



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

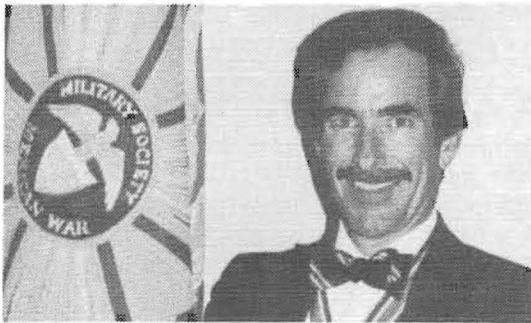
<http://www.walika.com/aztec.htm>

Spring, 1999

Our 152<sup>ND</sup> Year

Editor: Rick Breithaupt

## Acclaim Mounts for Club History



Favorable reviews continue to mount for the *The Aztec Club of 1847, Military Society of the Mexican War: A Sesquicentennial History*. The New England Biographical and Historical Society writes:

"This volume offers a most useful history of the Aztec Club of 1847 on its sesquicentennial anniversary. . . [T]he reader will find carefully-researched biographies of early club members and officers. The genealogist as well as the general reader will be interested in this biographical material. . . This book will be a notable addition to the library of any military historian or genealogist. . ." [NYB&G, January 1999, p 123.]

Gen. Charles C. Krulak, Commandant of the Marine Corps, writes:

"This commemorative is a historical treasure, and I will cherish it always."

The National Genealogical Society has selected the book for a full-length review in an upcoming edition of the *Quarterly*.

Requiring over three years of research, it includes over 150 biographies of original members, and nearly 300 photographs. A narrative history recounts the exploits of West Point graduates during the Mexican War and first-hand accounts of its battles. Also included is a collection of 19 battle maps, statistics and information, documents, writings and 52 contemporary battle scenes not previously available in one volume. The book is hardbound, detailed with gold embossing; wrapped in a handsome full-color dust jacket. 1505 pages. ISBN: 1886085056. See Page 4 for ordering.

## SPRING MEETING SET NEW ORLEANS

### May 19-23, 1999

The Spring Meeting of the Aztec Club will be held at New Orleans, Louisiana, May 19-23. It was in 1718 that the brothers Le Moyne, sieurs d'Iberville and de Bienville, accepted the challenge of establishing a settlement in the steamy bog between the great river and a sea-sized lake, full of alligators, snakes and mosquitoes. Bienville scratched a rough square in the soil with his sword where Nouvelle-Orleans was founded. Despite derelicts France had swept from its prisons onto Louisiana-bound boats that refused to work, somehow levees rose and New Orleans became a territorial capital. The nucleus of Creole society took form, patterned after the court life of Versailles as if in defiance of the crude surroundings.

After four years of neglect by France, Louisiana was ceded to Spain in 1762. Spanish rule was generally wise. When Fra Antonio Sedella arrived to establish the Holy Inquisition, the Spanish governor unceremoniously deported him, declaring that the Inquisition was hardly conducive to colonial immigration. Aristocratic Spaniards perpetuated the gracious lifestyle introduced by the French. During this period the great sugar industry developed on nearby plantations. The city suffered two horrendous fires which destroyed the French Quarter before it was rebuilt. Ownership passed from Spain to France, and then to the United States within one month in 1803 through the Louisiana Purchase. Statehood followed in 1812 and by 1840 New Orleans was the nation's fourth largest city. The famed *Mardi Gras* began in 1857, the first of local institutions to revive following the Civil War. By 1880 the city had fully recovered through Reconstruction efforts.

By special arrangement, a block of rooms have been reserved at discounted rates at the four-star rated Omni Royal Orleans. New Orleans' premier hotel is joined on the city's most regal corner by world famous restaurants. Brennan's, NOLA, K-Paul's, Antoine's, and the Rib Room share this premium French Quarter location. A limited number of rooms are available at discounted rates: Individual Traveler \$129 single/double; Deluxe Queen/Twins: \$169 single/double occupancy. Reservations for rooms should be made directly with the hotel (504-529-5333) or via Omni-Rez at 1-800-THE-OMNI. Ask for the Aztec Club rate. Rooms are available on a first-come first-serve basis. **Reservations must be made not later than April 18<sup>th</sup>.**

The organized program will commence with Wednesday dinner. Organized tours will take place on Thursday, Friday and Saturday leaving ample free time. Our program concludes with dinner Saturday evening.

