



# Order of the Steel Magnolias

*Magnolia Messenger*  
Newsletter Volume 10  
Spring 2024



# Table of Contents

Officers & Committee Chairmen.....	3
President General Report.....	4
Seventh Annual Meeting Invitation.....	6
RSVP Form.....	7
Report of the Nominating Committee.....	8
Officer & Committee Reports.....	9
Welcome New Members.....	13
Gentlemen's Gallant Guards.....	17
2024 Minutes Meeting.....	19
Ancestor Spotlight.....	22
In Memoriam.....	24
About & Membership.....	25
Insignia Information.....	26
History of the Organization.....	27
Honorary Presidents General.....	27
Steel Magnolia Founding Members.....	28
Steel Magnolia Charter Members.....	29
Steel Magnolia Life Members.....	31
OSM Ancestor Bio Book Submission.....	33
Steel Magnolia Ancestors.....	34
Steel Magnolia: Phoebe Yates Levy Pember....	38
Inspirational Page.....	41

# Upcoming Meeting



The Seventh Annual Assembly  
Meeting~Luncheon

Monday, April 8, 2024  
10:30 a.m.

Joint Meeting with  
Sons and Daughters of  
Virginia Founding Fathers

The Army and Navy Club  
Washington D.C.

See Page 6

**DEADLINE**  
**March 31, 2024**



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)***



# Order of the Steel Magnolias

2021-2024



**Gallant Guards**

## Executive Board

**President**

Leslie Ann Kirk

**Vice President**

Patricia Gallagher

**Secretary**

Sue Hansford Southern

**Treasurer**

Barb Allison

**Historian**

Lila Burner Housden

**Chaplain**

Teresa Roane

**Counselor**

Deborah Whitmore Hicks, Esq.

**Registrar**

Robin Redfean Towns

**Parliamentarian**

Ora Jane Johnson

**Recruiter**

Baxter Keith Bedell

## Committee Chairmen

**Newsletter Editor**

*Magnolia Messenger*

Jean Schaum Bradley

**Contributing Editor**

*Magnolia Messenger*

Carla Whitehurst Odom

**Finance Review**

Lynda Aydelott Moreau

**Public Relations**

Lila Burner Housden

**Ancestor Biography Project**

*Steel Magnolia Stories*

Julie Palmer Hesler

**Website**

Leslie Ann Kirk



## President General Message



This officer is extremely honored to serve as your President General for the past three years. It is time to hold elections for the 2024-2027 General Officers and pass the gavel to a new president at our April meeting.

This past year we lost three members: Co-Founder, Inaugural Treasurer General, Parliamentarian General LTC Charles Robert Odom; Founding Member Marie Barker Sanford and Founding Member Charles "Chuck" Bryan Poland. This officer attended Marie Sanford's funeral with OSM Secretary General Sue Southern and Founding Member Loretta Martin.

The Executive Board voted to make a \$150 donation to Tunnels to Towers in honor of General Officer Bob Odom. This was the organization of his choice. The organization received a lovely thank you card from his wife and Co-Founder Carla Whitehurst Odom. During my first year as president, we lost Charter Member and Historian General Felicia C. Wilt. In total we have lost two general officers during this term and we continue to extend our sympathies to these families.

We had two general officers with severe injuries in 2023: Registrar General Robin Towns and Treasurer General Barb Allison. In addition, our Secretary General Sue Southern has been the caretaker of her husband since his COVID illnesses. The Executive Board managed to work as a team and continue the work of the Society without interruption. A special thank you those that pitched in and did extra duties: Honorary President General Suzanna Rawlins, Finance Chairwoman Lynda Moreau, and Steel Magnolia Stories Chairwoman Julie Hester.

The 2023 General Meeting minutes were approved by Melissa Fischer and Teresa Roane. We appreciate you both.

For this officer's 2023 President's Project, a \$1,000 donation was made to the American Widow Project, a non-profit organization. OSM appreciates Historian General Lila Housden for vetting the organization with the intention to find a charity similar to the widow's pension our Steel Magnolias ancestors may have received. Lindsey Buckingham in Buda, TX, sent a nice thank you card on behalf of the organization.

This officer planned six official and unofficial meetings during her administration.

Zoom meeting "*Memorial Jewelry ~ Jewels of Love and Sorrow*" by speaker: Mrs. Ryan Blocker, Museum Collections Coordinator, Alabama Department of Archives and History, 49 attended.

Pandemic private Memorial Day tribute on April 26, 2021, at Oakwood Cemetery, in the historic city of Montgomery, AL.

The Fifth Annual Membership Meeting via Zoom Sunday, July 24, 2022, with guest speaker Director of Education John Lustrea, National Museum of Civil War Medicine, 50 attended.

"*Clothing in the Age of Queen Victoria*" by speaker: Mrs. Ryan Blocker, Museum Collections Coordinator, Alabama Department of Archives and History, February 23, 2022, 47 attended.

Sixth Annual Membership Meeting and Luncheon, Monday, April 10, 2023, 28 attended.

Seventh Annual Membership Meeting and Luncheon scheduled on Monday, April 8, 2024. We'd like to offer our appreciation to our Army and Navy Club room sponsor Robin Towns.

~ Continued



## President General Message Continued

This officer produced seven editions of the *Magnolia Messenger* newsletter during her administration. She worked closely with our incredibly talented Newsletter Editor, Jean Bradley who edited each edition. Additionally, she has worked with Contributing Editor Carla Odom and Public Relations Chair Lila Housden who submitted wonderful articles for inclusion.

Volume 10, Spring Edition 2024

Volume 9, Winter Edition 2024

Volume 8, Spring Edition 2023

Volume 7, Summer Edition II 2022

Volume 6, Summer Edition 2022

Volume 5, Winter Edition 2022

Volume 4, Spring Edition 2021

This officer published the organization's first directory and history mailed to the membership in 2022.

This officer created a slideshow presentation that has been shared with many members. It was her pleasure to speak as a Zoom guest at several hereditary society meetings to promote and educate potential members about OSM.

During this administration, Recruiter General Carla Odom and Historian General Lila Housden served on the Gallant Guards Committee along with this officer. Recruiter General Carla Odom stepped down due to her husband's illness and Baxter Bedell agreed to serve the remaining term. Each officer played an important role in getting this excellent project off the ground. Since the inception, we've added nine new male members and have sold seven of the 25 Gallant Guards Saber Pins.

We have welcomed 62 new members and approved nine supplementals to the Society during this administration. This officer was responsible for making the certificates, preparing and mailing new member packets, mailing Gallant Guards pins as well as maintaining the Society membership database. A special thank you to Registrar General Robin Towns for her invaluable work.

During the meeting in April 2023, a Nominating Committee of three members, one selected by the Executive Board and two members elected by the Membership. Pat Gallagher served as chairwoman with Helene Werner and Ora Jane Johnson serving on the committee. Their proposed 2024-2027 slate of officers will be presented. Thank you, ladies, for serving on this important committee.

This officer continues to serve as the webmaster which includes fielding membership inquiries and keeping the website current and interesting. There are 18 webpages that includes officers, history of our organization, ancestors, meeting information, photos, and newsletters. This officer also served as the administrator of our Facebook platform with Public Relations Chairwoman Lila Housden assisting with content.

The Order of the Steel Magnolias is in its seventh year, has 343 members and a treasury of over \$31,000 in assets. This officer is grateful to have an extraordinary Executive Board consisting of elected officers and our immediate Honorary President General Suzanna Rawlins. We were blessed with talented and dedicated committee chairmen. Each have upheld their positions with the greatest integrity and dedication to our Society. It's been a privilege and honor to serve as your President General 2021-2024.

*Leslie Ann Kirk*

# Invitation ~ Upcoming Meeting



*Governor General Paul Walden,  
President General Leslie Kirk,  
and the respective Officers General of the  
Sons and Daughters of Virginia Founding Fathers*

*&*

**The Order of the Steel Magnolias**

*Cordially invite you to attend the*

**Joint Annual Meetings**

*Monday, April 8, 2024*

*10:30-1:30*

*John Paul Jones Room*

*The Army Navy Club*

*901 Seventeenth Street NW – on Farragut Square*

*Washington DC 20006 202.628.8400*

*Courtesy of Mrs. Robin Redfearn Towns*

Guest Speaker: Dr. Christopher Hamner, Associate Professor  
in US History at George Mason University in Fairfax, VA

SDVAFF business meeting, Lunch, Program, OSM business meeting

You are invited to both meetings

Limited Seating – Please reply promptly with reservation form

Reservations accepted until **March 31, 2024**

# RSVP ~ Upcoming Meeting

Sons and Daughters of Virginia Founding Fathers

&

The Order of the Steel Magnolias

Reservation Form

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Attending: \_\_\_\_\_ SDVAFF \_\_\_\_\_ OSM \_\_\_\_\_ Both Meetings

Member or Guest: \_\_\_\_\_

*Cost per person for the Arnold Buffet: \$70.00*

*Please make check payable to OSM and mail to:*

**Leslie Kirk, President General**

**240 Royal Oaks Dr.**

**Pike Road, AL 36064-2491**

Email: [lesliekirk@live.com](mailto:lesliekirk@live.com) (334) 399-2512

*Reservations accepted until March 31, 2024*

**2024-2026**

**Report of the Nominating Committee**

President: Patricia Gallagher

Vice president: Julie Hesler

Secretary: Ora Jane Johnson

Treasurer: Sally Woolley

Chaplain: Teresa Roane

Historian: Paul Walden

Registrar: Robin Towns

Counselor: Deborah Hicks

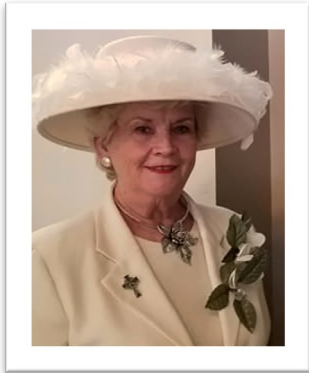






# Order of the Steel Magnolias Officer Reports

**2023-2024**



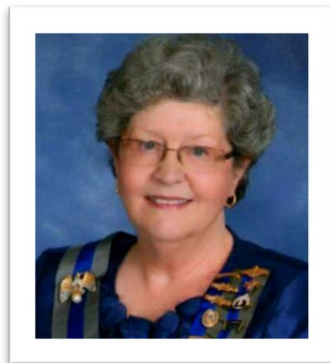
**Vice President General**

**Patricia Gallagher**

**Co-Founder**

This officer has been honored to serve in this administration under the capable leadership of Leslie Kirk. I have been able to assist whenever called upon and willing and supportive to do anything asked of me. It has been a pleasure to serve and watch our organization grow and prosper. I have enjoyed keeping track of the insignia that were ordered and forwarding all necessary information concerning the membership's insignia orders from our enthusiastic membership. We have had twenty-eight items of Insignia ordered with a total of over \$3000. I have attended all meetings and visited other groups to promote our Steel Magnolia society. It has been a pleasure to serve.

