



# Order of the Steel Magnolias

*Magnolia Messenger*  
Newsletter Volume 7  
Summer Edition II ~ July 2022



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## Reminder Announcement

The Order of the  
Steel Magnolias  
Annual Meeting is  
**Sunday, July 24, 2022**

See page 5 for details and don't forget to **REGISTER** for the  
Zoom Meeting

*Love • ONE • Another*

Report corrections to the  
Secretary Sue Southern  
[suesouthern2019@gmail.com](mailto:suesouthern2019@gmail.com)



Report illnesses and deaths to the  
Chaplain Teresa Roane  
[roane1894@gmail.com](mailto:roane1894@gmail.com)



**Website:**  
*[OrderoftheSteelMagnolias.weebly.com](http://OrderoftheSteelMagnolias.weebly.com)*

**Newsletter Cover Art by:**  
Leslie Kirk



# Order of the Steel Magnolias

2021-2024



## Executive Board

### President

Leslie Ann Kirk

### Vice President

Patricia Gallagher

### Secretary

Sue Hansford Jaworowski Southern

### Treasurer

Barb Allison

### Historian

Lila Burner Housden

### Chaplain

Teresa Roane

### Counselor

Deborah Whitmore Hicks

### Registrar

Robin Redfearn Towns

### Parliamentarian

LTC Charles Robert Odom

### Recruiter

Carla Whitehurst Odom

## Committee Chairmen

### Newsletter Editor

*Magnolia Messenger*

Jean Schaum Bradley

### Contributing Editor

Carla Whitehurst Odom

### Finance

Lynda Aydelott Moreau

### Public Relations

Lila Burner Housden

### Ancestor Biography Project

*Steel Magnolia Stories*

Julie Palmer Hesler

### Website

Leslie Ann Kirk



## President General Message



Dear OSM members,

Happy Fifth Anniversary to the Order of the Steel Magnolias. It's hard to believe five years have passed since our Inaugural Tea in Montgomery, Alabama. We are happy to have you on this journey whether you have been a member from the beginning or are a new member.

I mentioned in our Summer 2022 newsletter (Volume 6) that an additional abbreviated version newsletter would be sent prior to our annual meeting.

This edition contains our officer and committee reports and two excellent articles “**Little Sorrel – A Gallant Legend**” for our newly created Gallant Guard gentlemen’s page and “**The First Steel Magnolias**” written by our Historian General and Public Relations Committee Chair Lila Burner Housden. I can’t tell you how much I appreciate Lila and our Recruiter General and Contributing Editor Carla Whitehurst Odom for writing articles for the *Magnolia Messenger*. If you have an article you’d like to submit please email me.

My president’s report will be given at the meeting and published in our next newsletter.

We look forward to seeing you Sunday, July 24, 2022 on Zoom. Please be sure to register via the link that was emailed to you. If you need the link sent again, please let me know. Currently, we have over 75 people registered. We all pray this will be the last electronic annual meeting. The executive board has secured The Army and Navy Club in D.C. for an in person meeting on Monday, April 10, 2023. We hope to see you there.

Blessings to you and your family and have a safe summer.

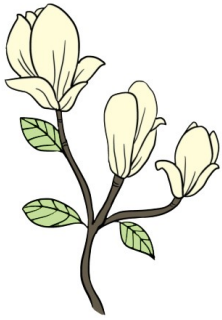
*Leslie*



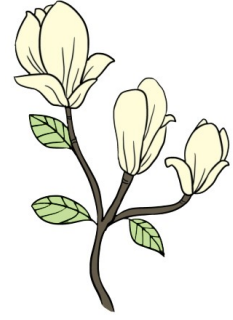
The Order of the Steel Magnolias is proud to support the Hereditary Society Community of the United States of America “HSC” as a **PERPETUAL SPONSOR**. HSC is a non-profit organization, founded in 2002, which reports the information and activities of over 300 lineage societies throughout the nation. The organization meets every April, in Washington, D.C., for an annual meeting and gala event. If lineage societies interest you, be sure to visit HSC’s website. It provides a wealth of information and an extensive list of organizations and family associations.

Website address: [www.hereditary.us](http://www.hereditary.us)

## Upcoming Meeting



### *The Order of the Steel Magnolias*



*President General Leslie Ann Kirk  
and the General Officers  
Cordially Invite you to attend the  
Fifth Annual Membership Meeting  
Sunday, July 24, 2022  
3:00 pm Central Time  
Electronically via Zoom*

*Register in advance for this meeting.*

*A link was emailed to members*

*<https://us02web.zoom.us/join/91532926321>*

*A confirmation email with the meeting link  
will be sent after registration.*

### *Guest Speaker*

John Lustrea is the Director of Education and the Website Manager at the National Museum of Civil War Medicine in historic Frederick, Maryland. He earned his Master's degree in Public History from the University of South Carolina. Lustrea previously worked at Harpers Ferry National Historical Park during the summers of 2013-2016.