The Tour package price has been set at \$225 per person. Each attendee is responsible for their own transportation to and from New Orleans. **Meals are not included.** See accompanying story on page 2 for itinerary and details. Make your arrangements early.

## Spring Meeting Itinerary

The New Orleans Spring Meeting will be a memorable weekend. After arrival and check-in at the Omni Royal Orleans, members will meet for dinner at famous Commander's Palace, located in the Garden District.

Thursday begins with the Big Easy City Tour, with transportation by chartered executive coach. The tour travels uptown to the "American" sector to trace the route of the St. Charles Avenue streetcar line, the oldest continuously operated street railway in the world. We'll travel out Esplanade Avenue, shaded by a canopy of live oak, to visit a typical above-ground cemetery, and the 1,500-acre City Park and Bayou St. John. Next, we'll see the "new city", with the Superdome, World Trade Center, Place de France and British Plaza.

Thursday afternoon features the Garden District. The second oldest and most traditional area of New Orleans, the Garden District contains beautiful 19<sup>th</sup> century antebellum mansions set in spacious gardens. We'll travel to the district via a St. Charles Streetcar. A private home will be open for our enjoyment. Inside, you will see a handsome collection of furniture and *object d'art*, and marvel at the skillful adaptation for 20<sup>th</sup> century living. Dinner is on your own.

On Friday morning we will embark on the French Quarter Walking Tour. This personal stroll through the quaint streets of the *Vieux Carre* will acquaint you with the historic beginnings of the city. Professional guides explain the customs, folklore and unique architecture in the European corner of America. Lacy grillwork, secluded courtyards, fascinating antique and pastry shops all symbolic of the captivating lifestyle of the *Vieux Carre*.

Highlighting this informal tour will be the Beauregard-Keyes House, built in 1826 and home to Confederate General Pierre G. T. Beauregard, an original member of the Aztec Club. We will stop by the Louisiana State Museum where, by special arrangement, we will see a collection of artifacts, not currently on exhibit, once belonging to Gen. Zachary Taylor. We will then return to the hotel where lunch is on your own.

On Friday afternoon, we will visit the Longue Vue, a privately owned estate in the heart of the city. The gardens reflect the formality of English terraces, the refreshing green of plants, the tranquility of pastoral woods, and the fascination of moving water. Completed in 1940, its Greek Revival mansion was home to Edgar Bloom Stern and his wife, Edith, daughter of Sears magnate Julius Rosenwald. Furnished with 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> century American and English antiques, the mansion is surrounded by eight acres of landscaped gardens and fountains.

Next on our itinerary is the New Orleans Museum of Art, home of a permanent collection of 35,000 artifacts valued in excess of \$200 million. The collection, noted for its extraordinary strengths in French and American art, photography, glass, African and Japanese works, continues to grow. Paintings, drawings and prints survey the development of Western Civilization. Other collections include the works of Paul Carl Fabergé, Egyptian artifacts and many traveling exhibits. Friday evening will be fun at the 21 Club, a Jazz dinner club.

Saturday features the Bayou Country where today Cajuns live in ways that have changed little since their ancestors arrived from Nova Scotia 200 years ago. Following a ride by chartered coach, we will travel by boat deep inside the swamp, coming face to face with a world of natural wonders — alligators, raccoon, nutria, owls, and of course, native trappers, hunters and fishermen. There will be many opportunities for nature photography and observation of the resident and migratory wildlife of South Louisiana. We'll be provided a Cajun lunch.

Saturday afternoon is on your own. Our Tour will conclude with dinner at Bella Luna. Elegant and fashionable, it offers a fine view of the Mississippi River.

The Tour package includes all fours and admissions. To

maximize the opportunity of enjoying the varied available menu items our group dinners will feature individual ordering off standard menus. Average meal costs at Commander's Palace, 21 Club and Bella Luna are \$40, 35 and 30, respectively, but could be more or less depending on personal preference.

