

# The Prince's Dispatch



**Major General John Bankhead Magruder Chapter 258**

*Military Order of the Stars and Bars  
Fredericksburg, Virginia*

Volume 6

Number 2

June 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."*

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**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, 9 August 2000.

Chapter meetings scheduled for 2015:

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

Dates: 3 Aug  
5 Oct  
Dec - TBD

Time: 6:30 p.m. thru 9:00 p.m.



**2015 Virginia Society Officers**

Commander – Joseph H. Wright, Jr.

Lt Commander -- Vacant

Adjutant -- Joseph Judson Smith, III



**2014 - 2015 Chapter 258 Officers**

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



**"If the Confederacy falls, there should be written on its tombstone: DIED OF A THEORY." - President Jefferson Davis, CSA**



**2015 Time Capsule**

**27 April 2015, 6:00 pm.** Chapter 258 members attended the Annual Ancestor's Night at the Ruritan Building on Route 3

sponsored by the Fredericksburg Chapter #163 UDC. The speaker was "Tex" Wells on his local Confederate ancestors.



2 May 2015 - Chapter 258 members (above) participated in the memorial dedication ceremony at the Heights of Smith Run in Fredericksburg, VA. Guest Speaker was Chapter Adjutant Christopher H. Ezelle who spoke about the engagement that occurred during the 2<sup>nd</sup> Battle of Fredericksburg. (Photos above and below) Officers attending left to right: Vic Cole, Charlie Embrey, Sr. (Commander), "Tex" Wells, John Johnston, Chris Ezelle (Adjutant), Louis Buttgen III (Sergeant at Arms), and Robert Hester (Chaplain). Over 100 people attended the dedication with local UDC Chapters, the Children of the Confederacy, and several SCV Chapters from across the state.



Adjutant Chris Ezelle speaking about the engagement.

**9 May 2015**, Commander VA Society MOS&B, Joseph H. Wright, Jr., and 2<sup>nd</sup> Lieutenant Commander of the Chapter (below 2 photos), at the Oakwood Ceremony.



**11 May 2015**, Commander VA Society MOS&B, Joseph H. Wright, Jr., and 2<sup>nd</sup> Lieutenant Commander of the Chapter (below), participated in a J.E.B. Stuart ceremony at Yellow Tavern hosted by the Richmond-Stonewall Jackson Chapter UDC.





**23 May 2015**, 9:00 am and at 7:00 pm Members helped the Fredericksburg United Daughters of the Confederacy Chapter #163 set up flag displays, conducted the military posting of flags for the Confederate General Officers' graves, and conducted a walking history of the cemetery for the Fourteenth Luminary (photos below).



Preparing the Fredericksburg Confederate Cemetery.



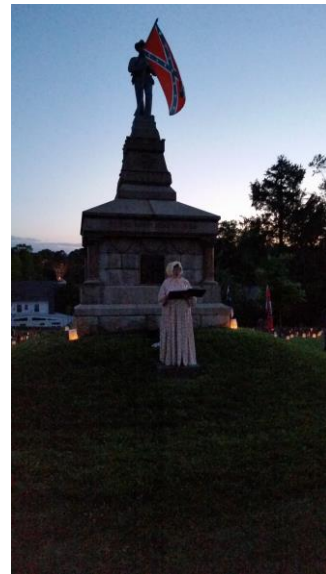
Fredericksburg Boy Scout Troop that assisted with set-up.



The Walking Tour with Honorary Member "Big French" Janzegers.



Second from left, Commander Charlie A. Embrey, Sr., Center Front Sergeant-at-Arms Louis Buttgen, III.



Ms. Marcia Hovenden, Fredericksburg UDC, reads the names of the fallen.

**25 May 2015**, 10:00 am – Members of the Chapter participated in the Fredericksburg Ladies Memorial Association's 149<sup>th</sup> Memorial Day Ceremony at the Fredericksburg Confederate Cemetery.



Left to Right: John Johnston, Commander Charlie A. Embrey, Sr., Adjutant Christopher H. Ezelle, and Vic Cole



Honorary Chapter member “Big French” Janzegers, center.

**25 May 2015**, 2:00 pm – Chapter members also attended the Spotsylvania Court House Confederate Cemetery Luminary to honor our fallen.

**25 May 2015** – Commander Charlie A. Embrey, Sr. (below), pays his respects at Compatriot John Edward (Jack) Flewellen’s grave site; past member of our Officers Corps. Past Commander Flewellen passed April 17, 2007 and is buried in the Spotsylvania Confederate Cemetery, Spotsylvania, VA. As the Commander says, “Jack, you may be gone from this earth, but you are not forgotten, sir.”