Pat Gallagher



**Treasurer General**

**Barb Allison**

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

This officer filed the 990-N for tax year 2023.

Checking Account Balance 12/31/23: \$10,297.02

Money Market Balance \$20,989.36

Total Combined: \$31,286.38

Barb Allison





# Order of the Steel Magnolias Officer Reports

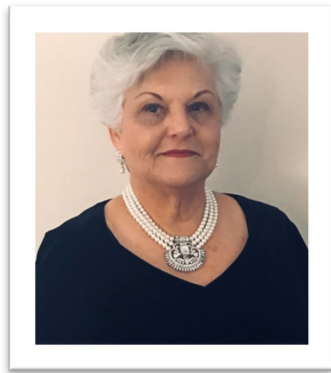
**2023-2024**



**Secretary General  
Sue Hansford Southern**

This secretary has recorded the minutes of officer's meetings as well as Zoom meetings and voted on any issues that came up. I regret that family illness has kept me from participating at the 2023 annual meeting and appreciate Julie Hesler for taking minutes. Thank you for the opportunity to serve in the Kirk Administration. It has been an honor and a pleasure.

Respectfully submitted,  
Ouida Sue Southern



**Historian  
Lila Burner Housden**

As Historian for Order of the Steel Magnolias I have written an article for publication. Additionally, I have contributed to the OSM Facebook page.

At the request of President Kirk, I have worked closely with her in establishing the Gallant Guard for gentlemen members. It is my greatest pleasure to serve the Kirk Administration.

Respectfully,  
Lila Housden





# Order of the Steel Magnolias Officer Reports

**2023-2024**



## **Chaplain General**

**Teresa Roane**

This officer has lead prayers when called upon by President Leslie Kirk. I have sent three sympathy cards, and three get well cards. I remain available for the spiritual needs of the membership. At the April meeting, we will have a memorial service. It has been an honor to serve this organization as Chaplain General. Psalm 147:3 “He heals the broken hearted and binds up their wounds.”



## **Councilor General**

**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 as called upon.

This officer checked the irs.gov 990-N filings and note that the Treasurer has filed the 990-N for tax year ending 12/31/2023.

It is a pleasure to serve in the Kirk administration and I look forward to seeing you at the 2024 annual meeting in Washington, D.C.

Deborah W Hicks

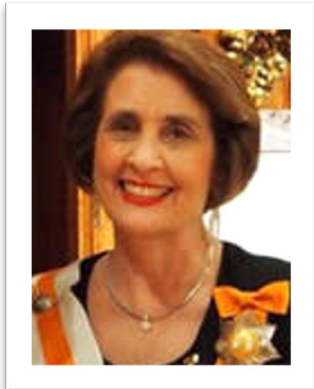
Order of Steel Magnolias Counselor





# Order of the Steel Magnolias Officer Reports

**2023-2024**



**Registrar General**

**Robin Redfearn Towns**

This Officer appreciates the opportunity to serve as Registrar for this 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-seven (27) applications have been reviewed and approved since the April 2023 report. The member numbers approved are as follows: 317 – 343. No Supplemental applications have been submitted. The list is attached to this report.

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 complete membership information on the Society's spreadsheet. The Treasurer General receives membership fees. Checks for application fees have been recorded and mailed to the Treasurer in a timely manner.

It continues to be an interesting and enlightening endeavor, and it is an honor to serve.

Robin R. Towns



**To our newest members**





**Welcome ~ Steel Magnolias and Gallant Guards**  
**NEW MEMBERS 2023-2024**

- |                                     |                                      |
|-------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| 317 - Kimberley Jayne Purifoy Stout | 330 - Cynthia D. Davis               |
| 318 - Larry Dan Jordan              | 331 - Sherry Lee Cole                |
| 319 - Carol Robinson Dykes          | 332 - Jo Ann Roth Taylor Cooper      |
| 320 - Ann Reynolds Bergeron         | 333 Carlton Murray Mansfield, Esq.   |
| 321 - Elizabeth Yearley Groszer     | 334 Betty Keener Samaras             |
| 322 - Paula Aydelotte Owen          | 335 Linda Andrews Bennett            |
| 323 - Donald Richard Middleton      | 336 Susan Virginia Hull Stout-Pierce |
| 324 - Cheryl Miller Sesma           | 337 Michael Edward Belcher           |
| 325 - Sanders Garner Mercer, Jr.    | 338 Robin Martin Yates               |
| 326 - Kevin Ray Carr                | 339 Ann Kicker Blomquist             |
| 327 - Christopher E. Chapman        | 340 Myron Crenshaw Smith             |
| 328 - Katherine Davis James         | 341 Paul Ashley Walden               |
| 329 - Joan Davis Ragland            | 342 Ann Scott Garner                 |
|                                     | 343 Joyce Ball Patton                |







# Order of the Steel Magnolias Officer Reports

**2023-2024**



**Recruiter General  
Baxter K. Bedell  
Charter Member**

Madam President, officers and, members; it has been my pleasure to have served during President Kirk's Administration.

Last year we created and placed an advertisement in the *Officer's Call* magazine or the *Military Order of Stars and Bars*. We were able to get the prime advertising spot for the Winter issue last year at a cost of only \$350.00 for a full page inside cover advertisement. From information received this advertisement has generated new, and especially male, members and I find that very exciting and encouraging. This was our targeted market.

I have started negotiating with *Officer's Call* magazine via the Executive Director of MOSB. Unlike many other items and services during these times the advertising rate has not gone up so. I have the front inside cover reserved for the Spring and Fall issues at the same rate of \$350.00 each issue. Again, another bargain, I feel.

The winter issue of the magazine is also available at the same rate should the Board direct me to secure all three issues for 2024. The deadline is fast approaching for the Spring issue, and I need to let them know and send the ad to them. They said they will bill us. I also recruited the Executive Director today, I emailed him an application and instruction sheet, so all in all I feel a very profitable rainy day.

Am attaching a copy of last year's ad and invoice as well as my updated ad for this year and the projected invoice for two advertisements., If the third is desired we would just add \$350.00 to the total.

If selected and asked, it would be an honor to serve the next administration in the same capacity.

Respectfully,





# Order of the Steel Magnolias Committee Reports

**2023-2024**

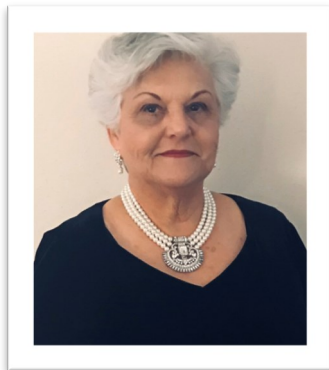


**Finance Chairman**

**Lynda Aydelott Moreau**

The Finance Report and proposed 2023-2024 Budget will be presented at the annual meeting.

Lynda Moreau



**Public Relations Chairman**

**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

## 2023-2024



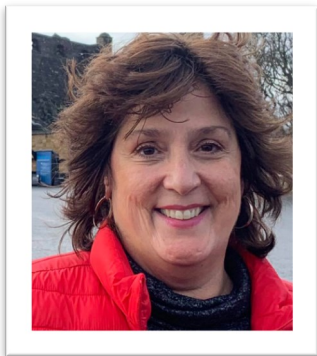
### ***Steel Magnolia Stories* (Ancestor Bio Project)**

#### **Julie Palmer Hesler**

Thank you for your support of our Ancestor Bio Project. To date, we have 36 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, Bible pages, and the Steel Magnolias themselves.

Please continue to submit your stories and encourage other members to do the same. 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, Committee Chairman, Ancestor Bio Project



### **Newsletter Editor**

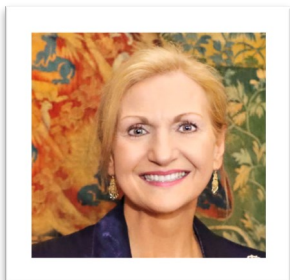
#### **Jean Schaum Bradley**

It's a pleasure to edit the Order of the Steel Magnolia Newsletter *Magnolia Messenger*. 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.

### **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**



The Order of the Steel Magnolias announced the formation of the Gallant Guards in 2022. Each of our Steel Magnolias certainly had one or more gallant men in their lives: husband, son, father and brother. Some came home to their beloved ladies, heartbreakingly, many did not. Gentlemen who are approved for OSM membership will be known as the Gallant Guard, and will be honoring their Steel Magnolia great grandmothers and great aunts.

### **Honoring the Order of the Steel Magnolias Gallant Guards**

Honor Guard LTC 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 Mr. J Purkaple, Charter Member  
Honor Guard Terry Martin DeWitt, Member  
Honor Guard Vincent S. Balducci, Member  
Honor Guard Dr. Jeffery C. Wells, Member

~ Continued



*The first 25 Gallant Guard members will be known as the Honor Guard*





## **Gallant Guards** **OSM Gentlemens Page**



### **Honoring the Order of the Steel Magnolias Gallant Guards continued**

Honor Guard Larry Dan Jordan, Life Member  
Honor Guard Donald Richard Middleton, Life Member  
Honor Guard Kevin Ray Carr, Life Member  
Honor Guard Christopher E. Chapman, Life Member  
Honor Guard Carlton Murray Mansfield, Esq., Life Member  
Honor Guard Michael Edward Belcher, Life Member  
Honor Guard Myron Crenshaw Smith, Life Member  
Honor Guard Paul Ashley Walden, Life Member





## 2023 Meeting Minutes

### Approved by Committee: Melissa Fischer and Teresa Roane

**President Leslie Kirk** called the meeting to order at 12:49 pm and advised that next year Steel Magnolias will go first with extra time. She welcomed the assembly.