**The Tour Package price is \$225 per person. Reservations and payment in full must be made not later than May 1<sup>st</sup>. (Hotel Reservations due April 18.)**

**To participate in the Spring Meeting, do the following:**

1.) Make your hotel arrangements on or before April 18<sup>th</sup> by calling the Omni Royal Orleans directly; 2.) Make your Tour Reservation by remitting a check payable to the Aztec Club to the President, by May 1, 1999; and 3.) Make appropriate transportation arrangements to and from New Orleans. Should you have any questions, please call Rick Breithaupt at 818-609-0800. Dress for dinner will be sport coat and tie for gentlemen, and appropriate dress for ladies. *There will be no black-tie affair.*

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## AZTEC CLUB INVITED TO DEDICATION OF MEXICAN WAR MONUMENT

The Mexican Government has extended an invitation to the Aztec Club to attend the dedication of a Mexican War monument, currently under construction, in Querétaro, Mexico. Dedication ceremonies are scheduled for September 13, 1999. The monument will honor the fallen soldiers of the State of Querétaro in the War of 1846-1848.

This invitation speaks well of the Club's trip to Mexico in October, 1997 honoring the bravery of all who fought in the War and celebrating 150 years of peace between the United States and Mexico. Members of the Club presented wreaths at Mexico's most hallowed monument, *Monumento de los Niños Héroes*, at Chapultepec Park, and in Querétaro where the peace treaty was ratified. Members interested in attending the Querétaro dedication should send a letter to the President to be included in future mailings.

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### Members Elected Since Last Issue

**Carlo Capomazza di Campolattaro**

Gen. Zachary Taylor  
Army of Occupation

**Carlo E. Capomazza di Campolattaro**

Gen. Zachary Taylor  
Army of Occupation

**Stefano d. R. Capomazza di Campolattaro**

Gen. Zachary Taylor  
Army of Occupation

**Lawrence E. Ducey**

1st Lt. & Capt. (Col.) Charles Henry Innes  
Co. K, 1st Regiment, USA

**John Grant Griffiths**

Lt. (Bvt. 1st Lt. & Capt.) Ulysses Simpson Grant  
4th Infantry, USA

**Brett Allen MacDonald**

Capt. Henry Swartwout  
2nd Artillery, USA

**John Arthur O'Malley**

Brig. Gen. (Bvt. Maj. Gen.) William Jenkins Worth  
USA



# 1998 ANNUAL MEETING

On Saturday, October 10, 1998 the Aztec Club held its Annual Meeting at the Chevy Chase Country Club in Chevy Chase, Maryland. Our featured guest speaker, David M. Sullivan, provided an interesting and colorful account of early Marine Corps history. Guests included Brig. Gen. Edwin H. Simmons, USMC (Ret.) and Col. Michael F. Monigan, USMC, Director of the Marine Corps Historical Center.

The Club's officers were elected to serve another term and the next annual meeting was set for Saturday, October 9, 1999, in Washington.



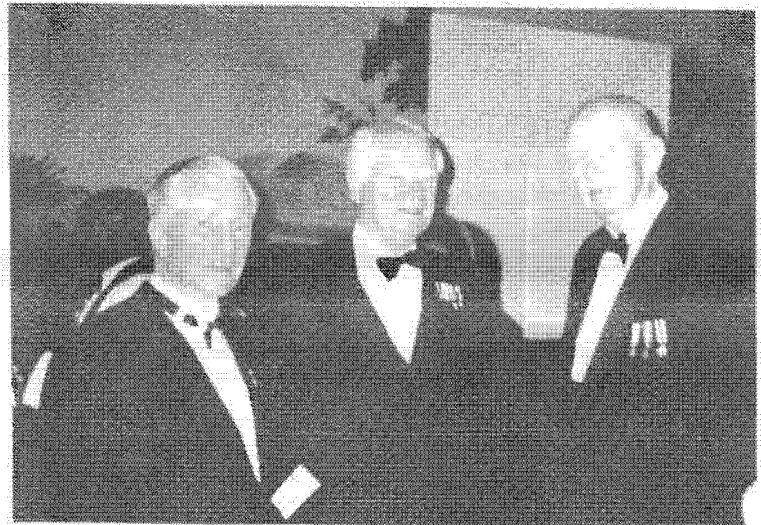
*Honoring the memory and decades of service to the Club of Cdr. Leonard L. Nicholson, III*

L to R: Alexander R. Early, III; Mrs. Leonard L. Nicholson, III; William W. Huss, Jr.; Richard H. Breithaupt, Jr.; Frederick T. D. Hunt; and Joseph C. Stroh.

