



CHRONICLE OF THE
AZTEC CLUB OF 1847
Military Society of the Mexican War

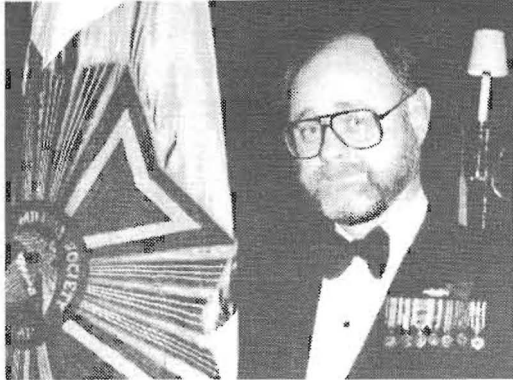
Spring, 1995

Our 148TH Year

Editor: Rick Breithaupt

Greetings

SPRING MEETING SET APRIL 21-22, 1995!



President Richard B. Abell

Your newly elected officers for 1994-1995 intend to maintain the sturdy momentum launched last year. Our upcoming spring meeting in Texas will provide a superb set of activities, both social and historical. Further, we anticipate printing a new general membership roster presenting a greater accuracy in detail than heretofore. Also anticipated will be another successful Annual Meeting at the historic locale of the City Tavern Club in Georgetown, Washington, D. C. this next October, replete with our "mess silver", banners and candlelight cuisine à la General Winfield Scott!

The Club's membership continues to quantitatively expand, and this accretion must now be our primary goal. Although the genealogical requisites are *sine qua non*, our mission is to further enhance our fraternity of gentlemen with those that our ancestors would have felt in consonance socially and philosophically. Most of you have eligible fathers, sons, brothers, nephews or cousins. Encourage them to permit you to nominate them for membership. Godspeed.

On to Chapultepec!

Richard B. Abell
President

The Club will hold its Spring Meeting in conjunction with the annual San Jacinto Day ceremonies at the Battlefield Site in La Porte (20 miles east of downtown Houston), Texas on April 21, 1995. A special coffee reception in honor of the Aztec Club of 1847 will kick off the events that day at 9:30 a.m. in the second floor library of the Museum. At 11:00 a.m. festivities begin that will include scheduled feature speaker, the Lieutenant Governor of Texas. President Richard B. Abell will also be featured as a speaker during the ceremonies. That evening, Friday April 21, the Club will hold its formal stag dinner at the Houston Country Club. *[Black tie w/decorations; \$50/person; checks posted to the Treasurer.]*

The past comes alive at San Jacinto Battleground State Historic Park with a reenactment of the battle the following day, Saturday April 22. But, there's lots more to enjoy. The San Jacinto Museum of History houses thousands of treasures that interpret four centuries of Texas and regional history, including the State's most highly valued collections of artifacts, documents, manuscripts, books and paintings.

In Texas tradition, where things come extra large, you'll want to take a ride up the 489-foot San Jacinto Monument where, just below its 220-ton Lone Star of Texas, an observation deck provides you with a breathtaking view of the sprawling park grounds, the Battleship Texas, the Ship channel and its industrial complex and even Houston's skyline. The battleship, which is the only surviving U. S. Naval vessel to have served in both World Wars, offers visitors a unique opportunity to tour an artifact of warship technology. It is berthed on the bustling Houston Ship Channel at the Park's western edge. She saw action in North Africa, the famous D-Day invasion and was a key participant in the Pacific at Iwo Jima and Okinawa.

The San Jacinto Battleground State Historical Park is accessed from Loop 610. Take Highway 225 East for eight miles. Exit on Battleground Road and turn left. Admission to the Park and Museum is free. Nominal admission fees are charged for the Observation Floor and the Battleship Texas. For more information, call the Park at 713-479-2421.

Suggested local accommodations include the Ritz Carlton and Doubletree Hotels in Houston.

Please make your reservations for the Club's stag dinner by remitting your check to the Treasurer such that it is received by April 10, 1995.

