



SONS OF CONFEDERATE VETERANS, TEXAS DIVISION

THE JOHN H. REAGAN CAMP NEWS

www.reaganscvcamp.org

VOLUME 14, ISSUE 3

MARCH 2022

COMMANDER DYER'S DISPATCH



Compatriots,

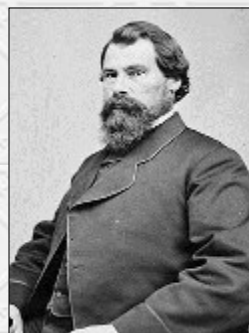
We had a really good March meeting, if you missed it we had a very good program from member Ed Hietman. Ed will also give the April program which will be part two. Coming up in May we have Andrew Harris doing our program. Andrew always has some very interesting artifacts from the Civil War era.

If you are like me you are glad warmer weather is here. With that being said I would like to have a short work day to transplant some of John H. Reagan's flowers to the Plaza. I will check to see if they are beginning to show their self. I will let everyone

know the date and time.

I was thinking the other day about the attacks on every thing Confederate. It started back in 2012 and continues in 2022. Did not think it would last this long and it is sickening that a lot of it is from Southern people, even some that had ancestors that fought and died for the Southern cause. Let me just say this, be very careful who you vote for in our local elections. All it would take is one or two more liberal Council members and a liberal Mayor and the Reagan Statue may be in danger. I don't think it would take much from them to talk the City Manager to try to take it down. I personally found out what she thinks of our local history.

Dan Dyer
Commander



John H. Reagan

About 1863

Oct 8, 1818 – March 6, 1905

Post Master General of the
Confederate States of America

Secretary of the Treasury CSA

U. S. Senator from Texas

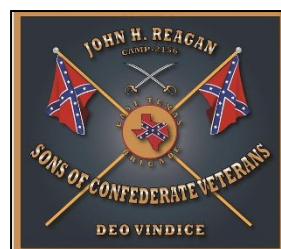
U. S. Rep. from Texas

District Judge

Texas State Representative

First Chairman - Railroad

Commission of Texas

A Founder and President of the
Texas State Historical Association

CAMP MEETINGS

4th Thursday of Each Month
06:30 PM

With a meal served
at each meeting.

Commercial Bank of Texas on the
corner of N. Mallard & E. Lacy Street

The Bank is located just south of the
Anderson County Courthouse Annex.

Guests are welcome!
Bring the family.

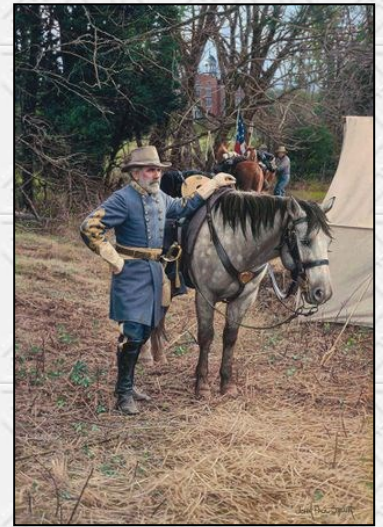
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INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Commander's Dispatch	1
Calendar of Events	2
March Meeting Pics	3
March Historical Program Sibley's Brigade by Ed Heitmann	4-16
Remembering Your Ancestor	17
Robert E. Lee	18
Calendar for March	
Tx Civil War History for March	19
Confederate Plaza Info	20
Reagan Camp Contacts	21

The John H. Reagan Camp is requesting donations from those who would be willing to contribute financially to help keep the Confederate Heroes Memorial Plaza landscape manicured. If you would be willing to donate, please contact Dan Dyer at danieldyer497@yahoo.com

Although it looks like a photograph, to the right is a beautiful John Paul Strain painting titled "General Robert E. Lee in Gettysburg". You can find this and other Confederate paintings for sale online.



