

THE TEOCALI

A Publication of
The Aztec Club of 1847

Spring 2009

A REPORT FROM THE PRESIDENT

A Change of Command: By virtue of a unanimous decision of the Board of the Aztec Club of 1847, I assumed the office of President on Sunday, December 7, 2008, in order to fill the vacancy left by the tragic and untimely death of our distinguished and dedicated President, the Hon. William W. Huss. Judge Huss passed away peacefully at his home in California on November 26, 2008. A full memorial tribute to him and his late wife, Marlene, is found elsewhere in this issue. I will endeavour in the weeks and months ahead to lead the Club with something approaching the same sure hand and unwavering sense of mission demonstrated by the Judge in all his undertakings, both professional and organizational.

This difficult transition has been made much more felicitous by the wonderful advice, skills and talents of the compatriots who serve in the National leadership cadre. I am deeply grateful to Past Presidents Richard Breithaupt, Jr. and Thomas Jefferson Turpin for their extraordinary support. I have likewise received superb assistance from Past President C. Landsdown Hunt, Board members Patrick J. Griffin III, Carlo Capomazza, Gray Heppner, Jr., and Gregory Clemmer. I look forward to working with them all in sustaining and promoting this remarkable heritage institution.

A Superb Website: The Officers and Board constantly strive for new and better ways to increase the membership of the Club. One of the great tools at our disposal is the Club website splendidly designed by Rick Breithaupt, Jr., our gifted Webmaster. I urge you to consult the website at: <http://www.aztecclub.com> --This site contains a wealth of pertinent Aztec information and data, including: the Club application, notes and directions for completing the application, and a wonderful list of propositii (US commissioned officers in the War with Mexico) found under the heading "Full Name Search". The application and instructions are encrypted, so compatriots who wish to propose relatives and friends must contact the Webmaster or one of the National Officers for the web addresses of the application PDF and for copies of the Club brochure (PDF). Contact information for all National Officers is found on the last page of this newsletter. Please remember that membership is by invitation only. The Club generally does not accept "cold" inquiries from non-members accessing the website.

The 2009 Annual Meeting: I am currently consulting the National Officers about an appropriate date for the Club's Annual Meeting. According to ancient custom, the Annual Meeting is generally held on the Saturday evening nearest the Club's October 13 founding date. We plan to hold the meeting and dinner at our traditional venue, the splendid Chevy Chase Country Club, located in Bethesda, MD, near its border with the District of Columbia. Cmdr. Lanny Hunt, our host, is negotiating with the CCCC to secure an October date. As soon as the date is established, you will each receive an invitation to this august event. I have secured the services of a renowned military historian who will be our guest speaker, and whose topic will be a profile of the young warriors who comprised this nation's officer corps during the Mexican conflict.

Kudos to Capomazza: I want to pay special tribute to the Commander of our New Orleans Camp, Compatriot Carlo Capomazza, who has recruited three new members since the beginning of 2009 and who has more in the pipeline. I would love to "clone" Carlo and send those clones to every major city in the US. By doing so, the size of the Aztec would double in a period of months! Carlo's report on his New Orleans activities and initiatives is found elsewhere in this issue. Compatriots Heppner and Richard

Wright are co-chairing the Membership & Recruitment Committee. If you have recruitment suggestions for them, their contact information is found on the final page of this document. It has been suggested by several compatriots that the Aztec should advertise in appropriate lineage society publications (specifically the War Between the States lineage societies, as many of the officers in that conflict saw service in Mexico). This might indeed serve as an effective means of attracting potential applicants and raising the Club's general profile. Other compatriots have suggested that such advertising might be in conflict with our tradition of a lineage society whose membership is by invitation only. Please share your opinions about this matter with Compatriots Heppner and Wright.

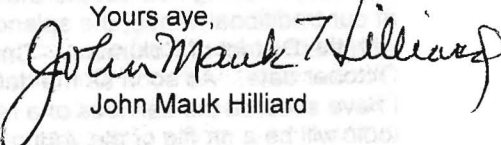
An Insignia Crisis: An additional housekeeping matter of which you should all be aware, is the grave news that Bailey Banks & Biddle, the venerable establishment that has long produced our Aztec medals and other insignia, has been acquired by another firm which is demanding that all of BBB's dies and molds be turned over to it. The dies used in striking all our insignia were commissioned by, and thus are owned by, the Club. Rich Breithaupt, our redoubtable Past President, who provided the prototypes for new dies from ancient Aztec Club medals which he located on the antiquities market, made the original arrangements for having a new generation of medals struck for the Club. He has graciously volunteered to contact the manufacturing plant which produced the medals for BBB in order to reaffirm our ownership of the dies and to secure them for our future use. We will report at the annual meeting on the progress of this essential matter.