**Reminder**  
**Memorial Service for**  
**Charter Member & Historian National**  
**Felicia C. Wilt**  
**Sunday, July 24, 2022**



*In Loving Memory*

*Charter Member & Historian National*

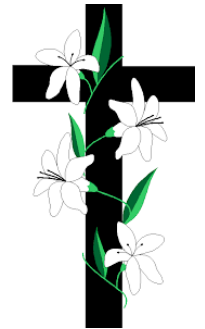
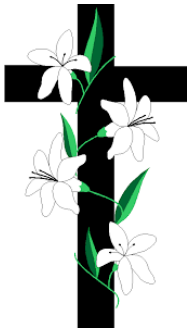
*Felicia C. Wilt*

*Died: November 30, 2021*

*Ancestor: Mary Elizabeth Bateman Potts*

*(Wife of Pleasant Potts)*

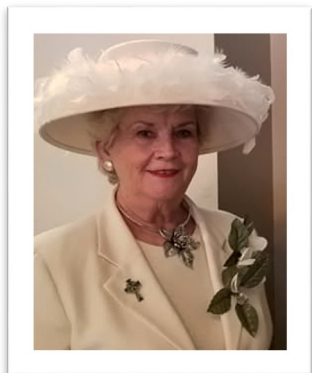
*Rest in Peace*





# Order of the Steel Magnolias Officer Reports

**2021-2022**



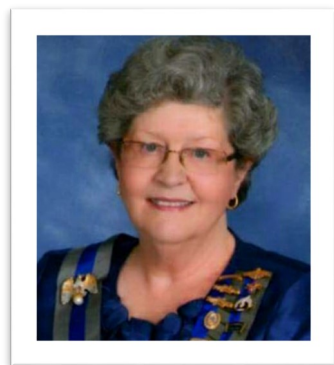
**Vice President  
Patricia Gallagher**

This officer has been available to the President for any request she has required or needed. Keeping track of the insignia orders has been an interesting position. I am delighted to say that we have sold 23 pieces of our insignia amounting to \$2,213.37

It has been difficult these last two years for all of us however, the opportunity to meet again via Zoom is very encouraging.

It has been a pleasure to serve in the Kirk administration.

Patricia Gallagher



**Treasurer  
Barb Allison**

Treasurer's report will be presented at the annual meeting.

Checking Account Balance \$9,445.25

Money Market Balance \$20,986.04

Total Combined: \$30,431.29

Barb Allison





# Order of the Steel Magnolias Officer Reports

**2021-2022**

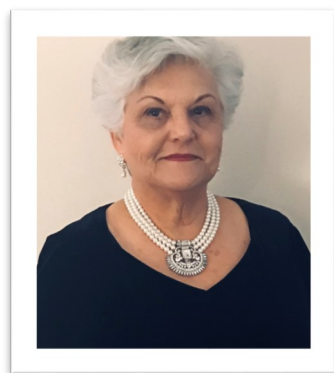


**Secretary**  
**Sue Hansford Jaworowski Southern**

This officer has taken the minutes, made corrections, and distributed as necessary. She has performed all duties assigned to her by President General Leslie Kirk.

It has been a pleasure to serve as this organizations Secretary General.

Sue Hansford Jaworowski Southern



**Historian**  
**Lila Burner Housden**

This officer is humbled to fulfil the term of our beloved friend, Felicia Wilt.

At this time, I have not completed any tasks as Historian. I look forward to doing so in the near future. It is my pleasure to serve the Kirk Administration.

Respectfully submitted,

Lila Housden

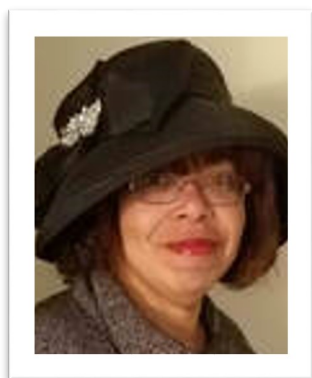






# Order of the Steel Magnolias Officer Reports

**2021-2022**

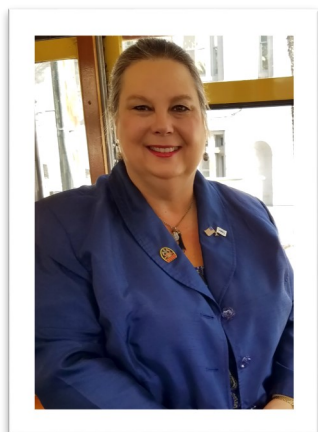


**Chaplain  
Teresa Roane**

This officer has lead prayers when called upon by President General Leslie Kirk. She has mailed six sympathy cards and two get well cards.

It has been a pleasure to serve as this organizations Chaplain General.

Teresa Roane



**Counselor  
Deborah Whitmore Hicks, Esq.  
Co-Founder**

This officer has participated in the business of the executive board via email, cast my vote as appropriate, and has assisted the President General as called upon.

This officer checked the irs.gov 990-N filings and note that the Order filed for 501(c)(3) public charity status on 4/2/2021, which application was granted on 7/26/2021, effective April 2, 2021. The Treasurer General filed the 990-N for tax years 2020 and 2021.

It is a pleasure to serve in the Kirk administration and I look forward to seeing you at the 2023 annual meeting in Washington, D.C.

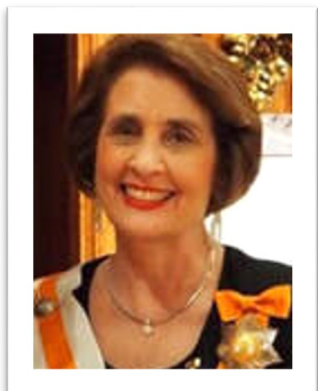
Deborah W Hicks





# Order of the Steel Magnolias Officer Reports

**2021-2022**



**Registrar  
Robin Redfearn Towns**

This Officer appreciates being appointed to serve as Registrar for the remainder of term. The Registrar has distributed Order of the Steel Magnolias membership application information to numerous individuals, as requested, and as directed by the President.