**31 May 2015**, Sunday, 2pm until 3pm - The Warrenton Virginia Sons of the Confederate

Veterans and The Black Horse Chapter of the United Daughters of the Confederacy hosted the 2015 Memorial Day commemoration at the Warrenton Cemetery, the resting place of Colonel John Singleton Mosby of Mosby’s Raiders and John Quincy Marr, the first Confederate soldier to be killed in the civil war. This southern heritage commemoration was held at the Warrenton Cemetery on Chestnut Street, Warrenton Virginia. Members were present for the ceremony.



## **2015 General Convention**

The General Convention was held at the Monaco Hotel in the heart of Old Town Alexandria. This was George Washington’s hometown and Robert E. Lee’s boyhood home. Soon the VA Society will post information about the occurrences. More to come.



## **Upcoming Chapter Events 2015**

**7 Jun 2015** – 0900 am - SCV Camp 1722/MOS&B Chapter 258 members will meet at Brandy Station Graffiti House at about 8:00 a.m. for the Christ Episcopal Church Commemorative Service and will caravan to the site. There will be a religious service and a rifle volley with taps. Brandy Station will be open for you to walk through.

**11 Jun 2015**, 6:30 p.m. - **This is a Thursday**. The SCV Kemper-Fry-Strother

Camp 19 will be conducting the 27th annual birthday observance of James Lawson Kemper at the Walnut Hills Farm in Orange County. Kemper, a Madison County resident, served as a Confederate States Major General during the War Between the States and was later elected the first governor of Virginia.

**21 Jun 2015**, 10:00 am - Hollywood Grave marker dedication for Pvt. G. W. Carter, Co. C. 42nd Va. Infantry from Buckingham Co. Va. Presiding will be Nancy Faxon, President of Elliott Grays UDC - Family representative - Susan Stinson from Raleigh, N.C.

**11 Jul 2015**, 11:00 a.m. - There will be a parade and ceremony in Pearisburg, Virginia, sponsored by the SCV Flat Top Copperheads Camp 1694, United Daughters of the Confederacy McComas Chapter #66, and the Giles County Historical Society for Tapley P. Mays. He was awarded the Confederate Medal of Honor by Confederate Congress during the war. He was one of 57 men approved for this prestigious award. From Giles County, Virginia, he was member of the 7th VA Infantry called "Mountain Boomers". National SCV Commander Charles Kelly Barrow, SCV, Chief Heritage Operations Officer Ben Cooter Jones, Congressman Virgil Goode, Jr., and Delegate Joseph R. Yost will attend. Additionally, artist and former Virginia SCV Commander Henry Kidd will unveil a portrait of Tapley P. Mays.

**15-19 Jul 2015** - The 120th National Reunion will be held in Richmond, VA. This event is hosted by the Major General

J.E.B. Stuart Camp #1343. Questions can be directed to [JEBStuartCamp@gmail.com](mailto:JEBStuartCamp@gmail.com).



**This was prayer was written by Robert E. Lee after the War.**

"Knowing that intercessory prayer is our mightiest weapon and the supreme call for all Christians today, I pleadingly urge our people everywhere to pray.

Believing that prayer is the greatest contribution that our people can make in this critical hour, I humbly urge that we take time to pray - to really pray.

Let there be prayer at sunrise, at noontime, at sundown, at midnight-all through the day.

Let us pray for our children, our youth, our aged, our pastors, our homes.

Let us pray for our churches.

Let us pray for ourselves, that we may not lose the word "compassion" out of our Christian vocabulary.

Let us pray for our nation.

Let us pray for those who have not known Jesus Christ and His redeeming love, for moral forces everywhere, for our leaders.

Let prayer be our passion.

Let prayer be our practice."





## Jefferson Davis, CSA

### Quotes

"The withdrawal of a State from a league has no revolutionary or insurrectionary characteristic. The government of the State remains unchanged as to all internal affairs. It is only its external or confederate relations that are altered. To term this action of a Sovereign a 'rebellion' is a gross abuse of language."

"Secession belongs to a different class of remedies. It is to be justified upon the basis that the States are Sovereign. There was a time when none denied it. I hope the time may come again, when a better comprehension of the theory of our Government, and the inalienable rights of the people of the States, will prevent anyone from denying that each State is a Sovereign, and thus may reclaim the grants which it has made to any agent whomsoever."



