

## THE FORGOTTEN ONES

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Sons of Confederate Veterans

There is no record of the plot of ground of the old Palestine City Cemetery. It was probably set aside in 1846 when the 100 acres of land to establish Palestine as the county seat of Anderson County was purchased, along with the site for the courthouse and the jail.

No lots were sold in the early days; people selected a spot and buried their dead without the formality of city permits. It was not until 1875 that a city ordinance required records be kept of burials there. The cemetery had many graves by the time of the Civil War, but there is no official record of burials during that period of time.

Arlington National Cemetery is well known for the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier whose identity is known but to God. Palestine's old city cemetery has a row of nine to eleven (some believe thirteen) Confederate soldiers buried off Market Street. Their graves have been there almost a century and a half. Who are they? Why are they buried there? Why have they been forgotten for so long? This is the story of those soldiers.

Allison Nelson of Bosque County organized the 10<sup>th</sup> Texas Infantry in the summer of 1861 and was its first colonel. At Virginia Point on the Texas coast across from Galveston Island was the assembly point called Camp Herbert. Between October 13<sup>th</sup> and October 31<sup>st</sup> 1861 Companies A through H mustered into service. By February 1862 foul weather set in and there was a marked increase of the sick list.

The men (many just boys ages 15 and 16) trained and drilled at Virginia Point. Isaiah Harlan reports in a letter dated February 19, 1861 that he has a very bad cold and cough and that there has been some typhoid fever in camp and a few deaths, but none in his company (Co. G) however.

According to the diary of Pvt. Ben M. Seaton, the 10<sup>th</sup> Texas left Camp Herbert on the 29<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup> of March 1862. "On the 29<sup>th</sup>, one-half of the regiment moved up to Millican Station near the Brazos River and the remainder went up on the 30<sup>th</sup> to remain there until the teams can be fitted out." Millican was Texas' northernmost railroad terminus when the War Between the States began in 1861. It became a vital Confederate shipping point from the area extending to the Red River on the North. Supplies and provisions moved from Galveston and Houston to Millican on the Houston and Texas Central Railroad. Many Confederate troops came by rail to nearby Camp Speight and marched overland from here for duty in Louisiana and Arkansas. On April 8<sup>th</sup> Seaton was appointed wagon master and on the 10<sup>th</sup> the supply train was ready with 22 wagons and 132 mules. April 18<sup>th</sup> the regiment passed through Boonville in Brazos County, Texas (Boonville flourished until 1866 when Bryan was established on the railroad.)

They turned northwest passing through the towns of Wheelock in southern Robertson County, Springfield in Limestone County, and Fairfield in Freestone County, toward Palestine. The regiment averaged 15-18 miles a day. Their destination was Shreveport, Louisiana, then north to a place called Camp Texas near Little Rock, Arkansas. The 10<sup>th</sup> had been assigned to General Hindman's command to the Trans-Mississippi Department. Many would not survive this "death march" to the seat of war; many would not survive the march out of Texas.

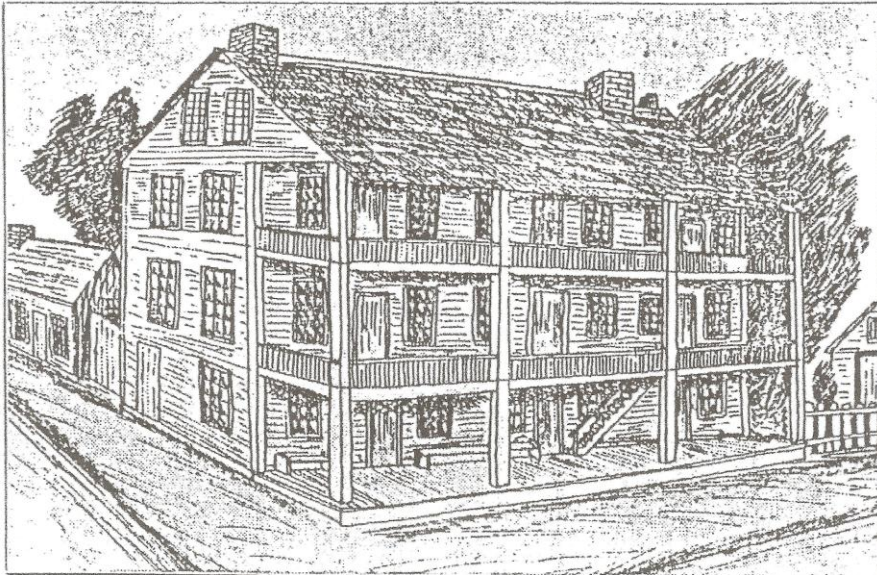
On Wednesday, April 30, 1862 the Trinity River was very high and spread all over the bottom for about a mile. The day was warm and the prairie countryside was beautiful. The native cedar trees were abundant, dogwood blooms a vision of white, and a purple vine overran the old city cemetery in Palestine, and there were no graves that day of young soldiers all in a row.

