



CHRONICLE OF THE AZTEC CLUB OF 1847

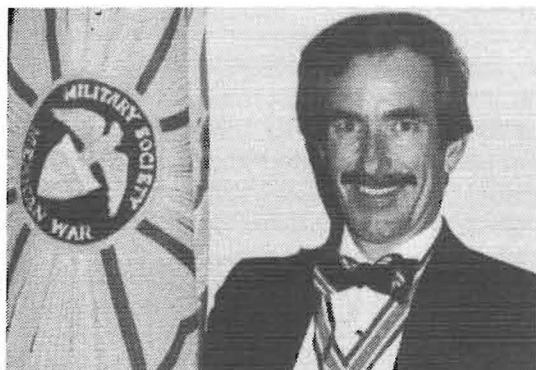
Military Society of the Mexican War

Fall, 1996

Our 149th Year

Editor: Rick Breithaupt

Greetings



President Richard H. Breithaupt, Jr.

There is great anticipation as we approach the Annual Meeting, as it marks the eve of the Aztec Club's sesquicentennial year. With the planning for this year's meeting already complete, the Executive Committee has already turned its attention to next year's celebration of the Club's founding.

Among our plans are the sesquicentennial history, envisioned as a first-class, hard bound work that will faithfully recount the evolution of the Aztec Club and will include both a cumulative Roll of Members and Roll of Ancestors. The committee working on this effort includes Richard B. Abell, Hardwick S. Johnson, Nicholas D. Ward and myself. While much of the research of the Club's records, and the archives at the Military History Institute at Carlisle Barracks, has been completed we are very desirous of obtaining copies of old photographs, programs or the like to ensure the work's completeness. Please check for what you or your family might have. Should you find something, anything, please contact me or send it along. All items will be returned.

Our second major project is the staging of our sesquicentennial Annual Meeting.

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149th MEETING SET FOR OCTOBER 12, 1996

The Aztec Club of 1847 will hold its 149th Annual Meeting at the City Tavern Club in Georgetown, Washington, D. C., on Saturday evening, October 12, 1996. The business meeting will commence at 6:00 p.m. followed by a reception at 7:00 p.m. and banquet dinner at 8:00 p.m. [White tie, black tie or uniform, with decorations.] A separate announcement will provide further details and reservation information.

Our speaker will be Dr. Jeffrey G. Mauck, Ph.D., an independent research historian and co-author of the recently revised *A Thunder of Cannon, Archeology of the Mexican-American War Battlefield of Palo Alto*, published by Texas A & M University in cooperation with the National Park Service. The Aztec Club provided funding that enabled two pen and ink drawings to be commissioned for the book, by military artist Gary Zaboly, about the historical archaeology of the battle which occurred outside Brownsville, Texas. In addition to ownership of the drawings and copyrights, the Club received an acknowledgment in the book, the creation of the Aztec Club is mentioned in the body of the work and a credit will appear beneath each picture in the book. The original drawings will be on display at the Annual Meeting.

Dr. Mauck, who recently published a booklet titled: *The Education of a Soldier: U. S. Grant in the War With Mexico*, will speak about the Mexican War exploits of Ulysses S. Grant and Robert E. Lee.

Make your reservations for the Club's Annual Dinner by remitting your check to the Secretary so that it is received not later than October 5, 1996.

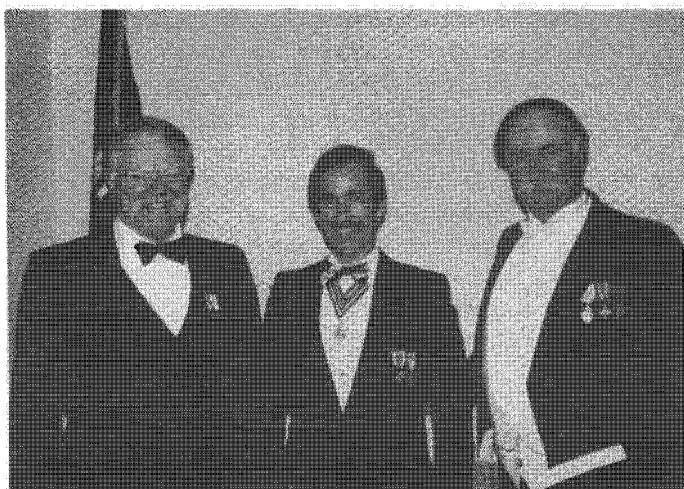
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The Executive Committee, acting at the urging of many members, has decided that Mexico City, Mexico, the birthplace of the Club, is the most suitable place for this historic meeting. Plans are underway to stage the dinner there on October 11, 1997. Our goal is that the Club set a record attendance at this affair and we hope you will plan on being there. Should you have any contacts either in the United States or Mexico who might help facilitate our staging of this event, or be of assistance in helping to make it happen, please let me know.