TEOCALI



Restoration of the Club's historic Teocali, hand crafted by Tiffany & Company in 1892, has been completed. This historic "mess silver" was presented to the Aztec Club by Col. DeLancey Floyd-Jones on December 13, 1892 at the Club's 45TH Annual Dinner. Despite the fact that Tiffany agreed to do the work at cost, the Club's total expense exceeded \$3,000. Added to the list of Club members making contributions to help defray the cost are: **David Lloyd Garrison** and **Col. John H. Napier, III**. Contributions would be appreciated and may be directed to the Treasurer.

1995 OFFICERS

<i>President</i>	Hon. Richard B. Abell
<i>Vice President</i>	Mr. Richard H. Breithaupt, Jr.
<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

Mr. David Lacey Garrison, Jr.
Mr. Hardwick S. Johnson
Mr. David Lee Whelchel, Jr.

Council

(Living Past Presidents)

Cdr. Leonard L. Nicholson, III, USCG (Ret.)
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.)

Captain of the Color Guard Mr. Christian A. L. Abell

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

PHONE NUMBERS AND ADDRESSES

<i>President</i>	Hon. Richard B. Abell 8209 Chancery Court Alexandria, VA 22308-1514 H-703-780-4934
<i>Vice President</i>	Mr. Richard H. Breithaupt, Jr. 17220 Hemingway Street Van Nuys, CA 91406-1608 H-818-609-0800
<i>Secretary</i>	Nicholas D. Ward, Esq. 1690 32nd Street, N.W. Washington, D.C. 20007 H-202-337-1653
<i>Treasurer</i>	Cdr. C. Lansdowne Hunt, USN (Ret.) 9101 MacMahon Drive Burke, VA 22015-1621 H-703-503-3110
<i>Registrar</i>	Capt. Thomas J. Turpin, USN (ret.) 6804 McLean Province Circle Falls Church, VA 22043 H-703-241-7007

THE AZTEC CLUB NEEDS YOUR HELP!



The Aztec Club of 1847 is one of the oldest American patriotic societies, founded in 1847 by 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 Secretary 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. Write: Nicholas D. Ward, Esq., Secretary, Aztec Club of 1847, 1690 32nd Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20007.

ANNUAL MEETING HELD

The Club's Annual Meeting was held at the City Tavern Club, Georgetown, Washington, D. C. on October 8, 1994. Officers appearing on the opposite page of this issue of *The Chronicle* were elected for the 1995 term. The position of Registrar was added to the By-Laws and discussion was held regarding the increase of the Club's life membership fee. Action on increasing the fee to \$100 will be voted upon at the next Annual Meeting.

Featured speaker John C. Waugh, author of the recently published book *The Class of 1846* (Warner; 1994) gave a fascinating talk about seven members of the West Point Class of '46: George Brinton McClellan; Thomas Jonathan Jackson; Dabney Herndon Maury; William Montgomery Gardner; George Horatio Derby; Edmund Hardcastle Lafayette and Ambrose Powell Hill. Five of these veterans of the Mexican War became generals during the Civil War: McClellan, a Union Army major general; Jackson became known as "Stonewall", a prominent Confederate Army lieutenant general; Maury, nicknamed "Puss 'n Boots", a Confederate major general; Gardner, a Confederate brigadier general was defeated by classmate George Stoneman in one of the very last small engagements of the War; and "A. P." Hill, one of the Confederate States of America's fiercest Corps commanders, killed at Petersburg in 1865. Derby, the Class prankster who was more eccentric than Jackson, became a writer and captain of topographic engineers in the west. He died in the spring of 1861. Hardcastle left the military prior to the Civil War.

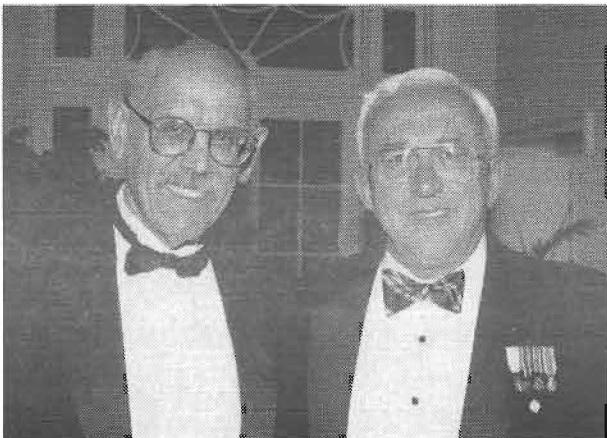
President Abell made a special presentation to Vice President Richard Breithaupt, Jr. for his contributions to the resurgence of the Aztec Club. He was awarded an original bronze medallion struck in 1922 by A. Bacqueville (France) by order of the Club in commemoration of the Aztec Club's 75th anniversary.