Prayer List

- Compatriot Forrest Bradberry
- Compatriot J.B. Mason
- Past Reagan Camp Historian Gary Williams
- Rod Skelton (former Camp Chaplain)
- Former Camp Commander Rudy Ray
- United Daughters of the Confederacy
- The Sovereign State of Texas
- The United States of America

Officers for 2022

Commander - Dan Dyer

1st Lt. - David Franklin

Adjutant/Treasurer - Richard Thornton

Sgt at Arms - Doug Smith

Judge Advocate - Martin Lawrence

Chaplain - Dwight Franklin

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

The Reagan Camp will have monthly meetings on the 4th Thursday of each month in the Commercial Bank of Texas meeting room

April 28, 2022 - April meeting

May 26, 2022 - May Meeting

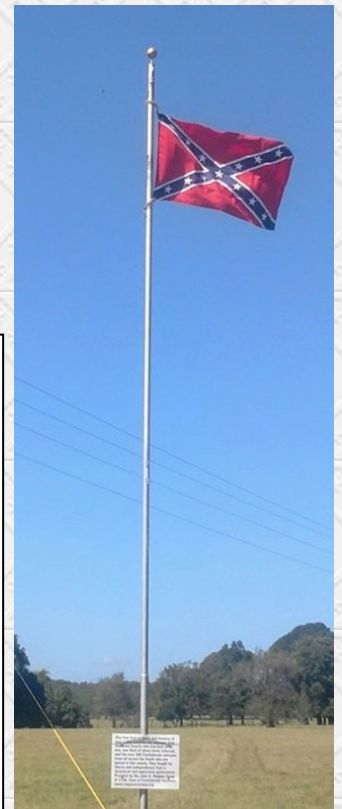
June 3-5 - Texas Division Reunion

June 23, 2022 - June Meeting

July 19-21 - National Reunion in Georgia

This flag flies in honor and memory of over 1,000 Confederate veterans from Anderson County who marched off to war, one third of whom never returned, and the over 500 Confederate veterans from all across the South who are buried in this county. They fought for liberty and independence from a tyrannical and oppressive government.

Provided by the John H. Reagan Camp #2156, Sons of Confederate Veterans.
www.reaganscvcamp.org



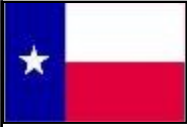
Above: Reagan Camp's battle flag and sign displayed proudly at intersection of FM 315 and Anderson Cty Rd 448, ten miles north of Palestine.

"NOTHING FILLS ME WITH DEEPER SADNESS THAN TO SEE A SOUTHERN MAN APOLOGIZING FOR THE DEFENSE WE MADE OF OUR INHERITANCE. OUR CAUSE WAS SO JUST, SO SACRED, THAT HAD I KNOWN ALL THAT HAS COME TO PASS, HAD I KNOWN WHAT WAS TO BE INFLICTED UPON ME, ALL THAT MY COUNTRY WAS TO SUFFER, ALL THAT OUR POSTERITY WAS TO ENDURE, I WOULD DO IT ALL OVER AGAIN."

-PRESIDENT JEFFERSON DAVIS-

"DUTY IS THE MOST SUBLIME WORD IN OUR LANGUAGE. DO YOUR DUTY IN ALL THINGS. YOU CANNOT DO MORE. YOU SHOULD NEVER WISH TO DO LESS."

-GENERAL
ROBERT E. LEE-



MARCH REAGAN CAMP SCV MEETING PICS

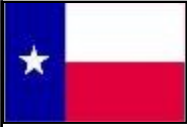


We had 13 in attendance at the March meeting. The night started off with a delicious meal which included homemade chicken & dumplings, homemade soup, home grown purple hull peas & cornbread, homemade stew and garlic bread. For dessert we had Blue Bell Ice Cream, Moon Pies and David's homemade banana pudding. Everything was delicious! We would like to thank David Franklin, Richard Thornton, Doug Smith, Ed Heitmann, and Dwight Franklin for providing the food.

After the meal, Ed Heitmann presented us with a very interesting program on Sibley's Brigade. You read about his presentation on the following pages.

Our next meeting will be held at 6:30 p.m., on April 28th, in the Commercial Bank of Texas. We hope to see you there.

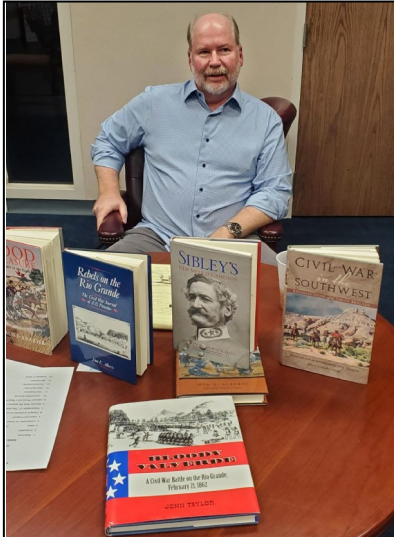




MARCH HISTORICAL PROGRAM

SIBLEY'S BRIGADE

BY ED HEITMANN



Compatriot Ed Heitmann presented a very interesting historical program with a program about Sibley's Brigade. The program was very interesting, and it was obvious that Ed has a lot of knowledge about the subject. He quoted from several books that he had read on the subject, and it was very interesting. He had so much information on the subject that he will continue with his program at the April meeting. You won't want to miss it!

