



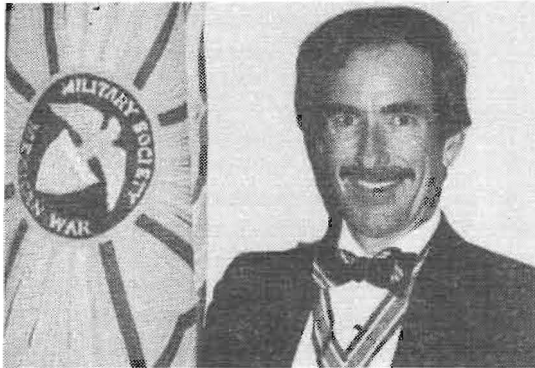
CHRONICLE OF THE
AZTEC CLUB OF 1847
Military Society of the Mexican War

Spring, 1996

Our 149TH Year

Editor: Rick Breithaupt

Greetings



President Richard H. Breithaupt, Jr.

I am honored to have been selected to serve as President of the Aztec Club of 1847, particularly at this point in time. This is an historic time: 1.) the Aztec Club is experiencing a resurgence in its popularity and activity; 2.) this year begins the sesquicentennial of the Mexican War; and 3.) we as an organization are preparing for our own 150TH anniversary in October, 1997.

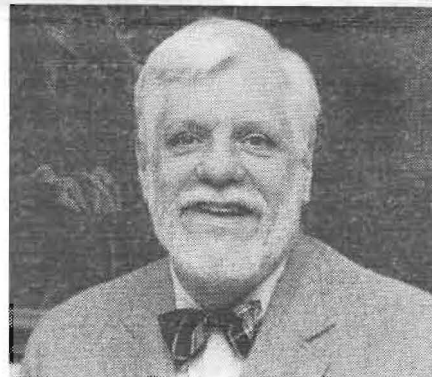
I am pleased to report to you that the state of the Aztec Club is good. We have a fine set of officers, Executive Committee members and an abundance of experience and knowledge to draw from in our active Past Presidents. This became even more evident to me at the Executive Committee meeting held in Washington on February 11 where the attendance was the greatest in our collective memories.

Among the important decisions we made at this meeting was that we would travel to Savannah for the Spring, 1996 meeting, that our 1996 Annual Meeting would be held in Washington on October 12, 1996, and that the Club would celebrate its sesquicentennial anniversary in Mexico City in October, 1997.

Your officers have planned an enjoyable Spring meeting that I hope you will plan to attend. I look forward to seeing you take an active part in our activities and programs over the coming year.

SPRING MEETING SET MAY 24-26, 1996!

The Club will hold its Spring Meeting in beautiful Savannah, Georgia, nicknamed "Hostess City of the South". One of the South's most historic cities, Savannah was the first settlement in what is now Georgia when Gen. James Edward Oglethorpe and a band of Englishmen arrived there on February 12, 1733. Fortified by the Americans during the Revolution, it was garrisoned by some 900 men under Gen. Robert Howe when it was taken in December, 1778 by a superior British force. Savannah was the site of a Confederate navy yard and an important supply point until Fort Pulaski fell to Union forces on April 11, 1862. When notified by President Polk of the need for Georgia to supply a regiment for service in the Mexican War, Savannah was quick to respond. Virtually all of its infantry companies expressed a desire to fight. Since only one was needed, a draw by lot resulted in the selection of the Irish Jasper Greens, composed of Irishmen commanded by John McMahon, with Capt. Henry R. Jackson appointed as regimental Colonel. The exclusive Oglethorpe Club, site of our Saturday evening dinner, is located in Capt. Jackson's former home. *[Black tie w/decorations.]*



John Duncan

Our featured speaker will be Dr. John Duncan, a twelfth generation Charlestonian who has made his home in Savannah for the past 31 years. A historian and educator on the faculty of Armstrong State College, his knowledge of Savannah's past and ability to breathe life into history in an informative and entertaining way has made him a popular speaker. Cocktails commence at 6:00 p.m.

Organized activities for the weekend will commence on Saturday morning at 9:00 a.m. with a tour everyone is sure to enjoy. Scheduled are many of the places featured in John Berendt's *Midnight in the Garden of Good and Evil*, which has been on the New York Times Best Sellers List for two years. This adventure will take us by the notorious Mercer House where the murder took place, ghostly graveyards, strolls through garden-like squares and tour of the Telfair Mansion. The group will then depart for Fort Pulaski National Monument. Eighteen years (1829-1847) were required to build this massive, irregular pentagon-shaped garrison surrounded by a moat crossed by drawbridges. The best and brightest of the Army Corps of Engineers were assembled to supervise its construction, including a young Lt. Robert E. Lee on his first assignment after graduating from West Point. We will also visit Colonial Cemetery, Savannah's oldest, the final resting place for patriots and heroes, including Col. James S. McIntosh, wounded at Molino del Rey on 8 September 1847 and died in October, 1847. Saturday's dinner concludes the Club's planned activities for the weekend. Cost for the organized tour and dinner is \$50.00 per person. The Club has reserved a limited number of rooms at the Savannah DeSoto Hilton Hotel (\$85.00 nightly, single or double occupancy) which members can reserve directly with Hilton [1-800-HILTONS]. Be sure to ask for the Aztec Club rate. **Make your reservations for the Club's tour and dinner by remitting your check to the Treasurer such that it is received by April 20.**