Each of us can help celebrate the Aztec Club's sesquicentennial by helping perpetuate its future. The Club's life's blood is its membership. Each of us can help reinvigorate and perpetuate the Aztec Club for future generations by sponsoring a friend or family member to membership. I challenge each member of the Aztec Club of 1847 to do this in the coming year. Let us all plan now on participating in the grandest of celebrations in Mexico City in 1997, in the company of the largest gathering of members since the Club closed its doors there in 1848.

LINCOLN'S BIRTHDAY

Members of the Aztec Club joined a large gathering at the Lincoln Memorial on February 12 for the annual celebration of the 16th President's birth, staged by the Lincoln Birthday National Commemorative Committee and the Military Order of the Loyal Legion. Following the U. S. Navy Band was a recitation of the Gettysburg Address by Secretary of the Navy John H. Dalton. Traditional Loyal Legion literary awards were presented, followed by the laying of numerous wreaths, including that of the Aztec Club of 1847.



William W. Huss, Jr., Richard H. Breithaupt, Jr.
and Raymond L. Drake at Lincoln Festivities

PHONE NUMBERS AND ADDRESSES

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<i>Registrar</i>	Capt. Thomas J. Turpin, USN (Ret.) 6804 McLean Province Circle Falls Church, VA 22043 H-703-241-7007
<i>Chaplain</i>	Rev. Dr. Robert G. Carroon 23 Thomson Road West Hartford, CT 06107-2535 H-860-521-8975
<i>Capt. of the Colour Guard</i>	Mr. Victor L. Crawford, Jr. 8812 62nd Street Berwyn Heights, MD 20740-2344 H-301-220-0568

1996 OFFICERS

<i>President</i>	Mr. Richard H. Breithaupt, Jr.
<i>Vice President</i>	Mr. Hardwick S. Johnson
<i>Secretary</i>	Nicholas D. Ward, Esq.
<i>Treasurer</i>	Cdr. C. Lansdowne Hunt, USN (Ret.)
<i>Registrar</i>	Capt. Thomas J. Turpin, USN (Ret.)

Members of the Executive Committee

Hon. Raymond L. Drake
Hon. William W. Huss, Jr.
Mr. David Lee Wheelchel, Jr.

Council

(Living Past Presidents)

Mr. Frederick T. Drum Hunt
Capt. Roy Campbell Smith, III, USNR (Ret.)
Col. William Leland Hires, USA PAARNG (Ret.)
Capt. Samuel Cooper Dawson, USNR (Ret.)
Maj. Stirling Stokely Wilson, (Ret.)
Nicholas Donnell Ward, Esq.
Cdr. John Conway Hunt, USNR (Ret.)
Joseph Wright Stanley, Esq.
Capt. Thomas J. Turpin, USN (Ret.)
Cdr. C. Lansdowne Hunt, USN (Ret.)
Hon. Richard Bender Abell

Captain of the Colour Guard Mr. Victor L. Crawford, Jr.

**Founded by the Officers of the U. S. Army
Mexico City
October 13, 1847**

THE AZTEC CLUB NEEDS YOUR HELP!



The Aztec Club of 1847 is one of the oldest patriotic societies, founded in 1847 by American officers serving in the Mexican War. Original members were commissioned officers of the Army, Navy or Marine Corps, Regular or Volunteer, who actually served in some part of Mexico, Mexican territory or Mexican waters during the War with Mexico (May 13, 1846 to February 2, 1848). Membership in the Aztec Club of 1847 has been highly prized since its founding. Hereditary members are the male lineal or collateral descendants, who have attained the age of eighteen years, of such officers who were original members, or of those officers who would have been qualified to have been original members.

Members of the Aztec Club who wish to nominate someone for membership, be it a son, nephew, cousin or friend, should write the Registrar and include: name and address of the candidate, a brief biography, and the name and service of the qualifying ancestor. Application papers and information will be forwarded to qualifying candidates.

ANCESTRAL SERVICE

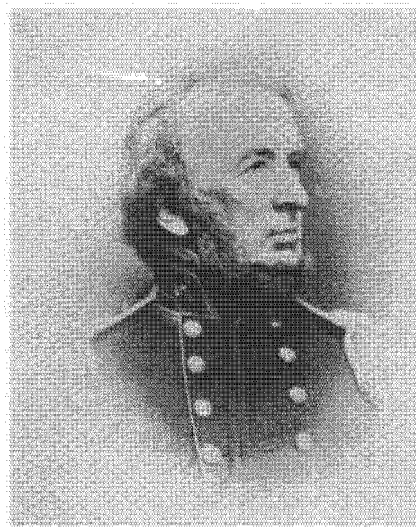
A Periodic Series on Ancestors of our Members

Commo. John Henry Aulick, USN

by Richard H. Breithaupt, Jr.