**Chaplain General Teresa Roane** led the invocation.

**President Leslie Kirk** stated that if there was no objection, the Star-Spangled Banner, Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and American's Creed would be omitted from the ritual as they were led in the Sons and Daughters of Virginia Founding Fathers meeting.

No objection was offered, and the assembly stood for the salute to the Order of the Steel Magnolias flag, led by **Vice President General Pat Gallagher**.

**President Kirk** and **Chaplain Roane** led the assembly in the ritual, followed by The Lord's Prayer.

**President Kirk** declared the meeting open and ready for business and advised that she had been provided with the Registration Credentials Report by our combined Event Chair Anne Farley.

22 members were present.

**Parliamentarian General Ora Jane Johnson** read the Bylaws for Meetings:

Article VI

General Meetings

Section 1: The fiscal year of the Order shall be January 1 through December 31.

Section 2: A General Membership meeting may be held electronically, or in person, provided 45 days advance notice is given.

Section 3: Ten members shall constitute a quorum of any General Meeting.

**President Kirk** declared that a quorum was established so the business of the Society could proceed.

Barring objection, **President Kirk** appointed **Julie Hesler** as Recording Secretary Pro Tem. There was no objection.

**President Kirk** introduced the general officers and committee chairs of the Society in attendance, noting that three were absent due to personal or family illness.

Vice President General: **Miss Pat Gallagher**

Chaplain General: **Ms. Teresa Roane**

Registrar General: **Mrs. Robin Towns**

Councilor General: **Mrs. Deborah Hicks**

Appointed Officer, Parliamentarian General: **Ms. Ora Jane Johnson**

Committee Chairs in attendance:

Finance Review: **Mrs. Lynda Moreau**

*Steel Magnolia Stories* (Ancestor Project): **Mrs. Julie Hesler**

Website: **Leslie Kirk**

**President Kirk** introduced Honorary President General **Mrs. Suzanna Etheridge** who brought greetings.

**President Kirk** thanked **Honorary President Rawlins**.

**President Kirk** thanked **Robin Towns** for sponsoring our meeting at The Army and Navy Club on behalf of the Executive Board.

**President Kirk** recognized National presiding officers of other hereditary societies who were present and asked that the rise or raise their hands when introduced.

~ Continued

National Presidents

**Melissa Fischer:** Fossors, Saints and Sinners, Southern Dames of America, Physicians & Chirugiens

**Pat Gallagher:** Descendants of Early Postmasters 1607-1900

**Ann Garner:** Order of the House of Wessex, Colonial Mothers, Justiciars, Colonial Clergy

**Mary Glenn:** Continental Society Daughters of Indian Wars

**Deborah Hicks:** Sons and Daughters of Virginia Founding Fathers

**Lynda Moreau:** Order of William The Marshal

**Suzanna Rawlins:** Order of Descendants of El Cid and Colonial Regulators

**Robin Towns:** Sons and Daughters of Colonial and Antebellum Bench and Bar

Other National presiding officers introduced themselves:

**Paul Walden:** Newly-elected Governor of Sons & Daughter of Virginia Founding Fathers

**President Kirk** advised that the 2022 annual meeting minutes were approved by committee and were published in the *Magnolia Messenger* newsletter and thanked **Pat Gallagher** and **Jean Bradley** for serving on that committee.

As there was no objection, **Melissa Fischer** and **Teresa Roane** were appointed to approve the minutes of this meeting and were thanked by **President Kirk** for their willingness to do so.

The General Officers were asked to report.

President General **Leslie Ann Kirk** reported (attached)

Vice President General: **Pat Gallagher** (attached)

Treasurer **General Barb Allison's** was unable to attend. Finance Review **Chair Lynda Moreau** reported in her absence. (attached) **President Kirk** asked if there were any questions, and none were offered.

Chaplain **Teresa Roane** reported (attached)

Registrar: **Robin Towns** (attached)

Councilor: **Deborah Hicks** reported (attached)

Appointed Officer: Parliamentarian **Ora Jane Johnson** reported (no report)

(Reports for officers not in attendance will be attached to the minutes.)

**President Kirk** thanked the officers for their devotion to our organization and encouraged the assembly to show their appreciation.

**President Kirk** advised that with the exception of the Finance Committee, reports of the National Chairmen will be filed with the minutes in the essence of time. (attached)

**Unfinished business:**

No unfinished business was brought before the assembly.

### **New Business**

**Finance Review Chair Lynda Moreau** presented the 2023-2024 budget as recommended by the Executive Board for adoption.

A correction was made to the budgeted number of supplementals from 6 to 3 to match the amount budgeted.

**Chairman Moreau** made motion to accept the budget as corrected. The motion was approved.

**President Kirk** reminded members Steel Magnolias Officer Elections are held every three years and that 2024 will be an election year. **Parliamentarian Ora Jane Johnson** quoted Article VII (7) Section 4 & 5 of the By-laws regarding the selection of the Nominating Committee and announcement of the slate of officers.

~ Continued

**Pat Gallagher** has been selected by the Executive Board to serve, and two additional members are to be elected today. **President Kirk** asked for nominations from the floor.

**Mary Glenn** nominated **Helene Werner**. **Helene Werner** nominated **Ora Jane Johnson**.

Both were elected to serve on the Nominating Committee along with **Pat Gallagher**.

**President Kirk** asked if there was any new business to come before the Society. None was presented.

**President Kirk** made the following announcements:

Thanking those who took on extra responsibilities today to make sure we had a successful meeting.

**Ora Jane Johnson** has replaced **Bob Odom** as Parliamentarian and **Baxter Bedell** will replace **Carla Odom** as Recruiter for expanding male membership.

The 7<sup>th</sup> Annual Business Meeting will be held here at the ANC on Monday, April 8, 2024, sponsored again by **Robin Towns**.

Please remember our absent officers and members in your meditation or prayers.

Asking members to pose for a group photo in the hallway following the meeting.

Name tag sleeves were requested to be left on tables upon departure.

**Chaplain Teresa Roane** offered benediction, for which she was thanked by **President Kirk**.

The Annual meeting for the Order of the Steel Magnolias was adjourned at 1:18pm.

Submitted by

Julie Hesler

Recording Secretary Pro Tem





## She Married a Family of a Dozen

### Ancestor Spotlight

#### Leslie Kirk



At 20 years old, Sarah Ellen Freeman, the daughter of William Ely Freeman, a Confederate soldier, became the bride of another soldier, William David Missildine, on July 26, 1871. In addition to gaining a husband, she became the stepmother of 11 children from Missildine's first marriage to Annie Jane Soles who, unsurprisingly died in 1870 from complications from childbirth. Four of those stepchildren were under the age of five at the time of her marriage. Over the course of her marriage, Sarah Ellen Freeman had 12 children of her own bringing the total number of children to 23! Later in life, she suffered from blindness which was detailed in her widow's pension medical records. This blindness was later attributed to a rare eye disease Retinitis Pigmentosa (RP), a hereditary disease, passed down through the family. Despite her blindness, Sarah was admired for her ability to recognize all her 150 descendants simply by the sound of their voice.



Sarah and William Missildine's first daughter was Emma Victoria Missildine (Dorman). She was a Steel Magnolia daughter, granddaughter, niece, and daughter-in-law. This daughter could recall being rushed into the cellar when Federal Troops came around on horseback. She heard men try to steal from community members as well as beat those unwilling to part with their money. Crops and livestock were stolen; barns burned, and she knew of men in the community having secret meetings to plan for survival. Emma's father and grandfather had both been in military hospitals and held captive as prisoners of war. Stories of disease, injury, death, and destruction were the most terrifying. Traveling by foot, it wasn't uncommon to find bodies or body parts littered along their path. They watched as family members and friends died before their eyes on the battlefield. Granny Emma's father-in-law and my third great grandfather, John Zachariah Dorman, Sr., a very skilled sharp shooter, had his right arm intentionally shot off at Chickamauga. Year later, Granny Emma recalled the sharp pain of the family's inability to care for her grandfather

Freeman and father-in-law Dorman, who suffered from PTSD. Nightmares ruled their minds as they grew old, unmanageable, and combative resulting in their deaths in the only state mental hospital, Bryce in Tuscaloosa.

This second great grandmother, Granny Emma, died when Mary Lucille Dorman (Newman), my grandmother, was 32 years old. My grandmother Mary remembered the firsthand stories of war and reconstruction vividly.

These ancestors were part of the rural community Pisgah in Montgomery County between Montgomery and Troy, Alabama. Many of these families arrived prior to Alabama's statehood in 1819, setting up homesteads in nothing but wilderness and truly Indian Territory. Much of their progress - communities and federal roads - are still in use today.

~ Continued



# She Married a Family of a Dozen

## Ancestor Spotlight continued



The Pisgah Community of Grady, Alabama, in Montgomery County was home to the Pisgah Primitive Baptist Church Cemetery, the burial site of my maternal relatives for 200 years including my mother, Jane Newman (Kirk). A portrait of Minister Robert Francis Missildine, my fourth great grandfather, hangs inside this historically marked white church built on a hill with a rolling landscape complete with a foot washing pool. My great grandfather, Thomas Jefferson Dorman, was paid \$1 a day during the Depression to transport huge stones from Troy, Alabama, to Pisgah with a horse and wagon. These stones surround the cemetery today.

Visitors to Alabama include the Pisgah community on their itinerary for Red's Little School House Restaurant featured on "Alabama's 100 Dishes to Eat Before You Die" for years. The fried cornbread is a must to try!

### 150 Descendants Survive Mrs. Missildine, of Pisgah

Article: *The Montgomery Advertiser* By Mildred Smith, October 10, 1937

#### 150 Descendants Survive Mrs. Missildine, Of Pisgah

By MILDRED SMITH  
The death a few days ago of Mrs. Sarah Missildine, 86, at her home in the Pisgah community brings to mind how like a page from Old Testament history her life story reads.

Counting her children, grandchildren, great-grandchildren and great-great-grandchildren, she was survived by more than 150 living direct descendants. It was an unparalleled experiment in posterity in this community, and probably seldom equaled in any community. Few women in their closing days could point to so many living people who owe their existence to them.