THE IRISH JASPER GREENS

The Irish Jasper Greens were incorporated in 1843, having named themselves after Sgt. William Jasper, a hero who fought and died in Savannah during the Revolution. Upon selection as one of ten companies of the Georgia regiment, Henry Rootes Jackson was elected company commander with Irishmen making up the bulk of the officer corps. To swell the number of men needed, recruiting was begun and filled with Germans, Jews and native Georgians. On July 5, the Jaspers left for Macon where they joined other Georgia militia companies to form the 1st Georgia Regiment. Henry Jackson was elected regimental Colonel. It was here the men were told they would serve 12 months rather than the 6 they had anticipated. Marching to Columbus, they were then ferried to Mobile where they boarded a ship for New Orleans, then on to Braxos, Santiago, now part of Texas. After marching for two days to Camp Belknap, described as fit only for snakes, scorpions and tarantulas, the soldiers then boarded boats for Camargo, Mexico. The Georgia Regiment was prevented from participating in the Battle for Monterrey by General Taylor's orders. The Jaspers, along with other volunteer brigades, assisted in the taking of Victoria. The Georgia soldiers were then transferred to the Vera Cruz expedition under command of Gen. Winfield Scott, which prevented them from participating in the Battle of Buena Vista. In March the Jaspers numbered among 10,000 Americans to reach Vera Cruz. The city surrendered on March 29. Following the battle of Cerro Gordo, with less than two months left in their one-year enlistment, Gen. Scott sent the volunteers home early. Source: *Savannah's Own: The Irish Jasper Greens, 1842-1865.* Michael Damon Siegle. 1994.

PHONE NUMBERS AND ADDRESSES

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<i>Treasurer</i>	Cdr. C. Lansdowne Hunt, USN (Ret.) 9101 MacMahon Drive Burke, VA 22015-1621 H-703-503-3110
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<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

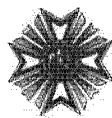
(Living Past Presidents)

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 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.

Admitted to membership at the February Executive Committee meeting were: **William Allen Carr; Stanley Hewitt Justis; James Charles McHargue; Charles Edward Phebus; and Joseph Morgan Wootten.**

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. NOTE: Members admitted during the past two years who have not received a membership diploma should contact the Registrar.

ANNUAL MEETING HELD

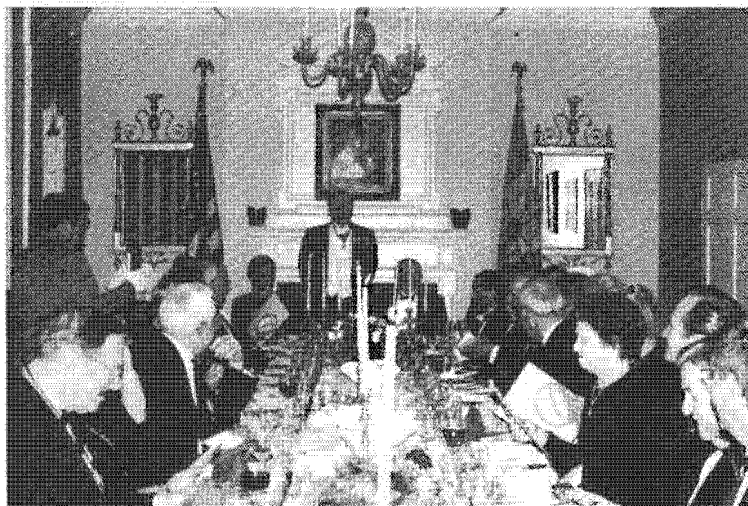
The Club's 149TH Annual Meeting was held at the City Tavern Club, Georgetown, Washington, D. C. on October 14, 1995. Officers appearing on the opposite page of this issue of *The Chronicle* were elected for the 1996 term. Those assembled noted with sadness the passing of Cdr. Leonard L. Nicholson, III, USCG (Ret.), former President and venerable Treasurer of the Club. Among business conducted, the Club voted to adopt an amendment to the By-Laws increasing the Club's life membership fee to \$100 immediately, and escalating to \$125 in 1997, \$150 in 1998 and \$175 for ensuing years thereafter.

The featured speaker was Jeffrey D. Wert, author of *General James Longstreet: The Confederacy's Most Controversial Soldier, A Biography*. Mr. Wert spoke about James Longstreet in the Mexican War and his rise to prominence thereafter.

Out going President Richard Bender Abell addressed the group, thanking the officers for their good work on behalf of the Aztec Club. Following installation of the new officers, Past President Abell was recognized for his service with the gift of a miniature Past President's breast star. With the largest attendance of members in many years, the evening of camaraderie adjourned as the group looked forward to assembling again in the Spring.