To Honor General Scott: Our very creative compatriot Rich Griffin has suggested that the Club should adopt as a long term project the placement and dedication of a commemorative plaque at the magnificent equestrian statue of General Winfield Scott which stands at the center of Scott Circle in the District of Columbia. Famed sculptor Henry Kirke Brown originally intended to depict Scott, a Mexican War Hero atop the placid mare which the very stout General rode during the Civil War at the end of his career. Scott's relatives however objected because, by custom, Generals were never shown riding mares. Sculptor Brown performed a rapid sex-change procedure before the final cast was made so that the General now sits astride a stallion in all its natural glory. The Board has endorsed this commemorative project and we will proceed in the months and years ahead with the completion of this noble plan.

The Club on Wikipedia: Past President Rick Breithaupt, Jr. informs us that the Aztec Club now has its own entry in Wikipedia, the Internet's predominant encyclopedia. The entry is apparently based upon our website, but like most Wikipedia entries, is anonymously generated. This will help to spread the word about the Club and we hope will result in additional membership inquiries. As Rick says, a Wikipedia entry is the highest form of flattery!

A Final Personal Word: I am deeply honored to serve out the remainder of our dear Judge Huss' term of office and I look forward to working with all the compatriots of the Aztec Club of 1847 as we salute and cherish the great heritage of the brave young Americans who went forth in all their vigour, courage and determination to prosecute this difficult war.

Yours aye,



John Mauk Hilliard

IN MEMORIAM

William W. Huss

The Hon. William W. Huss, Superior Court Los Angeles (Ret.), and current President of the Aztec Club of 1847 peacefully passed away at the home he shared with his wife, Marlene, on November 26, 2008 due to pulmonary fibrosis. He was 76. Born on September 9, 1932 in Gastonia, NC, Judge Huss eventually moved to Los Angeles, CA and earned a BA in finance in USC. He earned his JD from USC Law Center in 1965. Bill worked as a civil trial attorney for 15 years before founding his own law firm. He was appointed to the bench by Gov. Deukmejian and presided over civil and criminal trials.

After retirement in 1995, he became a fulltime mediator and arbitrator. He was a founder of St. James Episcopal School in Los Angeles and a Vice-Chancellor of the Los Angeles Episcopal Diocese. He served 26 years in the US Naval Reserve retiring as Captain. In addition to his service as President of the Aztec Club, he was an officer in the Order of St. Lazarus of Jerusalem and in the Sons of the Revolution. Judge Huss was a poet, playwright, percussionist, and scholar of ancient Sumer. He was married for over 32 years to Marlene Coleman Huss and is survived by three children, Matthew, Charlyn and Damon, four grandchildren, his brother Christopher, his sisters Hansel, Katrina and JoHelen. The Judge's beloved wife, Marlene, passed away in the peace and quiet of her home with her family around her on Monday, January 26, 2009 from advanced cancer. A joint memorial service for these two remarkable people was held on Saturday, February 14, 2009 at the Episcopal Cathedral of St. Paul. The Huss family has asked that memorial donations be directed to the St. James Episcopal School Los Angeles, tele 213.382.2315, website <http://www.sjsla.org/>

The Judge and his wife were the co-authors of several books, including "Homeowners Associations and You: The Ultimate Guide to Harmonious Community Living" and a downtown Los Angeles restaurant guide. Marlene Huss was a pediatrician with a private practice in Newport Beach for more than 25 years. She was also Associate Clinical Professor of Family Medicine at the Keck School of Medicine at USC, where for more than 15 years she taught the course "Introduction to Clinical Medicine" to freshman students. She was a Captain in the US Naval Corps and authored several books. These two talented and splendid professionals will be sorely missed by all their loved ones and by the many communities they so faithfully served.

William L. Hires

Aztec compatriot William Hires of Haverford PA died peacefully on Saturday, February 14, 2009. Beloved husband of Karen Reynolds Hires and devoted father of Jennifer Hires (Robert Wilson), he is also survived by his stepchildren Frank, Lisa and Keith Perrot and their families and several nieces and nephews and their families. A memorial celebration of his life was held on Saturday, February 28 at the Marion Cricket Club. Memorial services were in St. Peter's Episcopal Churchyard. Memorial contributions may be directed to Friends of Independence National Historical Park, 143 South 3rd. St. Phila. PA. 19106.

His dear friend and our distinguished Past President Commander Conway Lansdowne Hunt of Washington DC said of Compatriot Hires: "As a fellow former President of the Aztec Club of 1847, Bill Hires was a mentor to me and a close friend of my father. He coordinated with the Carlyle Barracks to archive many of the Club's heirlooms which to this day are still cataloged there."