The entire stage of her life drama was set in the same community, the neighborhood around Pisgah Primitive Baptist Church. She died in a house only a few miles from the one in which she was born, and the one in which she gave birth to 12 children, eight of whom survived her.

About 10 years ago she fell and broke her hip so that she had been unable to walk since that time, and before the time of her passing she was "sans eyes, sans ears, sans teeth, sans everything." She had been totally deaf and blind for over five years.

#### Married Family of Dozen

When a young girl, Mrs. Missildine married William David Missildine, a Confederate veteran with 11 children. She helped to rear this family as well as her own 12 children, and a large number of the first group survive her in addition to her own direct descendants. A few of her descendants have left their native community, but, for the most part, they stayed close to the place of their birth and she has kept in constant touch with them. Until her hearing was completely gone, she knew every one by the sound of his voice.

Mrs. Missildine never travelled far from the scene of her home and her friends were her girlhood neighbors and their children and grandchildren. On the occasion of her 80th birthday anniversary, a reunion of her descendants and old friends brought to her home a host of visitors to pay homage to and shower gifts upon the octogenarian.

The eight living children of Mrs. Missildine are: B. F. Missildine, A. D. Missildine, Mrs. Emma Dorman, Mrs. J. C. Brooks, Mrs. Henry Jackson, Mrs. W. C. Jackson, Mrs. Noah T. Latham, all of the Pisgah community; and Mrs. Edith Dennis, of Marbury.

Among Grandchildren  
A partial list of her grandchildren includes: James Dorman, Lewy Dorman, Mrs. Jim Sullivan, Mrs. Tal-

(Continued On Next Page)

The death a few days ago of Mrs. Sarah Missildine, 86, at her home in the Pisgah community brings to mind how like a page from Old Testament history her life story reads. Counting her children, grandchildren, great-grandchildren and great-great-grandchildren, she was survived by more than 150 living direct descendants. It was an unparalleled experiment in posterity in this community, and probably seldom equaled in any community.

Few women in their closing days could point to so many living people who owe their existence to them. The entire stage of her life drama was set in the same community, the neighborhood around Pisgah Primitive Baptist Church. She died in a house only a few miles from the one in which she was born, and the one in which she gave birth to 12 children, eight of whom survived her...

She married a family of a dozen when a young girl, Mrs. Missildine married William David Missildine, a Confederate veteran with 11 children. She helped to rear this family as well as her own 12 children, and a large number of the first

group survive her in addition to her own direct descendants. A few of her descendants have left their native community, but, for the most part, they stayed close to the place of their birth and she has kept in constant touch with them. Until her hearing was completely gone, she knew everyone by the sound of their voice. Mrs. Missildine never travelled far from the scene of her home and her friends were her girlhood neighbors and their children and grandchildren.

On the occasion of her 80th birthday anniversary, a reunion of her descendants and old friends brought to her home a host of visitors to pay homage to and shower gifts upon the octogenarian. Those in attendance were ..... daughter Mrs. Emma Dorman ..... Among the grandchildren ..... Thomas Dorman ... Great-Grandchildren... Mary Lucille Dorman ...

Never before locally has there been seen such a group of survivors as attended the funeral of the Pisgah matriarch, held on a recent Saturday afternoon from Pisgah Primitive Baptist Church.





## *In Memoriam*

Founding Member 25 ~ Camille Rycroft Redfern Lowery

Died: December 4, 2018

Ancestor: Henrietta Jerkins, wife of Warren Lumpkin Story

Founding Member 29 ~ Jack Grady Dyess

Died: June 5, 2019

Ancestor: Mary Ellen Holt, wife of Orville Columbus Younglood

Charter Member 92 ~ Lavalon Kernon Collie Wall

Died: October 17, 2020

Ancestor: Mary Alice Williams, wife of James Henry Collie

Charter Member 85 ~ Mary Jane Inge Tingle

Died: March 3, 2021

Ancestor: Fanny Iredell Jones, wife of George Erwin

Historian National & Charter Member 153 ~ Felicia C. Wilt

Died: November 30, 2021

Ancestor: Mary Elizabeth Bateman, wife of Pleasant Potts

Co-Founder, Inaugural Treasurer General, Parliamentarian General

Founding Member 7 ~ LTC Charles Robert Odom

Died: August 11, 2023

Ancestor: Marian (Mary) Holmes Price, wife of Anthony Price

Founding Member 32 ~ Marie Barker Sanford

Died: July 9, 2023

Ancestor: Nancy Elizabeth "Nannie" Urquhart Wilson, wife of Josiah Wilson

Founding Member 16 ~ Charles "Chuck" Bryan Poland

Died: November 2023

Ancestor: Isabel Clark Davis, wife of Thomas Walton Davis

# About OSM

## Founded

In Alabama, the Cradle of the Confederacy  
on 28 June 2018

## Motto

“She was powerful not because she wasn’t scared  
but because she went on so strongly, despite the fear.”

~Atticus

## Flower

The Magnolia

## Colors

Green and Cream

## Objects

To honor all those women who supported  
Confederate Soldiers with courage, dignity and honor  
To promote genealogical, educational and historical research  
To encourage camaraderie among the members and those of like pursuit.

# Membership

Membership inquiries are welcome. Email Leslie Kirk at [lesliekirk@Live.com](mailto:lesliekirk@Live.com)

The Membership of the Order shall be limited to men and women who are 18 years of age or older, and are lineal or collateral descendants of those female family members who supported the Confederate Soldiers during the War Between the States. The qualifying female ancestors shall be limited to mothers, sisters, wives, daughters, aunts, sweethearts, and fiancés of qualifying direct or collateral Confederate Soldiers of the applicant.

Only Life Membership shall be offered. A person shall be deemed to be a life member upon approval of his/her application to the Order on its official lineage form and the payment of all fees and dues.

The current Order of the Steel Magnolias application must be completed by all applicants. Names, dates and places of birth, marriage and death must be given in each generation, as far as known, and sufficiently to prove the line. Each generation must be adequately connected to the preceding generation, consistent with standard professional genealogical practices. All sources relied on to prove the lineage must be cited and copies furnished.

Copies Military Service Records of the Confederate Soldier are required to prove service. If an application cannot be accepted, the Life Membership fee shall be refunded, less twenty-five dollars (\$25.00), which shall be retained for examination services.



# OSM Official Insignia

The official insignia of the Order was based on an actual magnolia bloom and leaves in Georgia and will be rendered as follows:

## Top Bar

Top bar is approximately .69 x 1.5". Embellishment includes a top ribbon flanked by magnolia leaves with beaded trim around the remaining three sides. "Order of the Steel Magnolias" appears in green enamel under the ribbon and leaves. There is a hidden ribbon bar on the back to attach the official green and ivory moiré ribbon.

## Founding Member Pin

The Founding Member pin measures approximately .35 x 1.25" with coordinating beaded trim to match the top bar. "Founding Member" appears in green enamel centered on the pin.

## Charter Member Pin

The Charter Member pin measures approximately .35 x 1.25" with coordinating beaded trim to match the top bar. "Charter Member" appears in green enamel centered on the pin.

## Officer Pin

The Officer pin measures approximately .81 x 1.13". The 10 different offices each appear in green enamel in the center of the decorative repousse edge. The years of service will be engraved under the office title.

## Ancestor Bar

The Ancestor Bar measures approximately .25 x 1.37". The ancestor name will be engraved on the bar.

## Lower Insignia

The lower insignia consisting of a magnolia bloom and leaves measures approximately 1.13 x 1.5" and will dangle from the official ribbon.

## Miniature Insignia

The miniature insignia will be a miniature silver magnolia in the appropriate size to wear on the branch bar with the miniature insignia of other societies.

The ribbon of the Order is dark green with a trim of cream.

The miniature insigne of the Order may be worn at any time. If worn together with other miniature insignia, it will be placed in the order of its founding in relation to the founding dates of other societies.

The President's Regalia shall be in sterling silver and will be a single enlarged magnolia bloom and leaves suspended from a bow and embellished with stones.



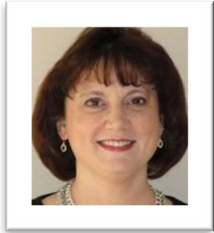
The Insignia order form, additional photos, and prices are on the website.





# Order of the Steel Magnolias History

## Honorary President General



Suzanna Etheridge Rawlins  
2018-2021

## Past Events

### Inaugural Membership Tea & Social

November 18, 2018 ~ Montgomery, AL

### 2nd Annual Meeting

April 8, 2019 ~ Washington, DC

### 3rd Annual Meeting

April 13, 2020 ~ Washington, DC

Canceled Global Pandemic

### 4th Annual Meeting

April 12, 2021 ~ Zoom Meeting

### Zoom Social

June 24, 2021

### Zoom Social

February 23, 2022

### 5th Annual Meeting

Sunday, July 24, 2022 ~ Zoom Meeting

## Founding

### Executive Board

2018—2021

Founder and President  
Suzanna Etheridge Rawlins

Founder and Vice President  
Leslie Ann Kirk

Co-Founder and Secretary  
Laura Rowell

Co-Founder and Treasurer  
Charles Robert Odom

Co-Founder and Historian  
Carla Whitehurst Odom

Co-Founder and Chaplain  
Patricia Gallagher

Co-Founder and Counselor  
Deborah Whitmore Hicks, Esq.