Past Presidents C. Lansdowne Hunt (4th from left) and Nicholas D. Ward (3d from right); John C. Waugh to his right



Members gathering in the drawing room. Bottom Row: Past Presidents C. L. Hunt and Thomas J. Turpin (3d & 4th from left); Top Row: Past President Nicholas D Ward; President Abell, and Vice President Breithaupt (2d, 3d & 4th from left).



John C. Waugh and Past President Thomas J. Turpin



At the reception preceding dinner, Nicholas Ward shared with us his musical talent

ANCESTRAL SERVICE

A Periodic Series on Ancestors of our Members

COMMO. WILLIAM W. MCKEAN

William Wooster McKean was a descendant of two of Philadelphia's most prominent families. His paternal grandfather, Thomas McKean (1734-1817) was not only a Signer of the Declaration of Independence but served as President of Delaware (1777), Chief Justice of the Pennsylvania Supreme Court (1777-1799), President of the Continental Congress (1781) and Governor of Pennsylvania (1799-1808). William McKean's maternal grandfather, Samuel Miles (1739-1805) served as a member of the Pennsylvania Committee of Safety at the outbreak of the Revolutionary War. He commanded a rifle regiment at the Battle of Long Island, was promoted to Brigadier General and subsequently served as Deputy Quartermaster General of the Continental Army, playing a material role in the Yorktown Campaign of 1781. Later, in 1790, he served as Mayor of Philadelphia.



In 1814, William McKean received an appointment as a Midshipman in the United States Navy and in the following year made his first cruise, sailing through the Mediterranean, aboard the *Java* under the command of Oliver Hazard Perry. By the time of the Mexican War McKean held the rank of Commander. Commanding the 16-gun U. S. Sloop of War *Dale* from June, 1846 to March, 1847, he joined the Pacific Squadron and cruised off the western coast of Mexico and California. In 1847, the Pacific Squadron consisted of the 54-gun U. S. Razez *Independence* (flagship); two 44-gun frigates, the *Savannah* and the *Congress*; two 20-gun Sloops-of-War, the *Dale* and the *Preble*; and three storeships.

In 1855 McKean was promoted to Captain and on September 6, 1861 he was appointed Flag Officer commanding the Gulf Blockading Squadron with the U. S. Steam Frigate *Niagara* serving as his flagship. In 1862 the Squadron was divided into two commands. McKean retained command over the Eastern Gulf Blockading Squadron and Flag Officer David G. Farragut was given command of the Western Gulf Blockading Squadron. Later that same year, McKean relinquished

command due to health problems and was placed on the retirement list with the rank of Commodore. Recalled to active duty in 1865, he served as a member of the Naval Board. He died on April 22, 1865. Commodore McKean is presently represented in the Aztec Club of 1847 by John Rodman Justice and Timothy Walter Rodman.

Ed. Note: If you have an interesting account about your Aztec ancestor, submit it to the editor for possible inclusion in *The Chronicle*.

INSIGNIA AVAILABLE



Struck from a brand new set of dies engraved by artisans at Bailey, Banks & Biddle using an original Aztec Club medal as a model, the medal is simply exquisite. The 1½" medal, suspended from a Mexican green and blue ribbon, bears on its obverse (above) the Mexican Eagle and wording "City of Mexico — Army of Occupation" in high relief over green enamel. The reverse depicts an American Eagle and wording "Aztec Club — U. S. Army 1847" over red enamel. 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.

AVAILABLE FROM THE TREASURER

Tie (four-in-hand)	\$ 35.00
Bow Tie	\$ 30.00
Bow Tie and Cummerbund	\$ 80.00

All made of finest silk in Aztec Club colors.