Twenty-four (24) new member and six (6) supplemental applications have been reviewed and approved to date. List on following page.

Upon approval of each application, the appropriate Executive Officers have been notified of the member's approval and provided with an electronic copy of page one of the approved application. The President prepares and sends the Membership Certificate to each new member and enters the data into the Society's spreadsheet. Checks for application fees have been recorded and mailed to the Treasurer in a timely manner.

It has been a quite interesting and enlightening endeavor, and an honor to serve.

Robin R. Towns



**New Members**





# Order of the Steel Magnolias Officer Reports

**2021-2022**

**Registrar Continued  
Robin Redfearn Towns**

**New Member Applications**

Jean Troy Schaum Bradley; SM: Frances Carolina Steed Bailey  
Sandra Mavis Grace Pennington; SM: Sonora Matthews Cranford  
Lynne Marie Allen Tate; SM: Ann Theodocia Griggs Ward  
Sheila June Beatty; SM: Juda Woodward Williams Powell  
Claire Lorrie Christian White; SM: Frances Smith Holdway:  
Cheryl Oneda Bloodworth Aultman; SM: Emma Jane Hicks Dent  
Regina Marie Abernathy Ragan; SM: Mary Jane Browder Lewis  
Sharon Kaufelt Stine; SM: Caroline Virginia James Thomas  
Sheila Gail Gaddy; SM: Nancy Ann Batey Gaddy  
Mary Ellen Cooper Borgeson; SM: Elizabeth Cassandra Obedience Philpott Bruce  
Terry Martin DeWitt; SM: Mary Langston James  
Barbara Ann Culpepper Pichler; SM: Sarah Catherine Boswell Culpepper  
Sheila Lynn Alford Means; SM: Almeda Jane Leggett Kolb  
Mary Katherine Brown Turner; SM: Louisa Crowder Mercer  
Elizabeth Grace Chapman; SM: Mary Elizabeth Machen Hammond  
Renee Marie Willingham Hamilton; SM: Martha Johnson Hamilton  
Suzanne Lee Wilmeth Anderson; SM: Sarah Thompson Francis  
Harriett Marie Story DeWitt; SM: Eliza Wiggins Story  
Helen Elizabeth Story; SM: Eliza Wiggins Story  
Lisa Dawn Smith Luckey; SM: Drucilla Gardner Butler  
Linda Kay Kuykendall; SM: Louisa Adeline Findley Kuykendall  
Trisha Ann Holland Moseley; SM: Permelia Carolyn Goodwin Childress  
Cynthia Kay Newman McGuffey; SM: Clarinda Herrington Kirby  
Mary Ellen Fore Brillante; SM: Loucretia Phillips Perry

**Supplementals**

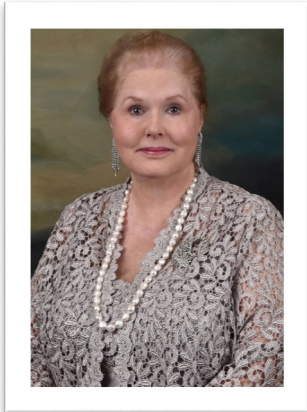
Brenda Lou Baker King; SUP # 1: Katherine Elizabeth Hunsucker Smith  
Nancy Louise Plummer Hoffer; SUP # 1: Annie Lipscomb Robinson Brown  
Nancy Louise Plummer Hoffer; SM SUP # 2: Rebecca Chisum Hill Robinson  
Nancy Louise Plummer Hoffer; SM SUP # 3: Alice Shackelford Brown  
Nancy Louise Plummer Hoffer; SM SUP # 4: Sarah A. Chisenhall Shackelford  
Nancy Louise Plummer Hoffer; SM SUP # 5: Belvidere S. Tully Shakelford





# Order of the Steel Magnolias Officer Reports

**2021-2022**



**Recruiter**  
**Carla Whitehurst Odom**  
**Co-Founder**

Thank you to President General Kirk for appointing me to the position of Recruiter. The purpose of this office is to promote male membership. These members will be featured as Gallant Guards of the Society. This officer has worked with President Kirk, Public Relations Chair Lila Housden and the general officers to designate a webpage and a featured newsletter page for the Gallant Guards. She has obtained pricing for ads in several leading gentlemen's publications and worked with PR Housden to obtain pricing for a small pin with crossed silver sabers featuring scabbards. The pins would be earmarked for presentation to gentlemen members.

It has been a pleasure to serve the Order of the Steel Magnolias

Carla Odom



**Parliamentarian**  
**LTC Charles Robert Odom**

This officer stands ready to assist the President and advise on parliamentary procedures when asked.

It has been my pleasure to serve in the Kirk administration.

Charles R. Odom





## Order of the Steel Magnolias Committee Reports

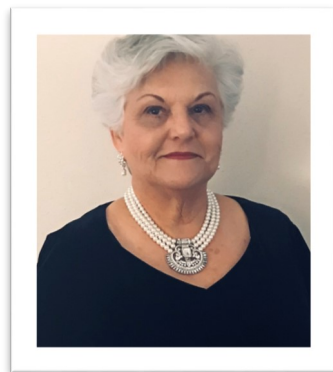
**2021-2022**



**Finance Chair**  
**Lynda Aydelott Moreau**

The Finance Report and proposed 2022-2023 Budget will be presented at the annual meeting.