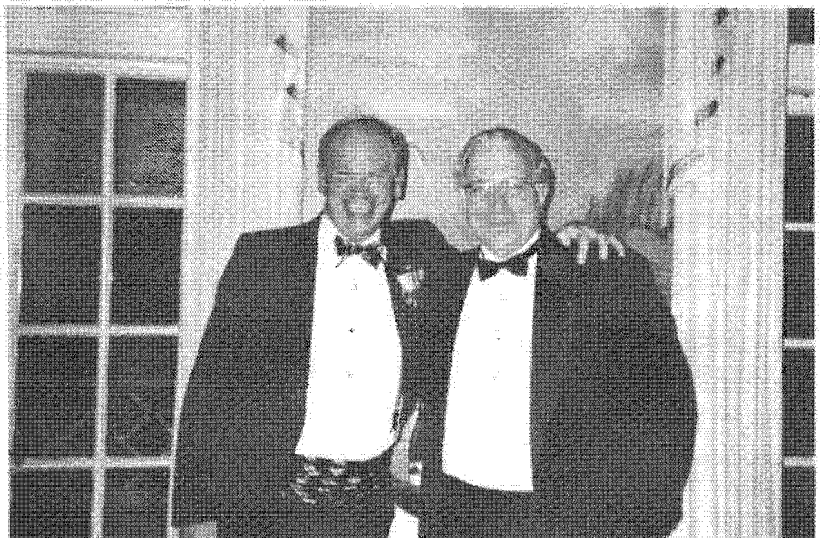


*Members and the Guest Speaker*

L to R: David L. Whelchel, Jr.; James W. Cummings; Richard H. Breithaupt, Jr.; Raymond L. Drake; David M. Sullivan (guest speaker); and Patrick J. Griffin, III. Front: C. Lansdowne Hunt and Thomas J. Turpin.



*Alexander R. Early, III, William W. Huss, Jr. and Frederick T. D. Hunt*



*C. Lansdowne Hunt and David L. Whelchel, Jr.*

## INSIGNIA AVAILABLE



Our membership medal is simply exquisite, struck from a recently new set of dies engraved by artisans at Bailey, Banks & Biddle using an original Aztec Club medal as a model.

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 depicts an American Eagle and wording *Aztec Club — U. S. Army 1847* over red enamel. Pricing, which is subject to change, is as follows:

### Full Size Medal

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

Medals are special-order items requiring written authorization from the Club. Contact the Treasurer or President for an Authorization Chit.

### AVAILABLE FROM THE TREASURER

Blazer Patch	\$ 35.00
Lapel Pin	\$ 45.00
Lapel Pin -- 1880's Reproduction	\$10.00
Tie (four-in-hand)	\$ 35.00

Ties are made of finest silk in Aztec Club colors.

### SESQUICENTENNIAL HISTORY AVAILABLE

Sesquicentennial History \$ 89.95 + \$10.00 shipping

Printed on acid-free paper, hardbound, with gold foil embossing and handsome dust jacket. 1505 pages. ISBN: 1886085056.

Order the Sesquicentennial History at:  
Aztec Club of 1847  
Box 8454, Universal City, CA 91618-8454



<i>President</i>	Mr. Richard H. Breithaupt, Jr. 17220 Hemingway Street Van Nuys, CA 91406-1608 H-818-609-0800
<i>Vice President</i>	Hon. Raymond L. Drake P. O. Box 2 Cripple Creek, CO 80813 H-719-689-3000
<i>Secretary</i>	Hon. William W. Huss, Jr. 800 West First Street #708 Los Angeles, CA 90012 H-213-489-1710
<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
<i>Chaplain</i>	Rev. Dr. Robert C. Carroon 23 Thomson Road West Hartford, CT 06107-2535 H-860-521-8975

### Members of the Executive Committee

Hon. Alexander R. Early, III  
Mr. David L. Whelchel, Jr.

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Capt. Roy Campbell Smith, III, USNR (Ret.)  
Col. William Leland Hires, 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

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