Ed has put his program in print so we could publish it in this newsletter for those who were not able to attend the meeting. We really appreciate him for doing this.

Sibley's Brigade

This is Part One of a discussion involving the origins and formation of the Sibley Brigade, their subsequent travels to New Mexico [as the Army of New Mexico], along with the other units that preceded the 4th, 5th & 7th

Regiments of Texas Mounted Volunteers.

My interest in this smaller C.S.A. Cavalry Brigade begins with my Great-Grandfather William Alphonse Ferguson and his 3 brothers .. all of whom served in the 4th Texas Cavalry (1861 – 1865). All of the Ferguson brothers were born in Ouachita Parish, Louisiana (1835 – 1842) and came to Caldwell – Guadalupe County, Texas around 1849.

The first comprehensive book that I read on Sibley's Brigade was Martin Hardwick Hall's "Sibley's New Mexico Campaign" (1960). I was working on my first big solo commercial project (renovation of the National Guard Armory in Arlington, Tx.) as a newly minted General Contractor. This construction endeavor was just down the street from UT Arlington .. where Dr. Hall was a history professor. I remember all this so well because Dr. Hall was tragically murdered during the time I worked on my Arlington project. Sadly, the murder remains unsolved today.

Let us begin with some Pre-WANA (War Against Northern Aggression) Texas history, as it shall provide some needed context as to why Texans headed to New Mexico / Arizona Territories in 1861.

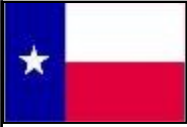
War betwixt the newly ratified state of Texas and the U.S. of A. was a possibility in the summer of 1850, as an impasse over the future of New Mexico was at a boiling point. Texans firmly held a claim to a portion of the New Mexico territory.

The sovereign nation of Texas held claim to all territories east of the Rio Grande, extending to headwaters of the Rio Grande in southern Colorado. The State of Texas created and many of its settlers held land grants given for service in the Texas Revolution and the recent Mexican War.

Notice the difference between Arizona and New Mexico compared to what those states boundaries are today.



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MARCH HISTORICAL PROGRAM

SIBLEY'S BRIGADE

BY ED HEITMANN



The state still owed a debt to these men and U.S. Army forces in New Mexico were ignoring these land bounties by setting up its own government without regard to the Texian settlers. If New Mexico (territory) succeeded in its plans to be separate from Texas .. all these Texian settlers would lose everything.

Texas Governor Peter H. Bell sent Robert Neighbors, a frontiersman – Indian agent, to set up four new very large counties (Santa Fe, Worth, El Paso and Presidio) with the attitude that the U.S. Army can stay on the west side of the Rio Grande and pound sand.

By August 1850, many meetings across the state called for armed intervention to project Texian rights and territorial sovereignty. Southerners showed their support for the cause of Texas, “The first Federal gun that shall be fired against the people of Texas .. will signal for freemen from Delaware to the Rio Grande to rally to the rescue ..” Georgia Senator Alexander Stephens stated.

A War Between the States (WBTS) was about to begin .. but in 1850.

The death of President Zachary Taylor (father of CSA General Richard Taylor) and the Compromise of 1850 defused the circumstances and war was eventually avoided .. for a few years.

The Gadsden Purchase of 1853 festered more descent and distrust amongst Texians and Southerners for their Northern (Federal) brethren ... but we best move on to 1861.

Alright .. so Texas and the deep South felt betrayed by the Federal government more than once over the decade preceding the outbreak of war. By the spring of 1861 .. Texas wanted to shake itself free of the Puritans (Pharisees) and the Devil (a general Southern term for the North).

The 1850's had been a bitter pill, what with the impasse brought on by states rights (adhering to the 10th Amendment), slavery, the significant cultural differences between North and South, and Southern ambition to extend its territory to the Pacific.

Texans and the South had been marinated in Northern suppression long enough.