Lynda Moreau



**Public Relations**  
**Lila Burner Housden**

I am honored to serve as the Chairman of Public Relations for the Order of Steel Magnolia.

I have worked closely with Mrs. Kirk on newsletters and the Order's Facebook page, including posting items of interest to the membership.

I am very excited to continue to assist where asked to promote the Order of Steel Magnolia.

It is my great pleasure to serve the Kirk Administration.

Respectfully submitted,

Lila Housden





## Order of the Steel Magnolias Committee Reports

### 2021-2022



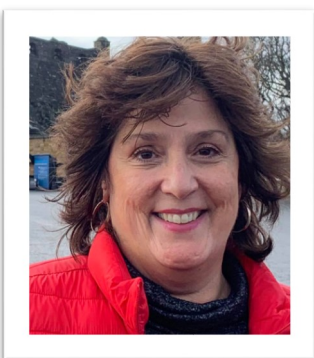
#### ***Steel Magnolia Stories (Ancestor Bio Project)***

##### **Julie Palmer Hesler**

Thank you for your support of our Ancestor Bio Project. To date, we have 33 biographical sketches of our ancestors toward our target of 100 for publishing our first volume. Many of these touching submissions include photographs of headstones, historical homes, and the Steel Magnolias themselves.

Interest and participating appears to be growing, with 21 of those submissions coming since our April 2021 Annual Meeting. Please continue to submit your stories. You can find the submission form on the Members Page of the Order of the Steel Magnolias website. Thank you for this opportunity to serve in the Kirk administration.

Julie Palmer Hesler

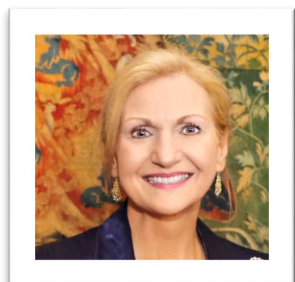


#### **Newsletter Editor**

##### **Jean Schaum Bradley**

It's a pleasure to edit the Order of the Steel Magnolia Newsletter. It's fascinating to read and President Leslie Ann Kirk does an incredible job of pulling bits and pieces of history to share. I'd encourage anyone to submit news, appropriate articles (both old and new!) and other information to share.

Jean Bradley



#### **Website**

##### **Leslie Ann Kirk**

This Committee Chair has kept the website current with officers, ancestors, meeting announcements and photos. She encourages members to visit the website and to share OSM with others. It's my pleasure to serve the Steel Magnolias.



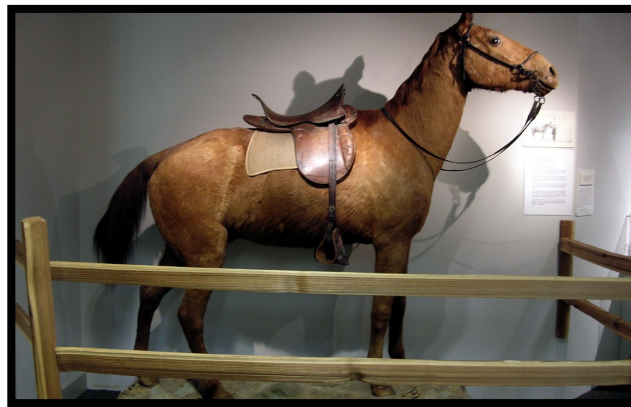
## Gallant Guards OSM Gentlemens Page



Honoring the first  
Order of the Steel Magnolias  
Gallant Guards (Gentlemen Members)

Honor Guard Charles Robert Odom, Co-Founder  
Honor Guard Charles "Chuck" Poland, Founding Member  
Honor Guard Jack Grady Dyess, \* Founding Member  
Honor Guard Baxter Keith Bedell, Charter Member  
Honor Guard Mark Anthony Chambers, Charter Member  
Honor Guard Harold Douglas Ford, Charter Member  
Honor Guard Terry Martin DeWitt, Member  
Honor Guard John E. Idenden, Member

*The first 25 Gallant Guard members will be known as the Honor Guard  
Only 17 Honor Guard spots left ~ Gentlemen get your applications mailed to Robin Towns*



*Photo Credit: Civil War Profiles.com*

Little Sorrel's preserved hide on display  
in the Virginia Military Institute Museum





# Gallant Guards OSM Gentlemens Page



## Little Sorrel – A Gallant Legend

By: Lila Burner Housden

In 1850 Noah C. Collins would welcome a small red stud colt to his farm near Somers, Connecticut. Little did he know that a legend had been born that day. That little red colt grew into a sturdy mount of Morgan descent.

Little Sorrel began his military career when he was purchased by the US Government as a mount for the War Between the States. He was in a large group of horses captured by southern forces at Harper's Ferry, WV. Shortly after the capture of these mounts Thomas J. Jackson, aka Stonewall Jackson, was in need of a new calvary mount. As Jackson reviewed the horses, two caught his eye. One, a large rambunctious and unruly chestnut stallion. The other a small rather sweet sorrel gelding. He thought the large stallion would serve him well in battle and the sweet, little gelding, he called Fancy, would be lovely gift for his beloved wife, Anna.

