the Saturday Night Banquet. Though from South Dakota, Colonel Eidsmoe is a great supporter of Southern Heritage. He is also a highly respected political, historical and theological scholar and should be a great asset to the Order.

Making a surprise visit to the banquet were "Joe Kane" and Mardi Gras revelers from the Mystic Strippers Society of Mobile. They paraded among the attendees, tossing beads and coins.

Dale Fowlkes received the "Distinguished Commanders Status". Anthony Hodges received the Robert E. Lee Chalice; George Valsame, Phil Law and Nick Warren received the MOS&B Department Gold Stars.

Awards presented to members of the Virginia Society were:

- Meritorious Service Award – Charles A. Embrey, Josiah B. Gay III, John R. Lumsden, Collin G. Pulley, Jr.
- Lt. Charles 'Savez' Read Award – Jerry Keathley, Michael Rose, Rev. Elijah B. White, III
- Col. John Pelham Legion of Merit Award – James E. Cooke, Jr., Raymond W. Ryan, Jr., John C. Stinson, Col. JEB Stuart IV
- Judah P. Benjamin Merit Award – Rebeca J. Fleming, Wayne V. McHargue, Jr., Historic White's Ferry
- Commander General's Award – Col. Barton Campbell, Josiah B. Gay III, Jerry Keathley, Collin G. Pulley, Jr., Col. JEB Stuart IV
- Joseph Evan Davis Award – Abigail Franks

The new IHQ at Daphne, Alabama is now operating at a much higher level of efficiency. The transition from Elm Springs was clearly disruptive but we will definitely have faster response to applications and inquiries in the future. Staff members Lynn and Dana, are sensitive to our needs and work hard to meet them.



Built by Judge John Bragg in 1855 the Bragg-Mitchell House, with its white pillared portico and sweeping lawn, is one of the Gulf Coast's grandest antebellum mansions.



The big guns of the battleship USS Alabama (BB60) resting at Battleship Memorial Park on Mobile Bay.

NEWS FROM AROUND THE STATE



Past VA Society Commander Jerry Keathley (l) and Past MD Society Commander Don Beck (r) present the 2005 Freeman Award to Gregg Clemmer at the Annual Potomac River Crossing, sponsored by the Maryland Society, MOS&B and the SCV Maryland Division. Gregg's award winning book is entitled *Old Alleghany: The Life and Wars of General Ed Johnson*.



Magruder Chapter Commander Charles Embrey acts as master of ceremonies for the 26 August dedication of the Kidd family cemetery on Dutch Creek, Nelson County. Kidd descendants and members of SCV, UDC, and MOS&B chapters gathered to honor the sacrifices of four Kidd brothers -- Robert, Preston, William, and Nathan -- all of whom were casualties in the Battle of Sharpsburg on 18 September 1862 -- and their cousin, Hugh E. Willoughby. Two of the Kidds were killed in action; one died of wounds the following month, and the fourth lived until 1921, albeit with one leg. Descendants unveiled four new VA markers for the men. Iron crosses were set as well. Virginia Society Adjutant Lee Scouten gave welcoming remarks on behalf of the Virginia Society MOS&B.

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