### Eight Unique Weapons Used During the War Between the States

#### Reference:

<http://www.history.com/news/history-lists/8-unusual-civil-war-weapons>

The following were not the only newly conceived weapons during that time.

#### Hand grenades

Civil War soldiers were known to make jury-rigged explosives using assortments of fuses and gunpowder, but the conflict also saw advances in the design and manufacture of hand grenades. The most popular model was the Union-issued Ketchum grenade, a projectile explosive that was thrown like a dart. The grenades came in one-, three- and five-pound models equipped with stabilizer fins and a nose-mounted plunger. Upon impact, the plunger would detonate a percussion cap and ignite a deadly supply of gunpowder.



A Ketchum hand grenade used during the Civil War. (Minnesota Historical Society)

While a novel idea, the explosives didn't always work as intended. In fact, when they were bombarded with Ketchum grenades during an 1863 siege at Port Hudson, Louisiana, Confederate soldiers reportedly used blankets to catch the explosives before throwing them back at their hapless attackers.

#### Rockets

Rocket launchers might seem like a 20th-century phenomenon, but they made a few appearances on Civil War battlefields. Confederate forces reportedly experimented with Congreve rockets, a British-designed explosive that had previously seen action in the War of 1812. These weapons resembled

large bottle rockets and were so inaccurate that they never saw widespread use.

Meanwhile, Union forces employed the Hale patent rocket launcher, a metal tube that fired seven- and 10-inch-long spin stabilized rockets up to 2,000 yards. While a vast improvement on the Congreve, these projectiles were still quite unwieldy, and were only generally used by the U.S. Navy.

### **Machine guns**

Colt revolvers and Springfield muskets were the Civil War's most popular firearms, but the era also gave rise to some of the earliest machine guns. Of these, perhaps none is more infamous than the Gatling gun, a six-barreled piece that was capable of firing up to 350 rounds a minute. The U.S. government never ordered the Gatling in bulk, but Union General Benjamin Butler privately purchased several of the intimidating weapons in 1863 and later used them during the Petersburg Campaign.

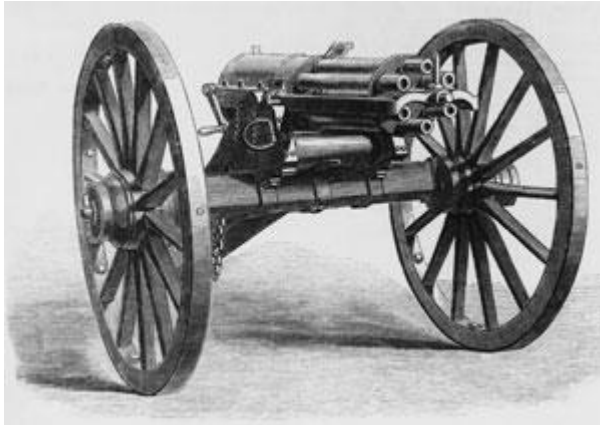


Illustration of a Gatling gun. (Illustrated London News/Hulton Archive/Getty Images)

Other rapid-fire guns included the Williams gun—a Confederate breechloader first unveiled at the Battle of Seven Pines in

1862—and the Billingham-Requa battery gun, which consisted of 25 rifle barrels arranged side by side. Viewed as too inefficient and unwieldy for infantry combat, these weapons were generally used for guarding bridges and other strategic locations.

### **Landmines**

Mines—or “torpedoes,” as they were then known—were largely a Confederate weapon. Originally developed by General Gabriel J. Rains, these antipersonnel explosives were typically iron containers rigged with gunpowder, a fuse and a brass detonation cap. Rains first used the subterranean booby traps in 1862 during the Peninsula Campaign, and later buried thousands more around Richmond and in various parts of the Deep South. In fact, some of these still-active landmines were only recovered in Alabama as recently as the 1960s.

While they proved an intimidating method of psychological warfare, landmines were often viewed as an unethical form of combat. Union General George B. McClellan denounced them as “barbarous,” and Confederate General James Longstreet briefly banned their use. Perhaps their most vociferous critic was Union General William T. Sherman, who lost several troops to underground landmines during his famous March to the Sea. Decrying the use of mines as “not warfare, but murder,” Sherman reportedly forced his Confederate prisoners to march at the head of his column



so that they might trigger any hidden “land torpedoes.”