As fate would have it, that large stallion, known as Big Sorrel, was jumpy and frightened easily, while the little sorrel gelding was calm and matter of fact in every encounter. Needless to say, that fancy little sorrel received a new name, Little Sorrel, and a new career.



*Jackson meets Little Sorrel*

*By: John Paul Strain*

Stories and legends tell us that Little Sorrel was about 15 hands of solid confidence. Records show he easily traveled forty miles a day and charged bravely into battle. With his beautiful gaits and stamina, Jackson (who rarely stopped to rest or sleep) often slept while riding Little Sorrel, trusting him to take them both safely back to camp. Jackson once remarked, “a seat on him was like being rocked in a cradle.”

Jackson was riding Little Sorrel on May 2, 1863, at the Battle of Chancellorsville when he received what was to be a mortal wound. After Jackson was removed to receive medical attention Little Sorrel was found by two artillery soldiers. One of the soldiers rode the horse for several days until the gelding was discovered





# Gallant Guards OSM Gentlemens Page



## Little Sorrel – A Gallant Legend

### Continued

to be Little Sorrel. The brave little horse was taken to General J.E.B Stuart who sent Little Sorrel to Jackson's beloved wife, Anna. Anna took Little Sorrel with her to North Carolina to live with her at Cottage Home.

"His eyes were his chief beauty, being most intelligent and expressive and as soft as a gazelle's," Mary Anna Jackson wrote in the "Life and Letters of Stonewall Jackson."

Little Sorrel stayed with Anna Jackson until 1883 when finances found her unable to properly care for her husband's brave mount. She found a perfect home for him at the Virginia Military Institute in Virginia.



*Little Sorrel and Jackson*

*By: Mort Kunstler*

The VMI Cadets cared for Little Sorrel and spoiled him completely. He was described as a complete rascal, able to undo latches, let down bars, and gleefully free every horse in the barn. He was known to remove fence rails whenever he wanted to venture into new fields of opportunity.

Little Sorrel grazed on the VMI parade ground and apparently relished the institute's martial atmosphere. A doctor on post in the 1880s later wrote that "when the cadets, during practice, began firing rifle or cannon, Old Sorrel would come running onto the parade ground, sniffing the air and snorting loudly, head and tail up, running up and down in front of the parade line."



*Little Sorrel at VMI Parade Grounds*

*Photo Credit: Civil War Profiles.com*

Continued



# Gallant Guards OSM Gentlemens Page



## Little Sorrel – A Gallant Legend

### Continued

From VMI Little Sorrel was relocated to the Confederate Veteran's Home in Richmond, Virginia. He toured County Fairs and attended numerous reunions for Southern Veterans, even making an appearance at the World's Fair. It has been said that ladies were so enamored of the little gelding that they clipped pieces of his mane and tail to create jewelry. The clippings became so aggressive that an armed guard was posted by Little Sorrel at all times to protect his handsome locks.

The last photograph of little Sorrel was taken in 1884. He was photographed with 85-year-old Confederate soldier named Napoleon Hull. It was believed that Hull was the last surviving veteran of Jackson's army.

Little Sorrel spent his last few months at the Confederate Veteran's Home in Richmond, Virginia. Age weakened him until he could no longer stand. Confederate veterans created a sling to hoist him to his feet whenever visitors arrived. Sadly, this sling broke tumbling Little Sorrel to the ground. The fall was believed to have broken his back. History tells us there was an around the clock vigil beside the brave little gelding until he breathed his last on a chilly day in March of 1886. He was 36 years old, just three years younger than Jackson at his death.

Strangely, the Soldiers' Home contracted a taxidermist named Frederic Webster to preserve Little Sorrel's remains. Webster mounted the hide on a framework of plaster, keeping the animal's skeleton for himself "as part payment for my service." In 1903, Little Sorrel's skeleton was eventually reassembled and donated to the Carnegie Institute in Pittsburgh, PA by the taxidermist, Frederic Webster.

Little Sorrel was finally returned to the Virginia Military Institute August 9th, 1949. The mounted hide was returned to VMI where it remains on display to this day.

After 111 years, Little Sorrel would at last be reunited with his beloved General. On July 20, 1997, his bones were cremated and ceremoniously buried in a grave in front of Stonewall Jackson's statue. Dirt was gathered from every battlefield where master and mount had fought, and spectators were allowed to throw a handful of it into the faithful horse's grave, which was surrounded by wreaths of apples and carrots.

As Stonewall Jackson would have undoubtedly wanted, Little Sorrel was buried with full honors including an invocation, blessing, and benediction offered by Rev. William Klein, pastor of Lexington Presbyterian Church, where Jackson and his wife, Mary Anna Morrison, had worshipped.

A VMI cadet, Adam Pool, 19, carried the 18-inch-tall walnut box holding the ashes of Little Sorrel. He was accompanied across the grass of the parade ground by an honor guard, a mounted escort, an infantry escort, bagpipes, and a fife and drum corps of Confederate reenactors. In front of the life-size bronze statue of Jackson at the head of the parade ground, a narrow plot, three to four feet deep, had been dug for Little Sorrel. The Fincastle Rifles, a Roanoke-based reenactment group, fired three volleys as the box was slowly lowered into the grave by four men dressed as Confederate soldiers.