It took the regiment two days to cross the big treacherous river between Freestone and Anderson Counties at Bonner's Ferry above the crossing now called Long Lake (where present day US Hwy 79

crosses the river). Colonel Allison Nelson, absent since April 17<sup>th</sup>, had caught up with his regiment that morning and was cheered by his soldiers who were glad to see him again.

According to papers in the Kate Hunter Collection (the result of years of work by Anderson County's leading historian), Granbury's Brigade passed through Palestine. Many soldiers were sick and could go no farther. Brigadier General Hiram Bronson Granbury led a brigade of Texans, fighting in the Army of Tennessee, for only nine months. Others had preceded him, and others would follow – only to be snatched away by death, transfer or promotion. But Granbury remained the most popular of the brigade's commanders – so much so that after his death, and well after the end of the Civil War, men referred to themselves as members of Granbury's Brigade – one of Texas' most famous fighting units.

In a statement of Mr. W. D. Small, interviewed by Kate Hunter, June 16, 1923 “During the fourth (sic) year of the war, a regiment of Confederate soldiers belonging to Granbury's Brigade, being transferred to the Mississippi Department, passed through here and left twenty-five soldiers, too sick to travel further. Mr. David C. Hunter turned over a wing of the Hunter Hotel for a hospital, and some of the ladies of the town including my mother, Bee Small, and Mrs. Fannie Gooch, Mollie McClure, Mary Small, Mrs. John G. Stuart, Miss Mollie Stallcup, Mrs. George R. Howard, and others nursed these soldiers and contributed to their wants. Nine of twenty-five died and are buried on the east end of the old cemetery – all along in a row.



Hunter Hotel, Palestine, Texas (1920 Sketch)

James Neyland recalls these accounts in his book *Palestine (Texas): A History*, as does historian Carl Avera in *Wind Swept Land*, a history of Palestine and Anderson County. However, the most detailed report of this story appears in the “Palestine Daily Herald” in an article dated September 5, 1928 where an old timer recites the story and claims that in the summer of 1863 (sic) the men of Granbury's Division were detained in Palestine at one time on account of a serious illness among the soldiers. A Committee was formed to take some steps for their immediate help. The north wing of the old Hunter Hotel with four large airy rooms was engaged and work by the good ladies of the town began in earnest. About 20 or 25 of these soldiers were taken in charge. Nice cool beds were provided and a cistern of good water was right at the door. Mrs. Joseph Stalcup, Mrs. J. D. Gooch, Mrs. John G. Stuart, Dr. H. H. Link, Dr. E. J. DeBard, Judge Perry and wife along with Aunt Bee Small as superintendent at the hospital were those who ministered to the ill soldiers. Many other young ladies supplied delicacies and beautiful flowers at all times. The writer says he was one of two young boys to run errands for the sick soldiers. Out of the number enrolled, nine answered their last call and are buried along in a row in the old cemetery with small monuments marked “UCV” as a marker for their last resting place.

Credit should be given to those kind citizens of Palestine, Texas. These caregivers or “good Samaritans” if you will, who came to the aid of some twenty-five ill soldiers, on short notice converted part of a hotel into a hospice. Dr. H. H. Link was regarded as one of the best doctors in East Texas at that time. Most of the other folks were merchants (or wives of) around the courthouse square. All their names are well known in local history. They were successful in helping restore the health of most of these soldiers, enabling them to return to duty. To the nine who died here, these kind and caring townspeople were the last faces they would see. These unselfish local citizens must have given much comfort and compassion to ease the suffering of the boys in gray. In addition to attending to the medical needs of these men, some of the ladies may have read to them or written letters for them. They may have sent notes of condolences to the families of those who died. These women and doctors did their part to fight the battle on the Southern home front. Today when traveling through Palestine, street signs can be seen bearing the names of Link, Gooch, Howard, DeBard, and Perry.

