



BLUE AND GRAY DISPATCH

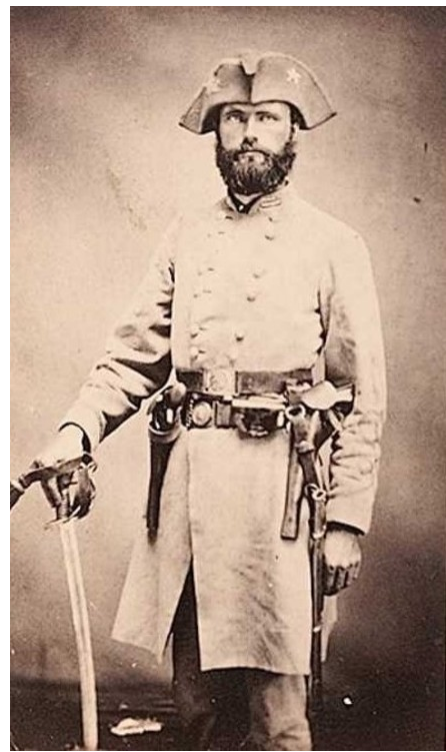
Aviator Howard Hughes Could Have Been a Member of the Sons of Confederate Veterans (SCV)

By Norm Dasinger

The world famous motion picture producer, the creator of the 'Spruce Goose' airplane, the inspiration for comic book personality Tony Stark (the father of superhero Ironman), the successful and super wealthy business tycoon, the boyfriend of Katharine Hepburn, the man that set the modern airspeed record of 352 mph in 1935, the speculated financier of the Watergate break-in 1972, an insane recluse as his life came to a close and best remembered today as the character portrayed by Leonardo DiCaprio in a recent movie, was the great grandson of Confederate General Richard Montgomery Gano. Yes, Howard Hughes was eligible for membership in the SCV!



Howard Hughes



*General Richard Montgomery Gano
Great-Grandfather of Hughes*

Gano, like his great grandson, was rich. He had moved from Kentucky to Texas in 1859 and made it big in the land and cattle trading business. In 1860, he resigned his seat in the state legislature and would soon form the 'Grapevine Volunteers' for the Confederate State Army. Their initial assignment would be back in Gano's home state serving with cavalry General John Hunt Morgan in Kentucky. Eventually, Gano would fight in the Indian Territory (modern day Oklahoma) in the battles of Second Cabin Creek and Poison Springs. After the War, he became a man of God and served as minister to churches in Kentucky and Texas. He and his sons accumulated over 55,000 acres in Texas before he died in 1913. Big Bend National Park was formed with much of Gano family land as its nucleus.

When the landing gear retracts following take off on your next airplane trip, you should remember the great-grandson of a Confederate soldier, Howard Hughes. He was the first commercial airline designer to make them standard in the industry.

It may be strange, but it is important to acknowledge our modern-day connections to the Civil War are really not that far removed from our daily lives.

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