# Gallant Guards OSM Gentlemens Page



Little Sorrel – A Gallant Legend

Continued

This gallant lad runs free and proud once more, with his beloved General



*Lexington, VA - Grave of Little Sorrel*

*Photo Credit mikelynaugh on flickr*

## Sources:

<https://connecticuthistory.org/little-sorrel-connecticuts-confederate-war-horse>

<https://www.roadsideamerica.com/story/3611>

<https://www.civilwarprofiles.com/traveller-and-little-sorrel-the-war-horses-of-lee-and-jackson>

<https://www.civilwarprofiles.com/wp-content/uploads/2014/02/Little-Sorrel-VMI.>

<https://www.washingtonpost.com/archive/local/1997/07/21/lexington-va-bids-fond-farewell-to-a-war-horse/d97e4928-b188-45ed-880e-e1227377926a/>

LBH 07/20/2022

# Mary Anna Morrison Jackson

## *The First Steel Magnolias*

By Lila Burner Housden



*Image Source: Wikipedia*

Many of us may recall the well-known Southern General, Thomas Jonathan Jackson, better known by the nickname, Stonewall Jackson, given him by Southern General Bernard Bee at the First Battle of Manassas on July 21, 1861. Inspired by Jackson's resolve in the face of the enemy, Bee called out to his men to inspire them: "Look, men! There is Jackson standing like a stone wall! However, we are not nearly so familiar with his incredible Steel Magnolia, his wife, Mary Anna Morrison Jackson.

Mary Anna Morrison, fondly known as Anna, was one of ten children born to the Reverend Robert Hall Morrison and his wife, May Graham, who was a daughter of General Joseph Graham. Anna was born on July 21, 1831, while her father was the pastor of Sugar Creek Presbyterian Church in Mecklenburg, County, NC. Shortly after Anna's birth her father became the first president of Davidson College in Davidson, North Carolina, near the city of Charlotte. Davidson College is still in existence and is a popular liberal arts college. Anna spent a happy childhood at Cottage Home and on the Davidson campus in the President's House, which is still in use today.

As we might expect, Anna was well educated for a young woman of her time. She received a formal education at Salem Academy (now known as Salem Academy and College) from 1847-1849. In 1914, Anna was awarded a diploma by Salem College, as their most famous alumnae.

Continued

## Mary Anna Morrison Jackson Continued



Anna Morrison Jackson  
Circa 1855 by Everett  
*Image Source: Alchetron*

Thomas Jackson, a young widower, was living in Lexington, Virginia while he was a professor of natural philosophy and artillery tactics at the Virginia Military Institute. Jackson was known as a quiet, yet stern, and a profoundly religious man. Jackson was a frequent visitor to the home of Daniel Harvey Hill, a professor at Washington College (now Washington and Lee University) in Lexington, Virginia and his wife Isabella Morrison Hill, a sister of Anna Morrison.

In 1856, Anna was visiting her sister, Isabella where she was introduced to Major Thomas Jackson. Anna was quite surprised to find this quiet stern man to be very sweet and loving. Christmas of 1856, found Thomas calling on Anna at her home in North Carolina. Her family liked Jackson immediately. After a brief courtship, Anna and Thomas were married in the front parlor of Cottage Home on July 16, 1856. Anna was 25 and Jackson was 33. After their marriage the couple set off on a northern tour, visiting Richmond, Baltimore, New York City, Saratoga, and Niagara Falls.

Anna's happy life seemed complete when she and her husband welcomed a daughter, Mary Graham Jackson, on April 30, 1858. The young couple was devastated when Mary lived only a few weeks. Anna was especially concerned for Thomas, who had lost his first wife, Elinor Junkin, during the stillbirth of their son. Thomas was just seven years old when his mother did not survive the birth of his youngest brother.

Anna immediately drew her husband into the healing power of prayer. They found solace in their Bible studies and repeated this routine every day, for the rest of their lives, whether they were together or apart. In 1859 Anna and Thomas bought their first home, a brick house on East Washington Street in Lexington. Anna later wrote, "It was genuine happiness to him to have a home of his own..." Anna was delighted to begin decorating her new home with furniture and items they had purchased during their honeymoon and later trips north. She enjoyed working in her flower garden and cooking with the many fresh vegetables her husband grew for her in his vegetable garden. She would later comment on this peaceful idyllic time, where their love and devotion blossomed and grew.

## Mary Anna Morrison Jackson Continued

Anna's blissful life with Thomas came to a shattering end on April 21, 1861, when Virginia seceded from the Union. Anna understood her husband's loyalty to his native state as he promptly offered his services to Virginia when war was declared. Major Jackson was immediately commissioned a Brigadier General.

Anna remained at their home in Lexington, Virginia, but soon began traveling back and forth between her parents, Cottage Home, in North Carolina, and friends and relatives in Richmond, Virginia.

In the Winter of 1861-1862, Lt. Colonel Tilghman Moore, commander of the Virginia militia, offered his home in Winchester, Virginia to serve at General Jackson's headquarters for winter quarters. In December of 1861, Anna joined him in Winchester, and they stayed at the home of Dr. Graham. Jackson was delighted to have his beloved Anna by his side, and she was ever happy to be with him. Anna and her husband became quite fond of the people and culture of Winchester and Anna came to refer to Winchester as "their winter home."



"Until We Meet Again" by artist Mort Kunstler  
Shows Anna and Thomas saying goodbye  
with the Graham home behind them.