As patriotic men of the South, the soldiers were gallant in their desire to do their duty and rid their country of the invading Federal Army and to have a chance to do battle with the Yankee aggressors. Willingness to fight and resolve to win was not a problem within the ranks. However, the Confederate soldier was stalked relentlessly through the war by an enemy he was powerless to fight – disease and sickness. Casualties during the Civil War are often evaluated in terms of trauma and death resulting from battlefield wounds and combat. In truth, the major killer of the War Between the States was sudden and uncontrollable disease. The most deadly killer of Confederate soldiers was not the Federal Army, but the invisible organisms that filled the camps with sickness.

Confederate medical regulations published early in the Civil War listed a total of 130 diseases under the main heading of “fevers.” The most common ailments of the southern fighting men were intestinal disorders, diarrhea and dysentery. Other deadly diseases were measles, malaria, yellow fever, small pox, scarlet fever, spurious vaccinia (repulsive looking ulcers caused by impure vaccine virus), pneumonia, consumption, tuberculosis, bronchitis, rheumatism, scurvy, camp itch, mumps, venereal disease and typhoid fever.

Typhoid made its appearance very early in the war and by August 1861 had attained epidemic proportions among troops. It was an acute infectious disease characterized by intestinal disorders acquired through drinking infected water, milk, etc. and was usually fatal. It caused about one-fourth of all deaths from disease in the Southern armies. Joseph Jones made this statement several years after Appomattox: “Typhoid progressively diminished during the progress of the war and disappeared almost entirely from the veteran army.” Jones was one of the foremost authorities on Confederate medicine. The 10<sup>th</sup> Texas would have a close encounter with typhoid in the spring of 1862.

Continued exposure and fatigue, bad and ill-prepared food, salt meat, insufficient clothing, lack of hygiene, poor shelter, exposure at night to sudden changes of temperature, and infected tents and camps formed a combination of causes which explains the high fatality rate of an army in the field.

The great number of insects and vermin found in camp played an important role in the promotion of epidemics. One Johnny Reb swore that some of the flies and mosquitoes were of a “preposterous size – almost able to shoulder a musket.” Almost invariably attacks by mosquitoes were followed in a few weeks by epidemics of chills and fevers. The people of the time knew not the connection between the two events. It was medically unknown that mosquitoes carried and transmitted yellow fever and malaria. In 1861, malaria was still attributed to poisonous vapors that rose from the swamp. Impure drinking water was also a cause of illness among troops.

Joseph Jones said there were five times as many cases of sickness as of injury. He further stated that for every soldier who died as a result of battle there were three who perished from disease. Many who managed to survive the war died within a few years from the effects of illnesses contracted during their service.

As noted earlier by James H. Hurst, Co. A, 10<sup>th</sup> Texas Volunteer Infantry, from his diary that the regiment crossed the Trinity River on April 30<sup>th</sup> and May 1, 1862. So did Pvt. Ben Seaton, Co. G of the

10<sup>th</sup> Texas: “Marched 8 miles on April 30, 1862 to Bonner Ferry on the Trinity River. We had to ferry and were detained two days in getting across to the other side. Then to Palestine on May 2, 1862 – 12 miles, a fine road and beautiful rolling country though very warm.”

Both diary entries from Pvt. Hurst and Pvt. Seaton place the 10<sup>th</sup> Texas in Palestine on May 3, 1862. The regiment most likely camped by Gum Springs, southeast of East Hill Cemetery on Rusk Road. That would be located between present day Spring Park Lake and the cemetery off Lacy Street, formerly Rusk Road.