John Henry Aulick was born at Winchester, VA in 1787. His father's Will bequeathed geography books to John, reflecting his early interest in world travel. John Henry joined the Navy in 1809 as a midshipman on the *Rattlesnake* and soon thereafter, obtaining a furlough, entered the merchant marine to learn the duties of a sailor before embarking upon those of an officer. On Mar 18, 1811 he was ordered as midshipman to the schooner *Enterprise* and was present at the capture of the British *Boxer* in 1813. James Fenimore Cooper, in his account of the action, stated it was Master's Mate Aulick who requested of the Captain to allow them to enter into the engagement. Following the one hour battle, in which Aulick apparently displayed great gallantry, he was accorded the honor of Prize Master, bringing the *Boxer* into port. He received thanks and a silver medal from Congress, along with a promotion to lieutenant. Thus began a naval career that spanned 54 years, half of which was spent at sea.

Lt. Aulick served in the War of 1812 on the *Saranac*, *Ontario* and *Constitution*. After the War he was on shore duty until 1827 when he was assigned the frigate *Brandywine* and remained in the Pacific Squadron until 1831 when he was commissioned Master-Commandant of the Washington Navy Yard. In 1834, in command of the sloop *Vincennes*, he made a cruise around the world of one-year's duration. Upon Aulick's return he was again placed in command of the Washington Navy Yard and remained there until 1837 when he returned to the command of the *Vincennes*. In 1840 he returned to the Washington Navy Yard for a short while and on September 8, 1841 was promoted to Captain and given the *Yorktown*.



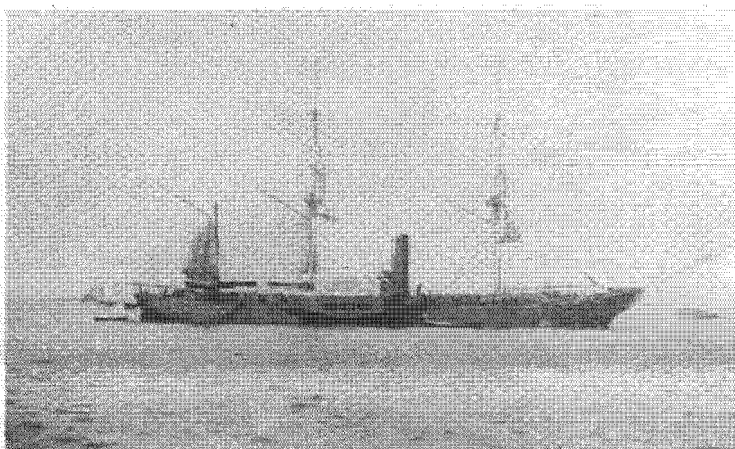
John Henry Aulick

On May 18, 1846 he commanded a detachment and proceeded up the Rio Bravo to meet Lt. Col. Wilson in the taking of Burrita. Commo. David Conner, in *Home Squadron*, stated that Aulick's naval force reached Burrita before Wilson and "thus was the first to invade Mexico and there unfurl our flag." (Taylor's forces did not cross the river into Mexico until later that same day.) Aulick occupied Burrita for a time after which he maintained the Gulf blockade, transporting troops along the coast until March 23, 1847 when he took command of the navy battery at Vera

In February, 1846 Capt. Aulick took command of the frigate *Potomac* and became executive officer of the Home Squadron. He became actively engaged off the coast of Mexico. On May 9, 1846, in Brazos de Santiago, Aulick commanded a detachment of 500 seamen and marines in a land engagement, remaining there until May 12.

Cruz, in the company of Capt. Robert E. Lee. At 10 a.m. on March 24 Capt. Aulick ordered the battery unmasked and a steady barrage of shells on the Castle of San Juan de Ulloa ensued. On March 27, 1847, Capt. Aulick signed, on behalf of the Navy, the Articles of Capitulation of Vera Cruz whereby Mexico formally surrendered.

On Feb 11, 1851 Aulick was assigned as Commodore of the East India Squadron. Having picked up a number of Japanese sailors lost at sea and returning them to port, Aulick suggested to Sec'y of State Daniel Webster that this afforded an opportunity to open commerce with Japan. On May 9, Webster asked that Aulick lead an Expedition to Japan. On May 10, President Fillmore granted a commission to Commo. Aulick with powers to "negotiate and sign a treaty of friendship, commerce and navigation" with Japan. The East India Squadron embarked on its mission under his leadership from the *Susquehanna*. Aulick reached the orient by early 1852 but was recalled. Commo. Perry sailed to Japan the following year.