Co-Founder and Registrar  
Jane Routt Power

Co-Founder and Parliamentarian  
Shelby Dean Ward

Honorary Co-Founder  
Alex Bannerman





## Founding Members

F1	Suzanna Rawlins	FM24	Robin Readfearn Towns	FM47	Sharon Linthicum Sanders
F2	Leslie Ann Kirk	FM25	Camille Redfern Lowery*	FM48	Judy Dunaway Blackwell
F3	Jane Routt Power	FM26	Patricia Lynette Lewis	FM49	Constance Bourgeois Townsend
F4	Deborah Whitmore Hicks	FM27	Sally Elizabeth Patterson	FM50	Lucinda Morgan Manint
F5	Laura Rowell	FM28	Lora Sue McDaniel	FM51	Dresden Green Henderson
F6	Patricia Gallagher	FM29	Jack Grady Dyess*	FM52	Lisa Bryant Shipman
F7	Charles Robert Odom*	FM30	Diane Agerton Dyess	FM53	Brandi Henderson Crowe
F8	Carla Whitehurst Odom	FM31	Anne Travis Kilgrow	FM54	Sandra Gray
F9	Shelby Dean Ward	FM32	Marie Barker Sanford*	FM55	VOID (unused)
H10	Alex Bannerman	FM33	Mary Paulette Lollar	FM56	Sandra Hendrick Staley
FM11	Linda Edwards	FM34	Sally Hellums Woolley	FM57	Alicia Golmis MonCrief
FM12	Pamela Wright	FM35	Lynda Aydelott Moreau	FM58	Laura Francis Rowell
FM13	VOID (unused)	FM36	Melissa Fischer	FM59	Loretta Heisler Martin
FM14	Teresa Roane	FM37	Karen E. McClendon	FM60	Brenda Fleenor Haynie
FM15	Llene Cox	FM38	Helen Shipman Crowe	FM61	Sue Jaworowski-Southern
FM16	Charles Bryan Poland*	FM39	Ruth P. Haney	FM62	Bonnie Miller Shanks
FM17	Lila L. Burner Housden	FM40	Mary Powers Williams	FM63	Suzanna Butler Koski
FM18	Anne Farley	FM41	Jan G. Stancil	FM64	Mary Lou Young Fabian
FM19	Cheryl Rios	FM42	Carol Martin Dowdy	FM65	Julia Palmer Hesler
FM20	Marilyn Blankenship Tucker	FM43	Denise Kirk Dennis	FM66	Mary Shepherd Kuntz
FM21	Lori Christen Adams	FM44	Rosemary G. Gilliland	FM67	Jean Troy Schaum Bradley
FM22	Vickie E. Gallagher Bates	FM45	Rita Rozelle Schimpff	FM68	Sandra Mavis Grace Pennington
FM23	Annette Edgeworth Smith	FM46	Barbara Bourgeois Lewis		



# Charter Members

C76	Donna Kirk West Stoessner	C101	Patricia Harris Fullerton	C126	Charlotte Henley Dockray
C77	Rhonda Lievsay	C102	Barbara Ann Waggaman	C127	Mary Elizabeth White McIntyre
C78	Sandra Kay Cook Bassett	C103	Amy DeShay Kirk	C128	Julie Harper Rohling
C79	Brittney Nicole Kean	C104	Rebecca GravesHardwick	C129	Sandra Ard Rackard
C80	Bree Morse Berner	C105	Loretta Taylor Klein	C130	Janice M. Elliott
C81	Mary Laraine Young Hines	C106	Selena Swisher Levitt	C131	Barbara W. Webb
C82	Christina Hurst-Loeffler	C107	Cheryl Nestler Odell	C132	Patricia P. Mercer
C83	Denese Aline Wilson	C108	Judith Ann Ford Osborne	C133	Laura McFalls Bales
C84	Lorraine Gaston Ennis	C109	Brenda Clardy Winter	C134	Linda Martin Songy
C85	Mary Jane Inge Tingle*	C110	Eve Davenport Holder	C135	Barbara Smith Allison
C86	Marguerite Ann Bock Mogila	C111	Kathryn Martin Beck	C136	Elizabeth Bandy Hill
C88	Susan Cooke Davis	C112	Taylor Marie Beck	C137	Caroline Jennings Fafeita
C89	Ann Hatchett Cheney	C113	Jessica Fregia Nash	C138	Bonnie Jo Bridger Mittelmaier
C90	Janice M. Snead	C114	Ruth Cattles Cottrell	C139	Patricia Miller Loomis
C91	Ruth Elaine Carson	C115	Teresa Ann Young	C140	Bonnita Jo Slaughter
C92	Lavalon Kernon Collie Wall*	C116	Greer Mahaffey	C141	Nancy Munnerlyn Spears
C93	Ann Warren Wilkerson	C117	Carol Ann Kay Dunn	C142	Susan Kelley Schofield
C94	Ann Fields Bridges	C118	Margaret Hughes Ellis	C143	Ginger Moseley Bedell
C95	Nancy McKee Anthis	C119	Valerie Hartnett	C144	Baxter Keith Bedell
C96	Elizabeth Darden Corbin	C120	Martha Morgan Bender	C145	Dorothy Frerich Thompson
C97	Bonnie Gail Hurford	C121	Dale Boggs	C146	Cheryl Phillips Monteith
C98	Jeanann Goss	C122	Terri A. McCullough, Ph.D.	C147	Georganna Hastings Triplett
C99	Karen Hodges Johnson	C123	Claudia L. Pugh	C148	Linda Standridge Graham
C100	Gabrielle Smith Hadyka	C124	Lynne Allen Tate	C149	Christina Jameson McCurtain
		C125	Sylvia Gomez Budd		



## Charter Members Continued

C150	Frances DiAnne Collins	C174	Sylvia Dee Shore	C199	Rena Verret Labat
C151	Maria Muller Clemenceau	C175	Sandra Diane Tarbox	C200	Patrice Renee Donnelly
C152	Susan Kay Michael	C176	Ora Jane Johnson	C201	Eunice Connally Carr
C153	Felicia C. Wilt*	C177	Nancy Steele Brown	C202	Marcea Lynn Oetting
C154	Kimberly Martin Johnson	C178	Colleen Lynch Petosa	C203	Brenda Baker King
C155	Tresa Tatyrek	C179	Debra Maddux Wilson	C204	Cynthia Pruitt Spencer
C156	Patsy Carolyn Parmer	C180	Sarah Tullis de Barcza	C205	Nancy Bosenberg Karrick
C157	Mary Lee Hunley Norris	C181	Pamela Kay Hotary	C206	Barbara Hardwick Collier
C158	Kathryn Stirck Sklikas	C182	Olivia Bates Chandler	C207	Virginia Eubank Carter
C159	Kathryn Ann Tysinger	C183	Cathy Culverhouse	C208	Janet K. Taylor-Crusi
C160	Valerie Phillips Gildehaus	C184	Brenda Stewart Reeder	C209	Marilyn Crockett Marion
C161	Laura Tonkin Allen	C185	Lucy Ayers Gunthorpe	C210	Teresa Hammonds Chapman
C162	Diana Bass Blankenship	C186	Helene Kirby Werner	C211	Julene Decker Ignacio
C163	Ann Elizabeth Little Jones	C187	Elizabeth Chaney Sewell	C212	Nancy Lyons Thompson
C164	Sandra W. Griffith	C188	Ann Ware Coupland	C213	Doris Edwards Bush
C165	Gayle Mast Coan	C189	Audrey Armstrong	C214	Lyndy Winkler Logan
C166	Marilynn "Lynn" Mast Long	C190	Scarlett Rene Gibson	C215	Wanda Wilbanks Sato
C167	Sandra Meacham Floberg	C191	Martha Marshall Scott	C216	Stacy Komaraus McSwain
C168	Judith Polsgrove Mattila	C192	Harold Douglas Ford	C217	Martha Jacqueline Utley
C169	Melanie McCool McDaniel	C193	Anne Bunyan Bush	C218	J. Purkaple
C170	Diane Hart Deci	C194	Susan Shults Chambers	C219	Brenda Hall McDonald
C171	Lucinda Robertson Waters	C195	Judith Baker Malachowski	C220	Marie Horrell Le Cour
C172	Wanda Davis Samek	C196	Desiree Taylor Billeaud	C221	Barbara Ann Bartling Rooney
C173	Marjorie Ray Curtis	C197	Janet Price Bryant	C222	Marcia Gulden Szedula
		C198	Mark Anthony Chambers		



## Lifetime Members

223	Mindy Tidmore Kammeyer	247	Anna Wilkinson	271	Milbrey A. Beland Bartholow
224	Mary Anne Smith	248	Jennifer Lea Spain	272	Carole Ayers Ricketts Martin
225	Patsy H. Dodd	249	Julia Grimes Williams	273	Dana Louise Pruitt Boyd
226	Lori Lea Brown Duhon	250	Ashley Lynn Adams	274	E. Celeste Smith Craig
227	Jacqueline Wade Ruffing	251	Shirley Robbins Jaffe	275	Nancy Johnson Coghlan
228	John E. Idenden	252	Alline Lusk Kent	276	Sandra Bentley Dillard
229	Virginia Hurtes Rouse	253	Lori Priddy Graham	277	Alice Yarbrow Holtin
230	Kathleen Lee Johnston	254	Shawn Choat Martin	278	Pamela Foster Hanzaker
231	Brenda Kukemineer Yoder	255	Wilda Kay Whit Tisdale	279	Nancy Louise Plummer Hoffer
232	Tracy Anderton Winkles	256	Betty White Rose	280	Mary-Sue Vaughn Quinn
233	Pamela Allene Redfern	257	Mara Lynn Wilson	281	Joy Flint Huskey
234	Lois Tusing Thron	258	Brenda Elmore Azzara	282	Lori Cook-Folger
235	Daphne Greene Wright	259	Daryl Jean Gould	283	Victoria Hinton Johnson
236	Karen Kakos Robertson	260	Patty B. Hackett Mosley	284	Lillian Warthen Lavine
237	Vickie Manning Carmichael	261	Laurie Byers Weitzel	285	Shelia June Beatty
238	Jean Glen Gillette Hix	262	Jennifer Diane Rowan	286	Claire Lorrie Christian White
239	Suzanne Hayes Betts	263	Stacy Anne Ryan Mangum	287	Cheryl Bloodworth Aultman
240	Susan Gray Jones	264	Janice McGill Bynum	288	Regina M. Abernathy Ragan
241	Heather Gillette Hix	265	Gina Lynn Downs Bobo	289	Sharon Kaufelt Stine
242	Mary Reid Warner	266	Jane Gray Lanier	290	Mary Ellen Cooper Borgeson
243	Claudette Grissom Willis	267	Ann Gray Fletcher	291	Shelia Gail Gaddy
244	Suzanne Reeves Shimp	268	Joyce Gray Downs	292	Terry Martin DeWitt
245	Vicki Johnson Timmons	269	Lorraine Sharp Kish	293	VOID
246	Kay Minion McArthur	270	Frances Rae Crabtree	294	Sheila Lynn Alford Means