Confederate Service Records compiled and available at the Confederate Research Center located on the campus of Hill College, Hillsboro, Texas, reveal the following records for the soldiers listed below:

Pvt. William Landreth, Co. I, 10<sup>th</sup> Texas Infantry left sick in Palestine, Texas on May 3, 1862. He was listed on the reports as being on sick furlough at Anderson County, Texas, but did not return to his command. Records indicate he surrendered in Brazos County, Texas on July 22, 1865. Date of death and place of burial is unknown.

Pvt. Martin Palmer, age 33, Co. F, 10<sup>th</sup> Texas Infantry was said to have been left sick in Palestine in an unpublished letter dated May 10, 1862 from Pvt. Erasmus E. Marr, Co. F to his brother. Further states that Col. Nelson would send Pvt. Palmer home. He was discharged for consumption October 13, 1862. Date of death and place of burial is unknown.

Pvt. William A. Hogue, age 25, Co. D, 10<sup>th</sup> Texas Infantry, died of disease at Palestine, Texas on May 6, 1862.

Pvt. William T. Embry, Co. K, 10<sup>th</sup> Texas Infantry, died of disease at Palestine, Texas on May 7, 1862.

Pvt. John C. Quick, Co. C, 10<sup>th</sup> Texas Infantry, died of disease at Palestine, Texas on May 7, 1862. He had enlisted on 3 weeks prior to his death.

Pvt. R. M. Leach, Co. H, 10<sup>th</sup> Texas Infantry, died of “Typhoid Fever” at Palestine, Texas on May 10, 1862. His father John Leach from Belton, Bell Co., TX, took possession of his knapsack and person effects from Capt. Hartgraves at the hospital in Palestine, Texas. According to this final statement, Pvt. Leach was 17 years old and had stood 5’4” tall with blue eyes, light hair and a light complexion.

As to the long-time mystery of the nine to eleven soldiers “all buried in a row” it is almost certain they were members of the 10<sup>th</sup> Texas Infantry Regiment. All recorded accounts of these men place them in Granbury’s Brigade, consisting of as many as 12 regiments. Of those regiments, only the 10<sup>th</sup> passed through Palestine. The letters and diary of Pvt. Seaton and Pvt. Hurst place the 10<sup>th</sup> in Palestine on May 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup>, 1862. Confederate Service Records prove that Pvt. William A. Hogue, Pvt. John C. Quick, Pvt. William T. Embry and Pvt. Richard M. Leach died of disease in Palestine, Texas between May 6-10, 1862. Other letters and Confederate records refer to sick men left in Palestine in May 1862. It seems extremely likely that four of those graves in the old city cemetery contain Privates Hogue, Embry, Quick and Leach.

Identifying those buried in Palestine has been greatly hampered by the timeframe and lack of information. The case is now 150 years cold and there are over 500 men of the 10<sup>th</sup> Texas whose date of death and place of burial is unknown. The simple approach to researching this mystery was to gather the facts to the extent possible, and then follow where the facts lead. The best hope for new information would be from descendants of some of these soldiers. Unpublished letters and journals of these men or family histories might provide more clues to identifying the remaining soldiers in these long-ago graves.

After the regiment left those sick at Palestine, it continued east, crossing the Neches River and into Rusk. More soldiers would be left sick there, among them Pvt. John H. McCoy, age 17, who died of typhoid fever May 12, 1862. In a letter dated May 11, 1862, Pvt. Isaiah Harlan says that “the health of the

regiment is only tolerably good. Fifteen or twenty of the sick have been left – top four or five have died.” After passing through Rusk, Texas on May 5, 1862, the regiment crossed the Sabine River in Panola County (near where present day US Highway 59 crosses the river). Pvt. Harlan continues on May 12, 1862, Elysian Field, Texas – marched 12 miles today – crossed the Red River at Shreveport on May 15<sup>th</sup> and arrived in camp in Arkansas after 3 days of hard marching on the 18<sup>th</sup> of May. By June 6, 1862, Nelson’s regiment is in camp at Little Rock, Arkansas. Pvt. Hurst recalled that the long hard march over the hills and rocks in Arkansas will be long remembered by all the boys. Pvt. Harlan writes on June 8<sup>th</sup> “we had a good deal of sickness in camp and several deaths. My own health is not very good, though I am able to do my duty.” June 16, 1862, Nelson’s Regiment was engaged in the battle of Devall’s Bluff on the White River in Arkansas. Pvt. James H. Hurst, Co. A died June 17, 1862 of typhoid fever. On September 12, 1862 Colonel Allison Nelson was promoted to Brigadier General and on October 8, 1862 he would die in Little Rock, Arkansas of typhoid fever.