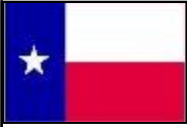
The formalities of war having begun in the east .. enter two ambitious men in Texas. The first, 6'3" 230-pound blue-eyed John Robert Baylor (Lieutenant Colonel of the 2nd Texas Mounted Rifles). The second, of course, (newly promoted to CSA General) Henry Hopkins Sibley.

Lt. Colonel Baylor was a frontiersman – Indian agent – and still one tough hombre, having killed the editor, Robert Kelly, of the Mesilla Times for printing unsavory remarks about the Colonel [rendered self-defense by trial]. Like most early Texicans, Baylor knew how to fight and win.

Sibley, was a native of Natchitoches, Louisiana. A mediocre West Point grad from 1838, becoming a US Army Lieutenant, he served at various post in Texas (Fort Phantom Hill commander) and New Mexico Territory. During the events of succession, Sibley eventually resigned his commission in New Mexico and headed for Texas. Sibley had hopes of returning to New Mexico Territory as a liberator / conqueror and pursued just such an endeavor by traveling to Richmond to pitch his idea to President Davis, of raising a brigade of cavalry to capture ‘the west’. After several interviews regarding his proposal, Sibley departed the Confederate capitol with three new stars of a Brigadier General on his collar, along with a written order authorizing his campaign of conquest in the Far West.

Colonel Baylor's 2nd Regiment preceded Sibley's arrival in New Mexico by six months, arriving in Franklin with about 130 regulars, mid-June 1861 – acting as Sibley's advance agent (Franklin is present day El Paso – the El Paso of 1861 was located south of the Rio Grande in what is now Juarez). Baylor had split his 350 troop command, creating a “blitzkrieg” group of his best horse and riders to sprint to Fort Bliss and arrive before a Federal force could re-acquire the significant food and equipment stored at the fort.

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MARCH HISTORICAL PROGRAM

SIBLEY'S BRIGADE

BY ED HEITMANN



Parson (Reverend) William J. Joyce of Palestine was one of the aforementioned fast and elite cavalymen to first arrive with Baylor into the western tip of Texas.

Private Egbert Treadwell was another East Texan from Palestine to enjoy his much improved new surroundings at Fort Bliss. "I have sold myself to Jeff Davis for twelve months. This place is one thousand miles from Palestine ... the country we traveled over [to get here] was desolate of water, grass, timber and everything else save rattlesnakes and prairie dogs." Sadly, Private Treadwell perished from Small Pox in January, 1862.

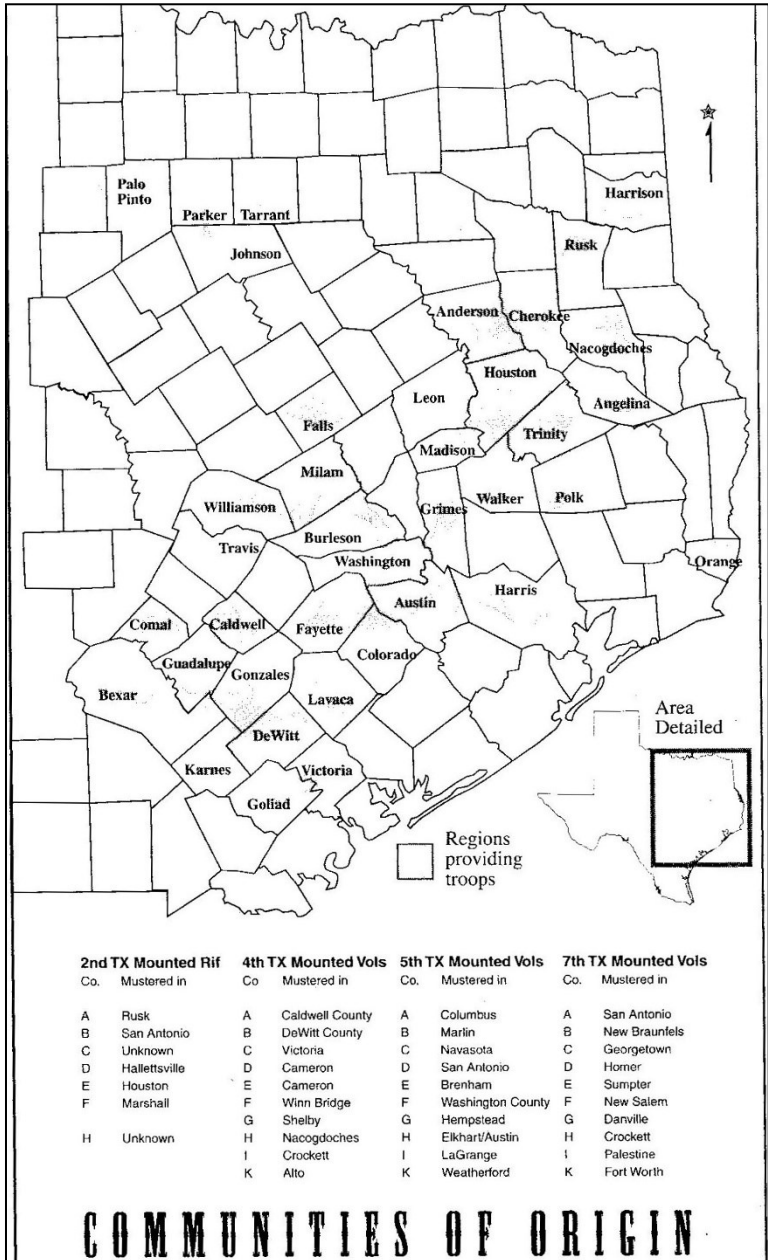
Mescaleros (Apache) were a regular menace on the trail between San Antonio and Franklin / El Paso. Chiricahua Apache (Cochise) were problems for those to the west of El Paso along with Mangas Colorados and his Mimbrenos tribe.