### **Underwater mines**

Along with landmines, the Civil War was also a major testing ground for underwater mines. Both sides mined harbors and rivers with torpedoes, but the Confederacy enjoyed greater success. Starting in 1862 with the sinking of the ironclad *Cairo*, Confederate torpedoes destroyed dozens of Union ships and damaged several others. Union torpedoes, meanwhile, only sank six Confederate Navy vessels.

The rebels owed their skill at underwater warfare in part to Matthew Fontaine Maury, an oceanographer who first demonstrated the use of mines in 1861. Maury’s “infernal machines” made the James River virtually impassable, and mines later terrorized the Union Navy during battles at Mobile Bay and Charleston Harbor. The Confederacy also succeeded in using submarines to turn mines into offensive weapons. In 1864 the *H.L. Hunley* destroyed the Union sloop-of-war *Housatonic* after ramming it with a pole-mounted torpedo, becoming the first combat submarine to successfully sink an enemy ship.

### **Calcium floodlights**

During an 1863 operation to retake Charleston Harbor, General Quincy Adams Gillmore laid siege to the Confederate stronghold at Fort Wagner. Gillmore’s Union guns bombarded the fort day and night with the help of a strange invention:

the calcium light. Better known as “limelights,” these chemical lamps used superheated balls of lime, or calcium oxide, to create an incandescent glow. The lights had been used in lighthouses and theaters since the 1830s, but Gillmore’s engineers were the first to adapt them for combat. By shining calcium lights on Fort Wagner, Union forces were able to illuminate their artillery target while simultaneously blinding Confederate gunners and riflemen. Also called “Drummond lights,” these calcium floodlights were later used as searchlights to spot Confederate warships and blockade runners. In early 1865, a Union light even helped detect a Confederate ironclad fleet as it tried to move along the James River under cover of darkness. A Southern officer later noted that a planned sneak attack was made impossible in part because of the Union’s “powerful calcium light.”

### **Hot air balloons**



Thaddeus Lowe ascends in his balloon. (Library of Congress)

Because they allowed generals to get an aerial view of the battlefield, Civil War balloons were primarily used in a reconnaissance capacity. The Union even had an official Balloon Corps headed by “Chief Aeronaut” Thaddeus Lowe. Under his direction, balloons were launched for scouting purposes at several famous engagements, including the First Battle of Bull Run and the Battles of Fredericksburg and Chancellorsville. In a balloon tethered to the ground with a telegraph line, Lowe was able to give real-time updates on troop movements, and once even directed Union artillery fire from the sky.

The Confederacy also tried their hand at military ballooning, although with considerably less success. The South lacked the resources to make good balloons, and their one operational airship—reportedly made from a colorful patchwork of silk—was captured after the tugboat carrying it ran aground on the James River.

### Winans Steam Gun

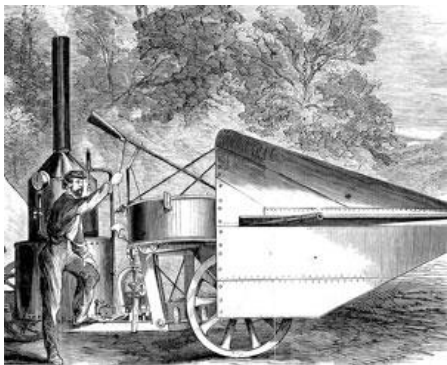


Illustration of the Winans steam gun.

The Civil War produced a number of experimental cannons, machine guns and rifles, but perhaps none was more unusual than the Winans steam gun. Built by Ohio inventors William Joslin and Charles Dickinson, this massive automatic weapon sat on an armored train carriage and used steam to fire projectiles—supposedly at a rate of 200 a minute.

Newspapers hailed the mysterious gun as a super weapon, but it was never actually used in combat. When Dickinson headed for Harper’s Ferry in May 1861—most likely to sell the gun to the Confederacy—Union forces intercepted him and confiscated his invention. The steam gun was later transferred to Fortress Monroe in Virginia before being sent to Massachusetts, where it was eventually scrapped. The Union Army never attempted to deploy the contraption in the field, which suggests the steam gun probably failed to live up to its deadly reputation.



## ***A Compatriot’s Story***

### **Chew’s Battery**

#### **Stuart’s Horse Artillery**

By John M. Johnson

For many of us the story of the Stuart Horse Artillery Battalion begins and ends with Major John Pelham, the first commander of the Stuart Horse Artillery Battery, and later first commander of the battalion. The performance of Pelham’s artillery at the battle of Fredericksburg in

December 1862 is certainly sufficient to establish his prominence in the hall of Confederate heroes. His prominence has unfortunately relegated the other officers and men to obscurity.