*Image Source & Credit:*

*Mort Kunstler website*



A Ride with Anna by John Paul Strain

Thomas and Anna riding along the bridle paths of Winchester in the stillness of the twilight.

*Image Source & Credit:*

*John Paul Strain website*

Continued

## Mary Anna Morrison Jackson Continued

Early in 1862 Anna was filled with hope, excitement, and fear as she shared with her husband that they were expecting their second child. As her time drew near, she and her husband prayed fervently for the safe arrival of this much wanted child. Anna waited anxiously for news from her husband during the Valley Campaign in the Shenandoah Valley of Virginia during the Spring of 1862. Thomas participated in six major battles: Kernstown (March 23), McDowell (May 8), Front Royal, (May 23), Winchester (May 25), Cross Keys (June 8), and Port Republic (June 9). She experienced both fear and pride as her husband grew increasingly famous for his highly effective military tactics and elaborate maneuvers. By October 1862, her husband had been promoted to Lt. General,

During her husband's winter encampment of 1862-63 Anna was delighted to tell her husband of the arrival of a healthy daughter, Julia Laura Jackson, born in Charlotte, North Carolina on November 23, 1862, just before the Battle of Fredericksburg. They named their daughter after Jackson's mother and sister.

Anna and baby Julia, arrived by train at Guiney's Station on April 20, 1863, for a visit with General Jackson. Anna had not seen her husband for thirteen months. It was a perfect moment when she placed Julia, in her father's arms. Anna and Julia resided with Thomas, at nearby Belvoir where Julia was baptized by the Reverend Tucker Lacy three days later.

As a keepsake for the happy occasion, Anna persuaded her husband to sit for a photograph. Little did she know this would be the last image of her husband. Their visit ended abruptly, when just nine days later a report came that Union forces had crossed the Rappahannock River near Chancellorsville, Virginia. Thomas quickly had his beloved wife and daughter returned to her father in North Carolina.

The love and devotion of Anna and Thomas are supremely evident in this letter Anna wrote to her beloved Thomas in late April 1863:

“My precious husband, I will go to Hanover and wait there until I hear from you again, and I do trust I may be permitted to come back to you again in a few days. I am much disappointed at not seeing you again, but I commend you, my precious darling, to the merciful keeping of the God of battles, and do pray most earnestly for the success of our army this day. Oh! that our Heavenly Father may preserve and guide and bless you, is my most earnest prayer. I leave the shirt and socks for you with Mrs. Neale, fearing I may not see you again, but I do hope it may be my privilege to be with you in a few days. Our little darling will miss dearest Papa. She is so good and sweet this morning. God bless and keep you, my darling, Your devoted little wife”

May 2, 1863, would mark the beginning of Anna's greatest tragedy. After the Battle of Chancellorsville, Jackson and his staff were riding through the woods when they were mistaken for Union cavalry and fired on by their own soldiers. Jackson was struck three times, one in his right hand and two in his upper left arm. The wounds did not appear fatal at first, although Jackson lost a great deal of blood. Dr. Hunter

## Mary Anna Morrison Jackson Continued

McGuire removed one ball and amputated Jackson's right hand and left arm. The next morning, Jackson was in good spirits and sent his brother-in-law to tell Anna about his injuries and to bring her back to be with him while he recuperated.

On May 4, 1863, Thomas was moved to Guinea Station where he would be safely behind enemy lines. By 8 PM that evening he was settled into the plantation office at the home of Thomas and Mary Chandler. On May 5, 1863, Thomas ate heartily and cheerfully awaited the arrival of his beloved Anna, and precious daughter, Julia. On May 7, Thomas woke just after midnight, complaining of nausea and a pain in his right side, which Dr. McGuire diagnosed as pneumonia. Anna and Julia arrived later that evening. She had kissed her healthy and robust husband, good-bye just eight days earlier. She managed to rouse her husband to speak to her, and the doctors offered her hope for his recovery. Later Anna would share that her beloved Thomas lay most of the time in a semiconscious state.

Anna prayed fervently as May 8th brought increased fever and pain to her husband. She found comfort in the strength of his faith when he roused to say, "I see from the number of physicians that you think my condition dangerous, but I thank God, if it is His Will, that I am ready to go."

Anna remained constantly by the beside of her beloved husband. On May 10th, Thomas seemed a bit brighter, and Anna brought five-month-old Julia and placed her on the bed beside her father. His face immediately lit up with a smile and he said, "Little darling, sweet one," and immediately fell back into unconsciousness. As the doctors lost all hope for Jackson's recovery Anna later wrote. "Tears were shed over that dying bed by strong men who were unused to weep."

Anna held the hand of her beloved in his last hours of delirium. Through her tears she watched as a smile of indescribable sweetness spread over his pale face, and he said, quietly, and with an expression of the greatest relief, "Let us cross over the river, and rest under the shade of the trees." At 3:15 on May 10, 1863, Anna said her last earthly good-bye to her beloved Thomas.



This is the office, near Guiney Station, Virginia, where Anna watched over her husband, during his last hours. James Power Smith, Jackson's former aide-de-camp, had the stone marker placed in 1903.



## Mary Anna Morrison Jackson Continued

Anna donned her mourning garb, which she would wear for the rest of her life and laid her husband to rest on May 15, 1863. She and Julia returned to Cottage Home in North Carolina to live with her father. In 1873 Anna moved to Charlotte, North Carolina to provide better educational opportunities for Julia at Charlotte Institute for Young Ladies.