The Aztec Club remembers with gratitude the faithful service of Past President William Hires.

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE OCTOBER 2008 ANNUAL MEETING

President William W. Huss called the Annual Meeting of the Aztec Club of 1847 to order on Oct. 11th 2008 at the Chevy Chase Country Club (MD). After delivering his Treasurer's Report, Cdr. C. Lansdown Hunt was thanked for his stewardship of the Club's funds and asset allocation during these uncertain economic times. Compatriot Rick Griffin delivered a report summarizing the Spring meeting of the Eastern segment of the Aztec Club held at the Chevy Chase Club on May 24, 2008. Among the proposals considered were: an Aztec Club project to dedicate a plaque at the statue in the District of Columbia of General Winfield Scott which stands at Scott Circle; Aztec Club participation at the 200 birthday of President Abraham Lincoln in 2009; proposal to secure possible 501(c)(3) status for the Aztec Club. (*Nota Bene: We encourage volunteers among our membership who are members of the Bar, to step forward to shepherd this 501(c)(3) to fruition.*) Also proposed was the need for a new mission statement, an updated membership list, certificates of eligibility for junior members, and reproduction period currency for recruitment and publicity purposes. Each of the foregoing proposals was approved. Mr. Griffin was thanked by President Huss on behalf of the Club.

President Huss broached the subject of the Club's trademark status and indicated he had done research on the subject of legal trademarks. In addition, Past President Rick Breithaupt, in order to secure our insignia, has proceeded with a formal application to the US Office of Patents & Trademarks to register our medals and symbols, thereby further protecting the same from possible infringement.

Col. Heppner initiated a discussion on education and recruitment and noted opportunities for the Club to participate in donor programs to libraries, increased internet exposure, and target recruiting in other hereditary societies. Col. Wright suggested the possibility of advertising the Aztec Club in publications of the Military Order of Stars & Bars, the Sons of Union Veterans, the Sons of Confederate Veterans, the National Order of the Blue & Gray, the Sons of the American Revolution, the Sons of the Revolution and other lineage societies where might be found descendants of commissioned officers of the US forces in the Mexican War. Col. Wright also mentioned the possibility of writing articles pertinent to the Mexican War to appear in historical journals, as well as the history sections of prominent newspapers in major US cities. A motion to create a Membership and Retention Committee was passed by unanimous consent, and President Huss named Col. Heppner as Chairman and Col. Wright as Vice-Chairman of this committee.

CDR. C. Lansdown Hunt moved that Aztec members elected last year remain in office for another year. The Officers were voted in by acclamation: Judge William W. Huss, President; John Mauk Hilliard, Vice-President; Greg Clemmer, Secretary; C. Lansdown Hunt, Treasurer; Rick Griffin, Board Member.

The Aztec Club is indebted to Rick Griffin for providing a comprehensive and thorough set of minutes for the October 11, 2008 annual meeting.

Report to the Secretary of the Aztec Club of 1847

Ever since my friend David L. Garrison, Jr. began talking to me about the Mexican - American war of 1846-48 and specifically of the Aztec Club of 1847, I have been interested and desirous to start a group associated with this Club in the city of New Orleans.

In the wonderful and incredibly interesting book that one of our former past Presidents , Richard H. Breithaupt, wrote about the Club there is a list of thousands of officers of the army, navy and marines that fought in the Mexican war and I found many of these names to be familiar ones in the city of New Orleans.

I started going through the list and marked all the names that I recognized and to my surprise there were quite a few. Well I didn't do anything for a few years while thinking of how best to approach the problem. Then one year I went to the national meeting of the Order of St. Lazarus of Jerusalem in Houston and met the Hon. Judge William B. Huss who had just been appointed to the number two position on the board of the Order and I explained to him what I had been working on and thinking about for quite some time. We talked and I felt very encouraged by my conversation with him and outlined a plan of action to start developing my ideas for the creation of a group in New Orleans. I was appointed by Bill to the Board of the organization and made a Vice Chair of the Southern Committee.

All this culminated in the meeting which was held in our fair city on March 30th of 2008 at the New Orleans Country Club. I was able to gather 20 people of whom 14 showed an interest in the organization and a willingness to participate as members of this prestigious Club.

Unfortunately Bill Huss was unable to participate due to an illness and the Great Grandson of Jefferson Davis was also absent due to a move to a new residence.

Needless to say the meeting went well and was very informative for the potential members attending. They had a wonderful time and if I may say so, also a very good dinner.

The Chairman of the Southern Committee, Brig. Gen. John Napier was in attendance and gave a very informative talk on the Aztec Club of 1847. Its origin and the reason for its creation and what it means as a Hereditary Society.