## Lifetime Members

295	Mary Brown Turner	320	Ann Reynolds Bergeron
296	Elizabeth Grace Chapman	321	Elizabeth Yearley Groszer
297	Renee Marie Willingham Hamilton	322	Paula Aydelotte Owen
298	Suzanne Lee Wilmeth Anderson	323	Donald Richard Middleton
299	Harriett Marie Story DeWitt	324	Cheryl Miller Sesma
300	Helen Elizabeth Story	325	Sanders Garner Mercer, Jr.
301	Lisa Dawn Smith Luckey	326	Kevin Ray Carr
302	Linda Kay Kuykendall	327	Christopher E. Chapman
303	Trisha Ann Holland Moseley	328	Katherine Davis James
304	Cynthia Kay Newman McGuffey	329	Joan Davis Ragland
305	Mary Ellen Fore Brillante	330	Cynthia D. Davis
306	Audrey Manly Mabe	331	Sherry Lee Cole
307	Glenda J. Harkins	332	Jo Ann Roth Taylor Cooper
308	Vincent S. Balducci	333	Carlton Murray Mansfield, Esq.
309	Dr. Jeffery C. Wells	334	Betty Keener Samaras
310	Janet Ruth Decker Otterness	335	Linda Andrews Bennett
311	Mollie Sue Morton	336	Susan Virginia Hull Stout-Pierce
312	Donna Lou Odum Loudermilk	337	Michael Edward Belcher
313	Patricia Baugh Thompson	338	Robin Martin Yates
314	Judith Crawford Creamer	339	Ann Kicker Blomquist
315	Kay Brakefield Tatum	340	Myron Crenshaw Smith
316	Brenda Eatmon Dorsett	341	Paul Ashley Walden
317	Kimberley Jayne Purifoy Stout	342	Ann Scott Garner
318	Larry Dan Jordan	343	Joyce Ball Patton
319	Carol Robinson Dykes		

\*Deceased





# Steel Magnolia Stories



## Ancestor Book

OSM is gathering biographical sketches for our Steel Magnolias. To date, we have received 15 submissions. We have a goal of reaching at least 100 narratives before we go to print with the first volume. Please continue to research and write about your Steel Magnolias and their experiences. You may submit photographs, stories, recipes, etc.

The Book Committee Chairman Julie Hesler and the project email is [OSMancestorbook@gmail.com](mailto:OSMancestorbook@gmail.com)  
See the OSM website "Members" page to download the submission form and instructions:  
<https://orderofthesteelmagnolias.weebly.com>

While we wait, from time to time, we will share some of the sketches that have been received to date as inspiration to other members.

### Steel Magnolias: Biographies of Our Soldiers' Loved Ones

#### Book Narrative Submission Form

- Complete the form and save it with your last name and your ancestor's name in the file name. (i.e. Smith – Jane Doe.docx)
- Submit the form via email to: [OSMancestorbook@gmail.com](mailto:OSMancestorbook@gmail.com).
- Attach photograph as a separate .jpg file to the same email message.

#### Member Contact Information

Member First Name:	<input type="text"/>	Member Last Name:	<input type="text"/>
Member Email Address:	<input type="text"/>		
Member Phone Number:	<input type="text"/>		

#### Ancestor Information

Ancestor First Name:	<input type="text"/>	Ancestor Last Name:	<input type="text"/>
Confederate Soldier's Name:	<input type="text"/>		
Ancestor's Relationship to Soldier:	Select One		
Photo Included (300 dpi or higher)	<input type="checkbox"/>		

#### Narrative

Tag line (optional):	<input type="text"/>
Ancestor's biographical narrative (no character limit):	<input type="text"/>

#### For Office Use Only

Date received:	<input type="text"/>
Notes:	<input type="text"/>





## *Our Steel Magnolia Ancestors*



Listed by Maiden Name (if known)  
Married Name is in parentheses

~A~

Amanda Elizabeth Ables (Lanham)  
Celia A. (possibly Kennemer) (Adams)  
Amy Elizabeth Agerton (Camp)  
Roseler Aker (Rollins)  
Nancy Mary Alexander (Goodson)  
Mary Allen (Myers)  
Mary Henrietta Allen (Jefferies)  
Caroline Anderson (Eubanks)  
Ruth Andrews (Phillips)  
Mary Archer (Gillet)  
Martha Ashburn (Ring)  
Martha Caroline Taylor Ashford (Turnipseed)

~B~

Albina L. Bailey (Nelson)  
Mary MNU (Baker)  
Susan Barnett (Allison)  
Martha Jane Barr (Langston)  
Mary Elizabeth Bateman (Potts)  
Nancy Ann Batey (Gaddy)  
Jane Battle (Lawson)  
Elizabeth Ann Beck (Prater)  
Mary Susan "Sudie" Beck (Powers)  
Elvira Jane Bedwell (Mohon)  
Augusta Bellinger (Cheney)  
Tabitha Cumi Bennett (Hudson)  
Eliza Jane Berry (Read)  
Susan Jane Bishop (Helms)  
Mary Ann "Polly" Blevins (Whitt)  
Cecilia C. Bonner (Sample)  
Ellen Harrison Bonsal (Christian)  
Sarah Catherine Boswell (Culpepper)  
Martha Rebecca Bowden (Maddox)  
Clarkey Boykin (Winborn)  
Mary Ann Eliza Boykin (McLemore)  
Susanna Agnes Bozeman (Sansom)  
Nancy Emeline Bradley (York)  
Martha Braxton (Washington)  
Frances Ann Bridges (Carter)  
Rebecca MNU (Brock)  
Mary Jane Browder (Lewis)  
Nancy Brown (Miller)  
Lavina Burkhalter (Owens)  
Mary Isabell Burson (Mallory)  
Sarah Burton (Agee)  
Sarah Jane Butler (Edwards)  
Winefred Elizabeth Byrum (Robinson)

~C~

Lucretia Cannon (Fordham)  
Cecile Sarah Carey (Mayans)  
Martha Carnel (Clark)  
Mary Susan Carroll (Issacs)  
Mary Ann "Polly" Carter (Shore)  
Mary "Polly" Cartwright (Ragland)  
Manerva Carver (Brooks)  
Sarah Ann Cates (Dutton)  
Tabitha Artemissa Cato (McGee)  
Elizabeth A. Chambers (Milam)  
Rachel LaDosca Chambers (Thomas)

Araminta Vashti Chambliss  
Mary Ann Chapman (Hightower)  
Sarah A. Chisenhall (Shackelford)  
Mary Cassie Choice (Ricketts)  
Lydia Christian (Pruitt)  
Catherine Clark (Lee)  
Isabel Clark (Davis)  
Rebecca Matilda Collier (Collins)  
Jane Collins (George)  
Rebecca Cooke (Pryor)  
Columbia Anna Cooper (Millan)  
Martha Ann Cooper (Cole)  
Mary E. E. Craven (Blackledge)  
Matilda "Tillie" Evelyn Crosby (Bryars)  
Louisa Crowder (Mercer)

~D~

Martha A. Daves (Volrath)  
Elizabeth Davidson (Fleenor)  
Emeline Cynthia Davis (Patrick)  
Mary Jane Davis (Cline)  
Laura Dawson (Holcome)  
Marie Laure de la Houssaye (Murphy)  
Rebecca Jane Dean (Frame)  
Sostenes Diaz (Gonzalez)  
Bettie Ann Elizabeth Dickens (Nunnally)  
Mary Catherine Dillard (Wilson)  
Zenora Flournoy Dillard (Mahone)  
Exia Dilworth (Kay)  
Henriette Dolle (Adams)  
Susan Samantha Donaldson (Johnson)  
Sophronia A. Dozier (MNU)  
Caroline Durbridge (Vallette)  
Luna Hester Durkee (Power)

~E~

Miriam Earle (Lee)  
Henrietta Maria Elliott (Mitchell)  
Sarah Ann Melinda Ellis (Edwards)  
Sarah Emerson (Brabham)  
Rebecca Emmons (Davis)  
Eliza C. Eubanks (Holcome)  
Susan Evans (Patten)  
Elizabeth Ann Ezell (Dean)

~F~

Sarah Jane Farris (Adams)  
Easter Ferguson (Young)  
Sarah Ann Ferguson (Gamble)  
Celeste Thomas Ferrell (Chambers)  
Louisa Adeline Findley (Kuykendall)  
Nancy Ann Fleming (Jordan)  
Sallie Wier Fort (Conger)  
Caroline Jane Fountain (Johns(ton))  
Amelia Ann Fowler (Wright)  
Sarah Ellen Freeman (Missildine)  
Mary Agnes Frierson (Burton)  
Eliza Jane Fuller (Keith)

~G~

Mary A. Gaines (Hunt)  
Frances Permelia Gambel (Dyer)



## *Our Steel Magnolia Ancestors*



Listed by Maiden Name (if known)  
Married Name is in parentheses

Cynthia Elivira Gambill (Smith)  
A. Eudora Gantt (Puckett)  
Drucilla P. Gardner (Butler)  
Ann Cornelia Gean (Mansfield)  
Mary Catherine George (Beckham)  
Elizabeth Emeline Gilbert (Holland)  
Elizabeth Giles (Agerton)  
Ellen Gillum (Pillow)  
Mary "Mollie" Gladden (Hurst)  
Martha Ann Frances Glenn (Dyer)  
Mary Jane Glisson (Roberts)  
Eliza (Jane) Good (Burner)  
Permelia Carolyn Goodwin (Childress)  
Mary Goss (Huddleston)  
Winifred Malone Gotcher (Sherman)  
Samantha Ann Graham (Wascom)  
Margaret "Peggy" Gray (Ross)  
Samantha Ann Green/Thomason (Choat)  
Amanda Greenwood (Foote)  
Emily Catherine Griffin (Butler)  
Ann Theodocia Griggs (Ward)  
Mary A. Grumbles (Pumley/Pumlee)  
~H~  
Martha Ann Hamilton (Boggs)  
Amanda M. Hancock (Smothers)  
Martha Jane Elizabeth Handley (Purifoy)  
Permelia Harmon (Schmidt)  
Amelia Harrellson/Harrison (Hester)  
Virginia Harris (MNU)  
Martha Ann Hayes (Jackson)  
Serena Haygood (Thompson)  
Malissa Caroline Henderson (Beall-Cadenhead)  
Amelie Victoire Herbert (Boudreaux)  
Clarinda Herrington (Kirby)  
Emma Jane Hicks (Dent)  
Elizabeth Hickson (Johnson)  
Rebecca Chisum Hill (Robinson)  
Margaret Elizabeth Hillman (Osborne)  
Crescentia Hoelle (Gulden)  
Mary Jane Holden (Wardlaw)  
Martha Jane Holloway (Middleton)  
Charlotte Julia Holman (Byers)  
Marian (Mary) Holmes (Price)  
Rachel Holmes (Bell)  
Mary Ellen Holt (Younglood)  
Nancy Jane Hough (Smith)  
Ruth House (Crunk)  
Savannah House (Cobb)  
Tarlisha Howell (MNU)  
Sarah Elizabeth Huey (Parsons)  
Georgia (George) Ann Hughes (Statham)  
Katherine Elizabeth Hunsucker (Smith)  
Susan Hunter (Corn)  
Malvina C. Huston (McShan)  
~I~  
Elizabeth Ingram (Dunaway)  
~J~  
Alice Rachel Jacks (Norton)