I will outline the “rest of the story” by introducing you to one of my extremely distant cousins. I really am challenging the limits of kinship when I claim Roger Preston Chew as a cousin. I have to go back to John Chew in 1622 at Jamestown and Hogg Island to pinpoint a common ancestor.

Roger Preston Chew was born 4/9/1843 in Loudoun County. He was the son of Roger and Sarah West Alridge Chew. His paternal grandparents were John and Margaret Chew. He entered VMI 7/30/1859. The class was declared graduated 12/12/1861. Roger Chew was ranked 8<sup>th</sup> of 35 students in his class. He was assigned as a drillmaster in Richmond 4/1861. He was temporarily assigned to the Lee Battery at Monterey 7/15/1861 to 9/61. Then appointed Lt. of Artillery, he first served with BG Edward Johnson in 1861. He organized the “Ashby” Battery 11/13/1861. Appointed Captain 4/23/1862, he served with the 7<sup>th</sup> VA CAV until 6/1862. **Chew’s Ashby, Shoemaker’s Lynchburg and the Newtown Artillery. The Virginia Regimental History Series.**

**Chew’s Battery of Stuart’s Horse Artillery** by Edward K. Cassedy provides additional information. The 7<sup>th</sup> VA CAV was organized and assigned to Maj Gen Thomas J. Jackson on June 17, 1861. The Regiment was under the command of Col. Angus McDonald. Lt Col Turner Ashby was second in command. Captain Chew

and 1<sup>st</sup> Lt Milton Rouss presented a unique idea to Lt Col Ashby. They felt a battery of horse artillery should accompany the cavalry. Horse artillery was used in Europe, but was not known in this hemisphere. Mounted artillery travelled with the Infantry. Horses pulled the guns while the men usually travelled on foot. Some were fortunate enough to ride the horses pulling the guns or ammunition chests. In the case as presented to Col Ashby, all the men would ride horses, enabling them to keep up with the Cavalry. Col Ashby agreed to have a battery of horse artillery travel with his regiment. The Secretary of War, Judah P. Benjamin agreed to the plan. The battery commander was eighteen year old Captain Roger Preston Chew. His battery was the first in either Army and it rode with the 7<sup>th</sup> VA, then known as Ashby’s Cavalry.

By December, the battery had two guns: a British made 12 pound, “Blakely” rifle and a Tredegar three inch rifle. The Blakely was shorter, lighter, and had double the range and was more accurate than the guns normally used by field artillery on both sides. The Tredegar rifle was known for its long range. By December of 1861 three unusual men came together: Maj Gen “Stonewall” Jackson, Lt Col Turner Ashby and Captain Roger Preston Chew.

After the outbreak of war the Confederates destroyed the tracks of Baltimore and Ohio Railroad, however the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal, which ran along the Maryland side of the Potomac carried food and supplies to the Federal army. General Jackson’s plan was to destroy one of the dams to stop canal traffic.



Dam #5, about ten miles up the river from Williamsport, MD was chosen. Lt Col Ashby was sent with a small force of cavalry and infantry accompanied by Chew's Battery to destroy the dam. The Battery fired on the dam on December 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup>, 1861. Union troops prevented the Confederates from cracking the dam on this occasion, but by December 21<sup>st</sup>, 1861 the dam was breached. Thus Chew's battery was in action a full six months before Pelham's guns were fired in anger. I obtained this book from the Jefferson County Museum. Extremely detailed information is provided, engagement by engagement in the text and appendices. Primary as well as secondary sources are identified in the Bibliography. The Museum also has a prominent display of Lt Col Chew's artifacts: his jacket, sword, picture, preserved and framed flag and an original copy of **A History of the Laurel Brigade by Captain William N. McDonald** with Lt Col Chew's personal and extensive annotation in the margins. A diploma, presented by VMI in 1882 to Roger Chew is also on display.

These two volumes contain a detailed history of these units as they made their contribution in the war of Northern aggression.

**Military Operations in Jefferson County Virginia (now West Virginia) 1861-1865** originally published by Authority of Jefferson County Camp No. 123 United Confederate Veterans in 1911 and republished as a 5<sup>th</sup> edition with Additions by Authority of the Henry Kyd Douglas Camp, No 199, Sons of Confederate

Veterans in 2004 provides a brief biography of Lt Col Chew with a map of the county and a description of the battles commemorated by twenty five monuments placed by the UCV.