After the meeting I sent a few applications to the interested parties with instructions for filling the forms and suggested the use of a very fine Genealogist, Pat Fenerty, who is now working on at least 6 applications.

It will take some more time and effort to get a real nice group together and I hope this will happen at some point in the near future. The foundation has been established and now we must start building on it so future generations can share the bonds of friendship that our ancestors enjoyed.

Yours Truly,
Carlo Capomazza di Campolattaro

A HEARTY WELCOME TO OUR NEW AZTEC COMPATRIOTS

ELECTED 2008

John Robert Harmon, Jr., 2112 White Oak Road, Raleigh NC 27608, Ancestor: CDR David Glasgow Farragut, USS Saratoga

Donald Gray Heppner, Jr., 9441 Brenner Court, Vienna VA 22180, Ancestor: 2nd LT Van Rennsalaer Otey, Voltigeurs Foot Riflemen

Grayson Mallet-Provost Murphy, 227 Church St., #31, New Haven CT 06501, Son of Member Dr. Grayson Mallet-Provost

John Michael Phelps, 5 Reed Ranch Rd, Tiburon CA 94920, Ancestor: Passed Midshipman Thomas Stowell Phelps, USS Polk

ELECTED 2009

Benjamin Bryant Martin, 14610 W. Salisbury Rd, Midlothian VA 23113 (A cadet at VMI) Grandson of member Dr. Jack Jones Early
Ancestor: Maj. Jubal Anderson Early

David Ross Reese, 125 Woodland Ave., Hazard KY 41701, Ancestor: Capt. Cassius Marcellus Clay, KY Infantry

Howard Clark Gaines, 6 Farnham Pl., Metairie LA 70005, Ancestor: (collateral) 2nd LT Francis Young Gaines, 3rd Dragoons AL Volunteers

Walker Young Ronaldson, Jr., 1119 Delachaise St., New Orleans LA 70115, Ancestor: (collateral) 2nd LT George Edward Pickett, 8th Infantry, US Army

Prescott Nelson Dunbar, 2423 Prytania St., New Orleans LA 70115, Ancestor: (collateral) 2nd LT Abisha Lawton Morrison, Co. A, 1st Indiana Volunteers

William Irwin Berryhill, Jr., 651 Mellowfield Dr., Ste. 108, Raleigh NC 27604, Ancestor: 2nd LT Robert F. Webb, Co. F, 1st Regt. NC Volunteers.

FUTURE MEMBERS

The Aztec Club warmly congratulates our members The Hon. Richard Bender Abell, and his son, Christian Aven Lombana Abell, who are pictured in the Winter 2007 newsletter of the Pennsylvania Society of the Sons of the Revolution holding the 3rd generation of PSSAR members and Aztec future members (Judge Abell's grandsons) Mark Thomas Foreman, Jackson Ray Welch Abell and PSSR's newest junior member, Walker Lewis Christian Abell. We look forward someday to welcoming to Aztec membership these third generation members of the Abell family!

**OFFICERS OF THE AZTEC CLUB OF 1847
FOR THE YEAR 2009**

President

Mr. John Mauk Hilliard
POBox 207
New York NY 10016-0207
maukhilliard@hotmail.com
718-274-5295

LCDR. Richard M. Wright, USCG (Ret.)
12010 Vale Road
Oakton VA 22124-2321
dick.wright@rotor.com

Vice-President

(vacant)

Col. D. Gray Heppner, Jr. MD USA
9441 Brenner Ct.
Vienna VA 22180
grayheppner@gmail.com

Secretary

Mr. Gregory Scott Clemmer
14513 Brookmead Drive
Darnestown MD 20874
yorkst@aol.com

Treasurer

Cmdr. Conway Lansdowne Hunt, USN (Ret.)
9101 MacMahon Drive
Burke VA 22015-1621
lanny0706@netscape.net
h - 703.503.0593

Recent Past Presidents

Capt. Thomas J. Turpin, USN (Ret.)
(1990-1991)

Cmdr. C. Lansdowne Hunt, USN (Ret.)
(1992)

Registrar

Capt. Thomas Jefferson Turpin, USN (Ret.)
1010 American Eagle Blvd. Apt. 315
Sun City Center, FL 33573
tturpin1@tampabay.rr.com
h - 813.633.1020

Mr. Richard Hoag Breithaupt, Jr.
(1995-2004)

Judge Raymond Lawrence Drake
(1995-2006)

Judge William W. Huss (dec.)
(2007-2008)

Committee Chairs

Mr. Carlo Capomazza di Campolattaro
1614 State St.
New Orleans LA 70118-6120
ccapomazza@yahoo.com
b - 504.891.4220

Mr. Patrick Joseph Griffin III
14101 Berryman Rd.
Darnestown MD 20874
rebeleco@aol.com