Mary A. Jacobs (MNU)  
Caroline Virginia James (Thomas)  
Henrietta Jerkins (Story)  
Georgia Anne Johnson (Herrington)  
Lillian Johnson (Green)  
Martha M. Johnson (Willingham)  
Fanny Iredell Jones (Erwin)  
Sarah Catherine Jones (Stover)  
Thirza Jones (Ricks)  
Elizabeth Jordan (Shaw)  
~K~  
Lucy Keith (MNU)  
Lucy Leffingwell Kelley (Connely)  
Zilphia Jane Kennedy (Shelton)  
Mary Ellen Kershaw (Bellinger)  
Charlotte Ann Kesler (Seeders)  
Mary Kilcrease (Etheridge)  
Mary Adalin King (Lightfoot)  
Emily E. Kitchens (Manning)  
Rachel Knight (Hunter)  
Matilda Knighten (Missildine)  
~L~  
Angelina Lair (Lovelace)  
Nancy A. Lamb (Johnston)  
Mary Frances Langford (Young)  
Mary Langston (James)  
Mary Ann Elizabeth Law (Bedell)  
Irene Leach (Craven)  
Elizabeth Lee (Palmer)  
Mary Lee (Wesley)  
Almeda Jane Leggett (Kolb)  
Aglonie Lejeune (Lagarde)  
Madeleine Lemoine (Blake)  
Minerva Ann Lewis  
Rebecca A. Lewis (Morgan)  
Caroline Lightfoot (Sparks)  
Mary J. Lindsey (Washburn)  
Jane Little (MNU)  
Frances Ann Lock (Brewer)  
Margaret Loftin (Tysinger)  
Sally Margaret Lord (London)  
Frances Ann Lowe (Day)  
Sarah Ann Lummus (Thomas)  
~M~  
Mary Elizabeth Machen (Hammond)  
Martha Magness (Cantrell)  
Lucy Steptoe Marshall (Marshall)  
Senny Martin (Coody)  
Sarah Matthews (Handy)  
Sonora Matthews (Cranford)  
Eliza Jane Maxwell (Bunch)  
Celia Ann McAskil (Wilson)  
Mary Adeline McClendon (Roberts)  
Eliza Jane McCrary (Rogers)  
Letitia Ann McDearmont (Allen)  
Rebecca Angeline McDonald (Banta)  
Mary Jane McLesky (Whitesid(s))  
Amanda Jane Meadows (Edwards)





## *Our Steel Magnolia Ancestors*



Listed by Maiden Name (if known)  
Married Name is in parentheses

Eleanor Jane Mecklin (Willbanks)  
Elizabeth Frances Mercer (Douglass)  
Mary Jane Meredith (Ingram)  
Sarah Prudence Merritt (Tinsley)  
Esther Elmina Miller (Harris)  
Samantha Miller (Crow)  
Emma Victoria Missildine (Dorman)  
Kenzie Elizabeth Mitchell (Horton)  
Eliza M. Morgan (Barton)  
Sarah Jane Moore (Bennett)  
Elizabeth Morton (Smallen)  
Sarah Jane Mouser (Parrish)  
Martha Foster Murphy (Kean)  
~N~  
Sara Elizabeth Nabors (McCool)  
Eliza P. New (Adams)  
Jane Hollins Nicholas (Randolph)  
Mary Nicholson (Peebles)  
Penelope M. Nicholson (Wear)  
Matilda Hester Norris (Robbins)  
~O~  
Mary Oliver (Crawford)  
Bedi Caroline Osborn (Sparks)  
~P~  
Louisa Emmaretta Parchman (Slater)  
Martha Parten (Aydelott)  
Dorothy Elizabeth Perry (Stone)  
Sarah Peters (Morgan)  
Clarissa Peterson (Miller)  
Sarah Ann Peyton (Eubank)  
Loucretia Phillips (Perry)  
Martha Christian Phillips (Adair)  
Elizabeth Cassandra Obedience Philpott (Bruce)  
Eliza P. Piercie (New) (Adams)  
Ellen M. Pilcher (Goodrich)  
Jane Pitney (Hurd)  
Louisa Ann "Louisiana" Pleham (Slaughter)  
Minerva Posey (Suttles)  
Elizabeth Gilbert Pound (Frazier)  
Debbie (Dobey) Powell (Anderson)  
Nancy Tabitha Prewitt (West)  
Rachel Price (Bass)  
Ann Pybus (Garbutt)  
~R~  
Maria Jane Rabb (Barnidge)  
Mary Ann Randle (Sexton)  
Jane Nicholas Randolph (Kean)  
Mary Margaret Rawlins (Berry)  
Telitha Reid (Jones)  
Nancy S. Reynolds (Womack)  
Permelia Adaline Richards (Ware)  
Charlotte Richardson (Pool)  
Winnafred Sarepta Rickman (Manly)  
Sarah Anne Elizabeth Ridley Fitzgerald)  
Amanda Caroline Roberts (Carter)  
Jane Haseltine Roberts (Allen)  
Sarah Ellen Roberts (Blankenship)

Elvira Robertson  
Nancy Robinett (Barnett)  
Annie Lipscomb Robinson (Brown)  
Margery Rogers (Clark)  
Isadora Ross (Kelvin)  
Mildred Ann Ross (Casey)  
Sarah Marinda Ross (Johnson)  
Temperance Parazah Rucker (Austin)  
~S~  
Charity Missouri Sands (Bass)  
Ruth E. Satterfield (Aydelott)  
Nancy Jemima Saunders (Rice) (Keener)  
Marie Felicie Sauve (Waggaman)  
Sarah Jane Scott (Henderson)  
Mary Jane Seal (Stevenson)  
Catherine C(ivill) Selkirk (Inglehart)  
Penny Serls/Surls (Bird)  
Alice Shackelford (Brown)  
Martha Sharpe (Conner)  
Eatha Malinda Shellnut (Langley)  
Nancy Lavina Sisk (Ayers)  
Mary Angeline Slaton (Handley)  
Elizabeth Smith (Messer)  
Frances Smith (Holdway)  
Margaret Snodgrass (Holloway)  
Nancy Ann Wagley Spiker (Errington)  
Margaret Louisa Stark (Montgomery)  
Susan Catherine Starr (Cook)  
Drucilla C./Kathryn Staton (Slater)  
Frances Caroline Steed (Bailey)  
Mary Stinson (Moore)  
Mary Jane Sutherland (Bartholomew)  
Rebecca Swords (Odom)  
~T~  
Permelia Tankersley (Crank)  
Agnes E. Tate (Landrom)  
Martha Ann Taylor (Speed) (Tate)  
Emeline "Milley" Thomas (Brakefield)  
Martha Thompson (Wilkins)  
Sarah Thompson (Francis)  
Elizabeth Tillery (Fitts)  
Nancy Ann Tison (Perry)  
Julia Ann Tolan (Ringo)  
Sarah Travis (Smyth/Smith)  
Mintie Mallissa Tucker  
Belvidere S. Tully (Shackelford)  
Ollie Turpin (Woods)  
Emily F. Tyler (MN possibly Clark)  
~U~  
Sarah Ann Underwood (Young)  
Julia Ann Upton (Merrill)  
Nancy Elizabeth "Nannie" Urquhart (Wilson)  
~V~  
Elizabeth Vail (MNU)  
Mourning Adeline Vandiver (Westmoreland)  
Margaret L. Vaughan (Fitch)  
Nancy Vaughn (Thompson)



## *Our Steel Magnolia Ancestors*



Listed by Maiden Name (if known)  
Married Name is in parentheses

~W~

Pricilla Wainwright (Miller)  
 Virginia Wait (Scott)  
 Amanda Elizabeth Walker (Etheridge)  
 Celia Ward (Franse)  
 Mary Elizabeth Warmath (Rosamond)  
 Millbra J. Warren (Rogers)  
 Mary E. Weeks  
 Tobitha Welborn (MN possibly Welch)  
 Mary Jane Wellborn (Lyle)  
 Lucy Elma Whitelaw (Rowan)  
 Joana Whitley (Honeycutt)  
 Sally Wiggins (Braswell)  
 Eliza J. Wiggins (Story)  
 Telisia Wiggs (Talbot)  
 Charity Wilkes (Crews)  
 Juda Williams (Woodward)

Mary Alice Williams (Collie)  
 Missouri Louise Williams (Willingham)  
 Alice A. Williamson (Stringer)  
 Sidney Williamson (Boyett)  
 Agnes Caroline Wise (Phillips)  
 Nancy Wood (Gillihan)  
 Elizabeth Jane Wood (MN possibly Calima)  
 Mary Jane Woods (Griffith)  
 Edith Emmaline Worrell (Gillette)  
 Maria P. Wright (Alcorn)

MNU - Maiden Name Unknown



## A True Steel Magnolia

Phoebe Yates Levy Pember  
August 18, 1823 - March 4, 1913  
Chief Matron of Chimborazo Hospital  
Richmond, Virginia



Phoebe Yates Levy Pember was born on August 18, 1823. She was the fourth of six daughters of a prosperous and socially prominent Jewish family in Charleston, South Carolina. Her father was a successful merchant and her mother was a popular actress.