Nicholas D. Ward entertained us during cocktails accompanied by David Hattis on the piano

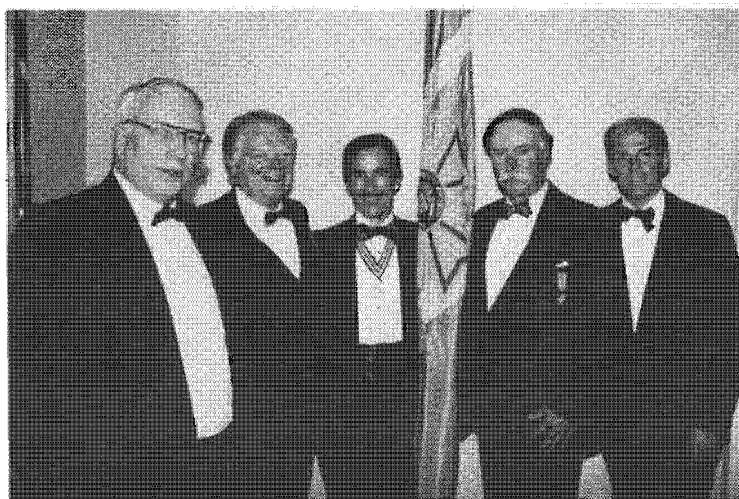


President Richard B. Abell (center) addressing the dinner



Members of the Club assembled after the Annual Meeting

STANDING: NICHOLAS WARD; ROBERT CARROON; PRIESTLEY TOULMIN, III; RAYMOND DRAKE; JOHN R. JUSTICE; FREDERICK HUNT; RICHARD ABELL; HARDWICK JOHNSON; CONWAY HUNT; DAVID WHELCHER, JR.; WILLIAM W. HUSS, JR.; CHRISTIAN ABELL; WILLIAM ARNOLD (BEHIND); C. LANSDOWNE HUNT; JOSEPH STANLEY; FRONT: RICHARD BREITHAUPT, JR.; THOMAS TURPIN; VICTOR CRAWFORD, JR. TAKING PHOTO: JAMES CUMMINGS.



David Whelchel, Jr.; William W. Huss, Jr.; Richard Breithaupt, Jr.; Raymond L. Drake and John R. Justice

ANCESTRAL SERVICE

A Periodic Series on Ancestors of our Members

Maj. William John Clarke

by Victor L. Crawford, Jr.

William John Clarke, soldier, state official, and editor, was born August 2, 1819 in Raleigh, NC, the only child of the Mayor, William Francis Clarke, a veteran of the War of 1812 and his wife, Ann Maria Robadeau. Major Clarke graduated with honors from the University of North Carolina in 1841, received an M.A. degree in 1844, and was one of the organizing members of the Alumni Society in 1843. He also read law.

On March 5, 1847, Clarke was appointed Captain, Co. 1, which he raised in the Twelfth U.S. Infantry, and served in Mexico during the war with Mexico. At the Battle of the National Bridge he was severely wounded. On August 14, 1847 he promoted to Major for gallantry and merited conduct. He was also at Paso Ovejas and Cerro Gordo. Clarke's unit was disbanded and honorably mustered out on July 25, 1848. Several letters of his accounts in Mexico were published by his friend, William Wood Holden, editor of the *Raleigh Standard*.



On April 6, 1848, he married the former Mary Bayard Devereux. Their wedding was performed by the bride's uncle, the Right Reverend Leonidas Polk, Episcopal Bishop of Louisiana at his home, Leighton Plantation, La Fourche, LA. Miss Devereux was a Raleigh native and the daughter of Thomas Pollock Devereux and Catherine Anne Bayard Johnson.

A renown poet and author, her illustrious ancestors included: the New England devines Jonathan Edwards and Samuel Johnson; signer of the Constitution William Samuel Johnson; and North Carolina Royal Governor Thomas Pollock. The couple had one daughter, Mary Devereux and three sons, Francis Devereux, William Edwards, and Thomas Pollock.

After the war, Clarke practiced law in Raleigh and was State Comptroller from 1850 until 1854. In 1856, he moved to San Antonio, Texas and became President of the San Antonio and Mexican Gulf Railroad. At the beginning of the Civil War, Clarke returned to North Carolina where he was commissioned a Colonel of the fourteenth NC Regiment (later redesignated the 24th NC State Troops). On May 15, 1864, during the battle below Drewry's Bluff in Virginia, Col. Clarke's shoulder

was shattered by a shell fragment. He was later captured and confined in the prison at Fort Delaware from January to July, 1865. Clarke and his wife purchased the Louisiana House in New Bern, NC where he served as a trustee and later principal of the New Bern Academy. In 1870, Clarke was appointed Judge of the Superior Court, a position he held until 1874. He was an active Republican and published a weekly newspaper, *The Signal*, to support the party's candidates. He died in New Bern, on January 23, 1886 and was buried in Cedar Grove Cemetery.

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 the Mexican Eagle and wording "City of Mexico — Army of Occupation" in high relief over green enamel. The reverse (pictured above) 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.