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Recruits for the ten companies that made up each regiment ranged from "far away" places like Palo Pinto & Parker counties, to closer to home South Central and Eastern Texas counties. Company I of the 7th Texas Mounted Volunteers was mustered in Palestine (Captain James Gardner, 41, wounded at Valverde). Company A of the 4th Texas, my Great Grandpa's outfit, originated from Caldwell County ...

(Lockhart – Luling and such ... you know, the Mecca for THE BEST BBQ in THE WORLD. Note of Wisdom Here – if the BBQ resides in a fancy new shiny building .. versus a 'smoke stained throughout' Hole-in-the-Wall dumpy locale .. then the 'Q' will probably be a disappointment [BBQ Axiom #1A] -- this discussion shall be for a future presentation "Texas WBTS BBQ").

Several companies in Sibley's Brigade were formed with Texas Germans of fightin' distinction, which might come as a surprise to some "historians" who distort the record using only "Unionist Germans" 'stories'. This brings to mind the reality that as time goes by .. it becomes easier to manufacture the "facts" of history with little notice from others.



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MARCH HISTORICAL PROGRAM

SIBLEY'S BRIGADE

BY ED HEITMANN



My Confederate Prussian Texan kin (aka German) originate from Frelsburg and surrounding areas of Colorado County (and on into Austin County). It was not out of the ordinary to hear an "ACHTUNG ..! LOS ..! Macht Schnell ..! (Pay Attention. GO. Make Haste.) on the battlefields defending Texas and Looo'zee'ana.

Not all German Texans were lazy Marxist "Forty-Eighters", but rather defenders of Texas, such as Gustavus Dietz, Johan Schmidt, Philip Meyer, Captain Julius Giesecke, and Major Gustav Hoffmann.

Our own David Franklin's 3rd Great Grandfather was a fight'n member of Company H, 5th Texas, William J. Chaffin from Houston County.

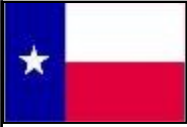
As told by author Dr. Frazier (Blood & Treasure – Confederate Empire in the Southwest) most of Sibley's "troops composed the loose edges of the societies they represented .. nearly half cannot be identified in the 1860 Census, suggesting a high degree of mobility". Well, that is a frontier Texan for you. Notably, as you might expect, slave ownership was rare. Cotton production was a prominent endeavor of all the areas from which Sibley drew men .. but "the principal economic pursuit of these same regions was herding" – cowboying – stock raising.

After the individual Companies arrived in San Antoino, the recruits became members of the Confederate Army. "We took an oath as long as a fence rail" William Randolph Howell wrote home to Plantersville, Grimes County. The brigades rendezvous in San'tone (as some pronounce the name) proved to be an exotic experience for many of the young farm-boy recruits. Howell further wrote that "I found San Antonio a much larger place than I expected to see. It has the worst mixed population I have ever seen – Americans, Germans, Mexicans & any sort of people you want to see. About half our company (Co. C – 5th Texas) visited the Catholic Churches this morning for curiosity – there being two – one Mexican & one where the white folks go to get their sins prayed off." Other soldiers mentioned the local girls as an attraction.