Chew's Battery, not Pelham's was the first Horse Artillery Battery organized in the Confederate Army. They changed the nature of cavalry warfare with the outset of Jackson's Valley Campaign of 1862.

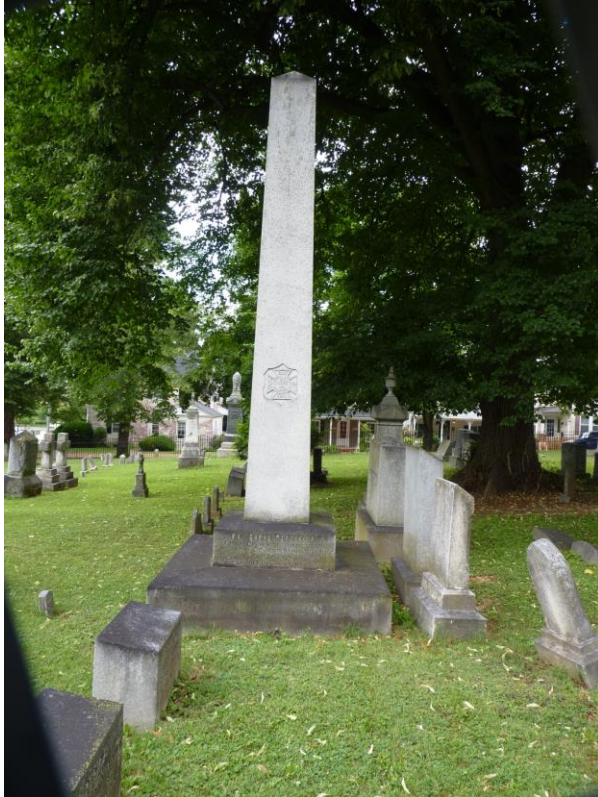
Roger P. Chew married Louisa Fontaine Washington, a daughter of Col. John Augustine Washington, on August 15, 1871. Col Washington was an aide-de-camp to General R.E. Lee in 1861. Col Washington was the last owner of Mount Vernon. The Chews resided at Blakely, one of seven Washington family homes in Jefferson County until 1884 when they moved to Charles Town. He served as President of the Lee Memorial Association, Commander of the Jefferson County United Confederate Veterans and was elected to three consecutive terms to the WV Legislature I 1885, 1887 and 1889.

On June 19, 1912, former Cadet Roger P. Chew delivered the keynote address on the parade ground at VMI for the unveiling of the second casting of former VMI cadet Moses Ezekiel's full standing *Jackson*, a masterful bronze initially commissioned by the UDC and unveiled in Charleston, WV on September 27, 1910.

Roger P. Chew died at 78 years of age. He is buried in Zion Episcopal Churchyard, Charlestown, under an imposing obelisk with the inscription "Lieutenant Colonel Roger Preston Chew, Chief of Horse

Artillery, The Army of Northern Virginia, CSA, 1843-1921.

Many other Crosses of Honor are prominent in this cemetery, marking the graves of Confederate veterans. There are many other graves of the extended Washington family.

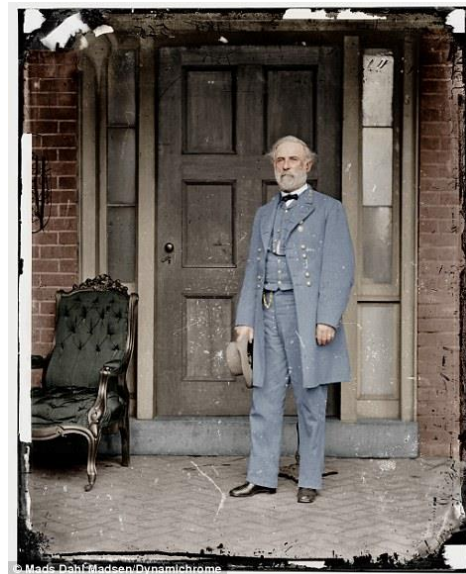


A political cartoon showing South Carolina Representative Preston Brooks beating abolitionist and Massachusetts Senator Charles Sumner in the Senate chamber, after Brooks accused

Sumner of insulting his uncle, Senator Andrew Butler, in an anti-slavery speech.



New York: Currier & Ives, Battle of Chancellorsville



God bless you, Robert E. Lee



**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 it for \$20.00.

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



If you have something you would like to share, please forward to Chris Ezelle at [christofer2@verizon.net](mailto:christofer2@verizon.net)



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.