In August of 1862, the 10<sup>th</sup> Texas was assigned to the District of Arkansas, Trans-Mississippi Department. Pvt. Harlan in a letter dated August 8, 1862 refers again to illness in the regiment, “our sick are slowly convalescing – most of them at least. A few have died, six out of company in July. Twenty-five or thirty, perhaps forty in the regiment have died mostly from measles.” He advises his brother, Alpheus not to join the army because “I am afraid he will take fever and die – sickness goes so hard for him.” Pvt. Harlan reports that the 10<sup>th</sup> Texas numbers about 850 men now. “One hundred or thereabout having died since we first reached Little Rock.” Private Isaiah Harland expresses sentiments to his mother that I’m sure the boys in Palestine must have shared as well in a series of letters written home from September 28, 1862 to March 23, 1864. Pvt. Harlan says. “Ma, I must state that it seems to me that I never knew your worth so well or thought so much of you as I have since I have been in the army. When home and friends and there is prospect that he will never see them again, his thoughts turn to them with an interest that those have no idea of who have not been placed in such circumstances. I hope I will live to see you again in peace. What a pleasure it would be to go home and see you and all those with whom I used to be familiar. It is my sincere prayer that we may survive the war and meet at home again in happiness. Heaven grant that it may be so. God save me alive that I may be permitted to see you and family all again. Remember me to all my friends that you may see. Pray for us. Your affectionate son, I. Harlan.” Isaiah Harlan was killed May 27, 1864 during the battle of Pickett’s Mill near New Hope, Georgia at the age of 32. He is buried in an unknown mass grave.

By the time Nelson’s 10<sup>th</sup> Texas was encamped at Little Rock, Arkansas these Texans had suffered horribly with 140 deaths and 75 discharges due to illnesses related to typhoid fever, measles, pneumonia, diarrhea and consumption.

Had the solders “all buried in a row” in the old city cemetery in Palestine survived the journey to Arkansas, their prospects would have been grim. To remain in service for the duration of the Civil War and live to tell about it was becoming more unlikely as the war progressed. A brief history of the 10<sup>th</sup> Texas speaks for itself in the following time-line:

January 9-11, 1863	Battle of Arkansas Post, Forth Hindman, Arkansas
January – April 1863	Enlisted men were taken prisoner and sent to Camp Douglas, IL. Note: Ernest A. Griffin, a black Chicago funeral home director, flies the Confederate battle flag and erected at his own expense a \$20,000.00 monument to the 6,000 Confederate soldiers who are buried on his property, once the site of Union POW Camp Douglas.
July – Nov. 1863	Assigned to Cleburn’s Division 2 <sup>nd</sup> Corps, Army of the Tennessee
Sept. 19 – 20, 1863	Battle of Chickamauga, Georgia Note: Pvt. James D. Smith Co. H received honor for heroism
Nov. 23-25, 1863	Assigned to Granbury’s Brigade, Cleburne’s Division, 1 <sup>st</sup> Corps Army of the Tennessee

Feb. 23-25, 1864	Action and combat around Tunnell Hill, Buzzard's Roost Gap and Rocky Faced Ridge, Georgia
May – Sept. 1864	Atlanta Campaign
July 18, 1864	General John Bell Hood succeeds Joseph E. Johnston as commander of the Army of the Tennessee
July 22, 1864	Battle of Atlanta, Georgia
Nov. 30, 1864	Battle of Franklin, Tennessee Note: Major General Hiram Granbury and Major General Patrick Cleburne were both killed in action.
Dec. 17-28, 1864	Retreat to the Tennessee River near Bridgeport, Alabama
March 19-20, 1865	Battle of Bentonville, North Carolina
April 9, 1865	General Robert E. Lee surrenders to Union General Ulysses S. Grant at Appomattox Court House, Virginia
April 26, 1865	General Joseph E. Johnston finally surrenders his Army of the Tennessee (including the remainder of the 10 <sup>th</sup> Texas) at Bennett's House, Durham Station, North Carolina

No exact figures have been found indicating how many members of the 10<sup>th</sup> Texas Infantry surrendered in North Carolina in late April 1865. On paper a regiment consisted of approximately one thousand men but very few regiments got to the battlefield with numbers like that. No regiment in the army, at any time after its first few weeks of existence, was ever anywhere near its full strength. With the prevalence of sickness, every regiment had a slow, steady process of attrition beginning the moment the men got into training camp and ended only with surrender.