Charlotte, North Carolina was to be Anna's home for the remainder of her life. She lived in two different homes on West Trade Street, both of which have sadly been destroyed. Her pew in the First Presbyterian Church was marked with her name. She became active in the United Daughters of the Confederacy, and in 1898 organized the Stonewall Jackson Chapter where she was elected president for life. As an active member of the Mecklenburg Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution, she attended festivities in Washington, D.C. where President and Mrs. McKinley asked Anna to receive guests with them.



Anna Jackson with her daughter, Julia.

On June 2, 1885, Julia Laura Jackson married William Edmund Christian and they had two children: Julia Jackson Christian and Thomas Jonathan Jackson Christian. In 1889, Anna was to know, once again, the agony of loss when Julia died from typhoid at only 26 years old. With great faith, enduring love, and her customary courage, Anna stepped in to raise her two grandchildren.

Anna authored two books about her husband: *Life and Letters of General Thomas J. Jackson*, which was published in 1892, and the story of his service to the South during the War Between the States, *Memoirs of Stonewall Jackson, by His Widow*, was published in 1895. The preface found in the *Memoirs* speaks volume of this Steel Magnolia:

Continued

## Mary Anna Morrison Jackson Continued

“For many years after the death of my husband the shadow over my life was so deep, and all that concerned him was so sacred, that I could not consent to lift the veil to the public gaze. But time softens, if it does not heal, the bitterest sorrow; and the pleadings of his only child, after reaching womanhood, finally prevailed upon me to write out for her and her children my memories of the father she had never known on earth. She was my inspiration, encouraging me, and delighting in every page that was written; but the work was not more than half completed when God took her to be with him whose memory she cherished with a reverence and devotion which became more intense with the development of her own pure and noble character. After her departure, which was truly sorrow’s crown of sorrows, I had no heart to continue the work; but, remembering how earnestly she wished me to write it for her and her children, I renewed the effort to finish it, for the sake of the precious little ones she left. In forcing my mind and pen to do their task, I found some surcease of sorrow in carrying out her wishes; and, as I went on, the grand lessons of submission and fortitude of my husband’s life gave me strength and courage to persevere to the end.”

Anna had begun a family history in 1882, entitled “*Memory’s Mirror*” containing extensive details about the families of her husband, her father, her grandfather (General Joseph Graham), and great-grandfather, (Major John Davidson of Rural Hill). Sadly, this memoir was never completed or published. Her book *Julia Jackson Christian Daughter of Stonewall Jackson* was published in Charlotte North Carolina in 1910 in loving memory of her only child.

In 1906, after the death of Varina Davis, Anna Jackson became nationally recognized as the “First Lady of the South”. She would continue to be the idol of many a Southern veteran, who referred to her as the “tiny, brown-eyed lady”. She entertained visitors from all over the world who came to pay their respects to her and the memory of her beloved Thomas.

In 1907, when offered a pension by the Legislature of North Carolina, though she greatly needed it, she authorized one of her relatives, then a member of that body, to say that she preferred the money be given to help needy soldiers, or to found a school for wayward boys. At this session the Stonewall Jackson Training School was chartered.

In 1913, Anna Jackson was introduced as a special guest, at the commemoration of the Battle of Gettysburg. Her wit, grace, and disposition transcended the former conflict, and she was much loved by all who were fortunate enough to meet her.

Anna Jackson spent her last years living with her granddaughter, in Charlotte. On March 24, 1915, Anna found herself, at last, in the arms of her beloved Thomas. She was 83 years old. Mary Anna Morrison Jackson was laid to rest beside her husband, in Lexington, Virginia. She was buried with full military honors.

## Mary Anna Morrison Jackson Continued



It was said of Anna Jackson:

*“Her Christian faith, great wisdom and courageous disposition marked her as a most unusual woman, whose plan of life was as simple as her husband’s: finding out each day what she believed to be her duty, and then doing it uncomplainingly and with as little affectation as possible.”*

**There can be no doubt that Mary Anna Morrison Jackson,  
was indeed, a true Steel Magnolia**



## Mary Anna Morrison Jackson Continued

If you would like to read more about this amazing Steel Magnolia, I recommend the following:

“Letters of Mrs. Jackson” (Stonewall Jackson Memorial, Inc., Lexington, Va.)

“Memoir of Mrs. Stonewall Jackson” (1915)

“They Married Confederate Officers: The Intimate Story of Anna Morrison, Wife of Stonewall Jackson and her Five Sisters” 1st edition by Herran, Kathy Neill 1998

“Stonewall Jackson's Wife and Daughter: Mary Anna Morrison Jackson and Julia Jackson Christian” Rumburg, H. Rondel

“Beloved Bride: The Letters of Stonewall Jackson to His Wife” Potter, Bill

LBH 06.26.2022

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Laura Morrison Brown, Historical Sketch of the Morrison Family (1919)

Letters of Mrs. Jackson (Stonewall Jackson Memorial, Inc., Lexington, Va.)

Memoir of Mrs. Stonewall Jackson (1915)

Julia Christian Preston, Stonewall’s Widow (1961) and "A Patchwork Quilt of Memories"

History of American Women: Civil War Women

Wikipedia

Images via internet search

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