USS *Susquehanna* - Side-wheel Steamer (1850)

Commo. Aulick was placed on the retired list in 1864, having served the Union Navy in the Civil War. His son, Cdr. Richmond Aulick (1828-1868), was graduate number 1 of the U. S. Naval Academy (Class of 1846). A resident of Washington for many years, Commo. Aulick remained there until he died in 1873. He was a member of St. John's Church and was buried at Congressional Cemetery, next to his sons. In Commodore Aulick's memory the Navy named two ships, USS Aulick DD-258 and USS Aulick DD-569 (5 Battle Stars, WWII).

INSIGNIA AVAILABLE

Members desiring to purchase a medal need to secure an authorization chit from the Treasurer prior to ordering. Pricing:

Full Size Medal

Silver, w/Gold Plating	\$ 85.00
Gold Filled*	\$ 90.00
10K Gold	\$ 515.00
14K Gold	\$ 730.00

Miniature Medal

Bronze, w/ Gold Plating	\$ 40.00
Silver, w/ Gold Plating	\$ 45.00
Gold Filled*	\$ 50.00
10K Gold	\$ 150.00
14K Gold	\$ 180.00

*Recommended for those not ordering 10K or 14K.

SPRING MEETING SUCCESSFUL

The Club's Spring Meeting was held in Savannah, Georgia on the weekend of May 25, 1996. The group gathered at the Desoto Hilton Hotel on Friday evening. On Saturday morning Club members and guests embarked on an organized tour of Old Savannah that included such sites as Fort Pulaski, Colonial Cemetery, Gen. Sherman's Civil War headquarters, and many of the places featured in John Berendt's *New York Times* Best Seller, *Midnight in the Garden of Good and Evil*.

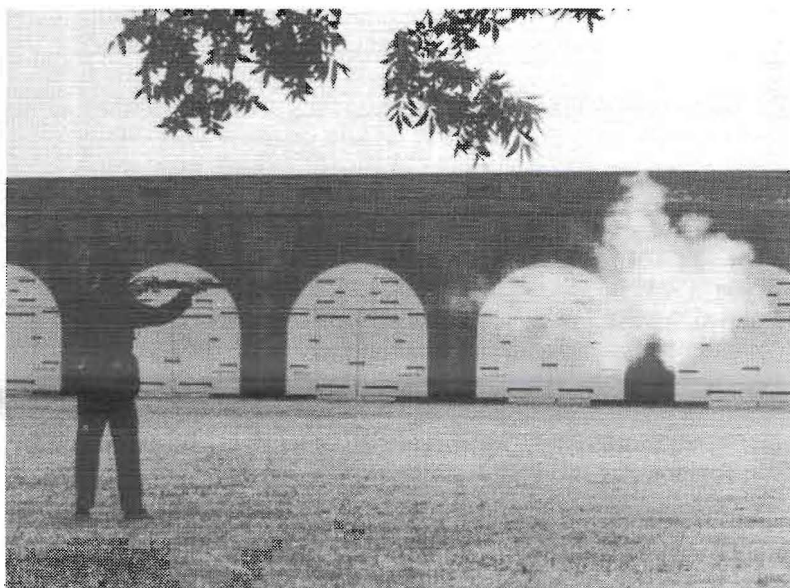
Following a leisurely afternoon, the group assembled at The Oglethorpe Club for cocktails and dinner. Featured speaker, Dr. John Duncan, gave an interesting talk about the history and culture of Savannah.



The Oglethorpe Club



*Monument to Sgt. William Jasper
for whom was named the Irish Jasper Greens*



Re-enactor at Fort Pulaski

New Members Elected

Elected to membership at the May, 1996 meeting were:

Capt. Brooke Edmonston Allen, USAR, by right of descent from 1st Lt. William C. Allen.

Willard J. Blankenship, M.D., by right of descent from Lt. Thomas W. Napier, 2d Regiment, KY Volunteers.

Mr. John H. deRussy, Jr., by right of descent from 2d Lt. Gustavus Adolphus deRussy, USA.

Mr. Russell Scott Hall, by right of descent from Col. Adley Hogan Gladden, Palmetto Regt., SC Vols.

Mr. F. Stephen Nash, Jr., by right of descent from Brig. Gen. Joseph Lane, left wing, Taylor's Army at Battle of Buena Vista.

Mr. Oliver Page Snyder, by right of descent from Brig. Gen. Sterling Price, 2d MO Mounted Volunteers.

Mr. Kuddy Scott Thomas, by right of descent from Capt. Robert E. Lee, General Staff officer to Gen. Winfield Scott.