Members of Phoebe's family were quite active in public life during the war. Her sister Eugenia Levy Phillips, a Confederate spy, was banished to an island. Her brother Samuel was the highest ranking Jewish officer in Savannah, Georgia.

The family's wealth enabled them to gain acceptance in the community, which wasn't easy for Jews. They moved among Charleston's elite until a series of financial setbacks sent them to Savannah, Georgia, in 1850.

Phoebe was then 27 years old and wanted a life of her own. She married Thomas Pember, a non-Jew, in Boston, Massachusetts, in 1856. Soon after the wedding, Thomas contracted tuberculosis, and the couple moved to the South, hoping his health would improve there.

On July 9, 1861, Thomas died of tuberculosis in Aiken, South Carolina. He was 36 years old. Widowed and childless, Phoebe returned to her family, who had fled to Marietta, Georgia, to escape the ravages of war.

In November 1862, Mrs. George Randolph, wife of the Confederate Secretary of War, offered Phoebe a position as a matron at the Chimborazo Hospital, a Confederate military hospital outside of Richmond, Virginia. Though Phoebe had no professional medical training, she believed that caring for her husband through years of illness qualified her for hospital work.

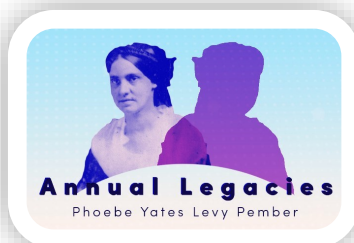
Chimborazo was said to be the largest military hospital in the world at that time. A complex of long, one-story whitewashed buildings sprawled atop a hill, the hospital began receiving patients in 1862 and was eventually expanded to 150 wards.

Each ward was a separate building, thirty feet wide and one hundred feet long, and housed approximately forty to sixty patients. Phoebe supervised 150 wards, and an estimated 15,000 soldiers were under her care during the Civil War.

On December 1, 1862, 39-year-old Phoebe Yates Pember became the chief matron of the Second Division at Chimborazo, which was one of five divisions in the hospital. Though she was confident in her abilities, she encountered much opposition, but she was not one to be pushed around.

In response to criticism that ladies should not see the horrors of a hospital, Phoebe replied:

~ Continued



"In one instance, Pember threatened a would-be thief with a gun she kept hidden in order to keep him away from the barrels of whiskey."

~ Quote: *American Battlefield Trust*



## A True Steel Magnolia Continued



“In the midst of suffering and death, hoping with those almost beyond hope in this world; praying by the bedside of the lonely and heart stricken; closing the eyes of the boys hardly old enough to realize man’s sorrows, much less suffer man’s fierce hate, a woman must soar beyond the conventional modesty considered correct under different circumstances.”

Though plagued by shortages of medicine and supplies, and having to contend with doctors who didn’t approve of female nurses, Phoebe cared for sick and wounded Confederate soldiers for the balance of the war.

But her position seemed little more than that of a cook, until the surgeon-in-charge, Dr. James McCaw, found her peeling potatoes one day.

McCaw made a thorough study of hospital rules and organized a full staff under Phoebe’s jurisdiction. She was provided with an assistant matron, cooks and bakers, and two laborers to perform menial tasks.

She also made sure that the orders of surgeons were performed properly, and that the medical and dietary needs of her patients were fulfilled. She wrote letters for the soldiers and comforted the dying, and set a pattern of compassionate care for the terminally ill that served as a model for future generations of nurses.

She eventually found some respite from her duties by renting a room in town, to which she returned at night. Meanwhile, her patients taught her something about courage:

“No words can do justice to the uncomplaining nature of the Southern soldier. Day after day, whether lying wasted by disease or burning up with fever, torn with wounds or sinking from debility, a groan was seldom heard.”

As the war progressed, casualties multiplied and Phoebe’s duties increased. Large numbers of incoming wounded caused shortages of medical supplies, surgeons and assistants, and hospital beds. She arranged for makeshift beds and continually washed and dressed minor wounds, preparing the more difficult cases for the surgeons.

Phoebe wrote in her memoir about Richmond:

“The horrors that attended, in other and past times, the bombardment of a city, were experienced to a great degree in Richmond during the fighting around us. The close proximity to the scenes of strife; the din of battle, the bursting of shells, the fresh wounds of the men hourly brought in, were daily occurrences.

Walking home after the duties of the Hospital were over, often when evening had well set in, during this time, the pavement around the railroad depot would be lined with wounded men, laid there to wait for ambulances to take them to the receiving hospital; some on stretchers, others on the bare bricks, or a thin blanket, suffering from wounds hastily wrapped around with the coarse, galling, unbleached homespun bandages, in which the blood had stiffened till every crease cut like a knife.

Women, passing like myself, would put down their basket or bundle, and ringing at the bell of any neighboring house, ask for basin and soap, and a few soft rags, and going from one sufferer to another, alleviate, with what skill they had the pain of wounds, change the uneasy position and allay the thirst. Many passing, would stop and look on, till the labor appearing to require no particular skill, they too would follow the example set them, and asking occasionally a word of advice, do their part carefully and willingly.

Idle boys passing, would get a pine knot, or tallow candle, and stand quietly as torch bearers, till the scene,

~ Continued



## A True Steel Magnolia Continued

with its gathering accessories, formed a strange picture, not easily forgotten. Persons passing in vehicles would sometimes alight, and, choosing the patients most in want of surgical aid, put them in and send them to the Seabrook Hospital, continuing their way on foot. There was very little conversation carried on, no necessity for introductions, and no names ever asked.”

Phoebe remained at Chimborazo until the Confederate surrender in April, 1865. She stayed with her patients after the fall of Richmond and until the facility was taken over by Federal authorities. During that time, she cared for both Confederate and Union soldiers. A total of 76,000 patients had been cared for at Chimborazo by the end of the Civil War.

She suddenly found herself alone in Union-occupied Richmond, without prospects, and with just a silver 10-cent piece and a box of useless Confederate money to her name. Laughing at her lot, she spent her paltry remaining funds on “a box of matches and five cocoa-nut cakes.”

In 1995, her portrait appeared on a sheet of 20 stamps issued by the United States Postal Service, which commemorated important persons and events during the Civil War.

When her responsibilities in Richmond were completed, Phoebe returned to Savannah, Georgia. There, she maintained her elite social status, and traveled extensively in the United States and Europe. She was honored by Confederate veterans’ organizations during her later years.

Phoebe also wrote her memoirs, *A Southern Woman’s Story: Life in Confederate Richmond*. First published in 1879, it is rated by Civil War historian Douglas Southall Freeman as “the most realistic treatment of the war” ever published.

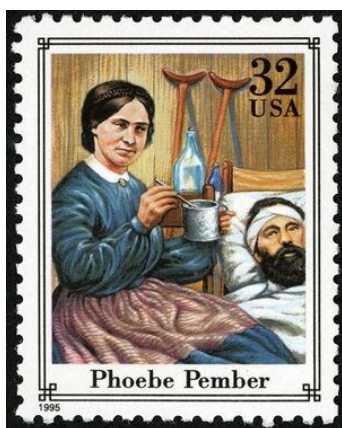
Phoebe Yates Pember died on March 4, 1913, at the age of 89, in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. She was buried in Laurel Grove Cemetery in Savannah. An obelisk was later erected there in her memory.

Article by:

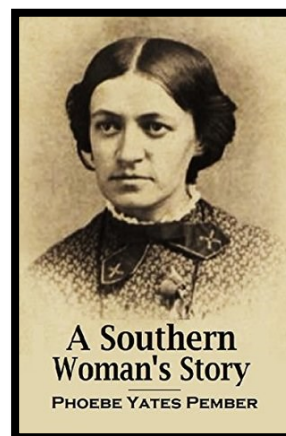
*HISTORY OF AMERICAN WOMEN—CIVIL WAR NURSES, CIVIL WAR WOMEN*

Link: <https://www.womenhistoryblog.com/2008/02/phoebe-yates-pember.html>

Images: *National Museum of Civil War Medicine*



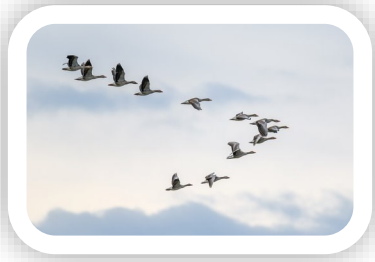
In 1995, Pember’s portrait appeared on a sheet of 20 stamps issued by the United States Postal Service, which commemorated important persons and events during the Civil War.



*A Southern Woman’s Story: Life in Confederate Richmond*

Author: Pember, Phoebe Yates, 1823-1913

Published: New York: G. W. Carleton and Co.; London: S. Low, Son, and Co.,



## Inspirational Page

# Teamwork ~ Stand by Each Other

Author Unknown

Stock free image: *Adobe*

When you see geese flying along in "V" formation, you might consider what science has discovered as to why they fly that way. As each bird flaps its wings, it creates an uplift for the bird immediately following. By flying in "V" formation, the whole flock adds at least 71 percent greater flying range than if each bird flew on its own.

People who share a common direction and sense of community can get where they are going more quickly and easily because they are traveling on the thrust of one another.

When a goose falls out of formation, it suddenly feels the drag and resistance of trying to go it alone — and quickly gets back into formation to take advantage of the lifting power of the bird in front. If we have as much sense as a goose, we will stay in formation with those people who are headed the same way we are.

When the head goose gets tired, it rotates back in the wing and another goose flies point. It is sensible to take turns doing demanding jobs, whether with people or with geese flying south. Geese honk from behind to encourage those up front to keep up their speed.

What messages do we send when we honk from behind? Finally — and this is important — when a goose gets sick or is wounded by gunshot, and falls out of formation, two other geese fall out with that goose and follow it down to lend help and protection. They stay with the fallen goose until it is able to fly or until it dies, and only then do they launch out on their own, or with another formation to catch up with their group.

If we have the sense of a goose, we will stand by each other in teamwork!