During the summer of 1861 when Colonel Nelson organized the 10<sup>th</sup> Texas Infantry Regiment the estimated strength was about 1,191 men including the field and staff officers. It is believed that between 76-100 officers and enlisted men were still with the unit when it laid down its arms, much less than 10% of its original strength. A breakdown of statistical numbers for men who served in the 10<sup>th</sup> Texas as based on compiled Confederate Service Records, listed and researched by Scott McKay on his website reveals the following information to wit:

309	Died of disease
110	Wounded, Injured or Disabled
91	Killed as a result of combat or battle
92	Captured
67	Left sick
139	Missing, Absent or Deserted
151	Transferred to another unit/Reassigned or Discharged
76	Surrendered with Army of Tennessee in North Carolina, 1865
21	Surrendered various places in 1865
12	No military information or records

In a published account in the "Herald" in September of 1919 Mrs. M. A. Lewis of 204 Hoxie Street in Palestine made a plea for the erection of grave markers for both the Confederate and Union dead buried in Palestine. She left \$1.00 with the newspaper and pleaded for others to join her in raising a fund to provide monuments for these heroes of the past. A reply to this good woman was printed on October 7, 1919 whereas T. C. Spencer and C. A. Stern reported that some 18 to 20 years ago the John H. Reagan Camp, U.C.V., No. 44 provided suitable markers for both Confederate and Federal soldiers in the old

cemetery. They used red cedar and bois d'arc boards as the most lasting material obtainable. Mr. A. L. Bowers, foreman of the I&GN Railroad bridge department, very kindly had these markers made and Mr. John Kelly generously made the branding irons for either U.C.V. or G.A.R. for burning into the wood. During the 1940's some of these were replaced with concrete markers, although the source of the markers is not known.

On a hot Saturday in July 2001 many people from different historical groups paid tribute to those "forgotten ones." Members of several camps of Sons of Confederate Veterans from the Johnson-Sayers-Nettles Camp #1012 of Fairfield, Texas and the J. M. Matt Barton Camp #441 of Sulphur Springs, Texas were on hand. Members of the Davis-Reagan Chapter of United Daughters of the Confederacy from Anderson County, Texas were there, including long-time president Dollye Jeffus. Members of the Anderson County Historical Commission in attendance were Bonnie Woolverton, Jimmy Odom, Newell Kane, and Gary Williams. The reason for this gathering of historians was to replace the existing broken and crumbling concrete UCV markers and install new 230 pound marble markers for these soldiers. These impressive upright monuments have a Southern Cross above the words "Unknown Soldier CSA."

Heading up the work crew was Ronnie Hatfield of Palestine and other members of the 12<sup>th</sup> Texas Infantry Reenactors, including well-known Anderson County historian Forrest Bradbury, Jr. Hatfield, called "Sarge," is 1<sup>st</sup> Sgt. And oftentimes Company commander of the 12<sup>th</sup>. Most all these reenactors came from as far as 200 miles away to give their time and skill to set up and install the new markers. It was gratifying to see all of these people gathered to preserve local Civil War history.

Every time I read or study the day-to-day hardships of the average Confederate soldier, it never ceases to impress and amaze me. The likelihood of any of these men who served the Confederate State of America during 1861-1865 surviving seems to have been against all odds. The War Between the States was especially grueling for Texans because in addition to all the other hardships, they had to travel the longest distance to get there-to the seat of war. And for those lucky enough to survive, they had the longest journey home. The hope, grit, and valor of our Southern ancestors is inspirational. The fact that so many Confederate soldiers survived their war-time experience and returned home to their families and lives and helped rebuild the nation is an everlasting tribute and testament to that intangible and timeless quality known as the "Southern Spirit."