The regimental camps were located along Salado Creek, resembling tent cities, laid out two miles apart, with the various companies forming "streets" fifteen feet wide running east to west, perpendicular to the creek. Camp Sibley was home to the 4th Texas. Officers quarters were at the head of the street, with the kitchens set sixty feet beyond, then the enlisted troops beyond the kitchen. Being that this was Texas in August, my preference would have been to be last in line, making it easier to catch any whisp of a breeze. My memories of camping during the summer in Texas are not pleasant. Camp Manassas was the home of the 5th Texas. Of course, General Sibley accommodated himself with offices at the Plaza Hotel .. miles from the troops.

Each company received letters A, F, D, I, C. H, E, K, G and B – this also being their order of battle, assuring the regiment of having experienced officers on both flanks AND near the colors.

As the regiments made preparations to depart San Antonio, which was greatly delayed, each regiment acquired more than 300 wagons for supplies and some 3000 mules. Each soldier was allowed to place 15 pounds of personal gear in one of the three company wagons. Most of the teamsters were Hispanic (but the Teamster from "Dances With Wolves" comes to mind here). Bill Davidson of Colorado County, Quartermaster Sergeant for the 5th Texas, wrote of Sibley "He deserves great credit for the manner in which he organized and equipped the brigade. Here is where the talent and ability of the man lay. He knew every little thing in every little way that a brigade needed, and he procured it .."



MARCH HISTORICAL PROGRAM

SIBLEY'S BRIGADE

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Despite Sibley's best efforts, the arms and equipment available to the regiments varied substantially in quality and uniformity. Weapons ran the full spectrum of modern to not-so-modern, consisting of shotguns, hunting rifles, confiscated Federal smoothbore and rifled muskets, revolvers, saddle pistols, swords, knives and then of course the infamous Lances (Lancer Company B & G of the 5th Texas).

As I mentioned, the departure for New Mexico Territory was dawdling delayed. "After the organization was complete, and everything was ready to start, we were kept laying around ... for another six weeks. Several times orders were issued for us to take up the line of march and we prepared to do so, but the orders were as often countermanded .." wrote Bill Davidson. Now, imagine breaking camp and packing up only to be told to set up camp once again. Finally, on November 9th 1861, the first units of Sibley's Brigade began their march west (well over 45 days later than expected) – direct into the teeth of the coming winter.

The thousands of men and animals required vast quantities of water during their march. The springs and watering holes along the route were not large and did not maintain ample flow of water to support many companies of men – taking too long to refill. This required the regiments to be segregated into smaller groups that marched no less than a day apart from each other. The 4th Texas was the vanguard of the brigade's march to the west, splitting its ten companies into three groups. A sizable beef herd and 30 wagons accompanied each regiment, stringing out the columns for miles, as one might expect. The Apache certainly viewed this necessity as favorable to their poaching efforts upon each of the separate columns.

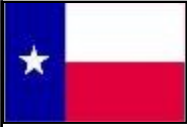
Imagine the commissary quartermaster needs for the Brigade's nearly 4000 animals, consuming 6 – 12 pounds of feed a day, which was quite a chore while they laid idle in San Antonio for about 60 days. THEN .. imagine trying to provide for those same 4000 animals while marching through Texas, say west of Uvalde. It is no surprise that the Brigade was in such poor condition upon arriving in Franklin / El Paso.

"Boys, I want to say good bye ... for they is a good many of you I may never see any more", Lieutenant Benton Bell Seat said. "You'll soon be way up yonder where the wolves howl and the chickens never crow, and ye won't have mammy's apron strings to tie to .."

"Sometimes we would not travel over 10 miles, then again, we would go over thirty. We dragged our slow way onward, handicapped by the weakness of the cattle ... and the want of grass for our horses and mules. It is well that we did not try to cross with great numbers, for at most watering places we would, in one night, exhaust the supply .." Pvt. Henry Wright of Company F, 4th Texas. Poor diet, bad weather and increasing Indian raids gave into despair for some .. especially when having to go without water for 36 hours betwixt watering locations. If that were not enough, disease plagued the command on its march across Texas, marking the trail with fresh graves and filling the hospitals at the forts along the journey's path.

The lack of pasture for the animals (picture Trans-Pecos Texas) and the always increasingly bad winter weather began to cripple the brigade. "The weather is beginning to tell heavily on our horses and teams," wrote Bill Davidson, "although the men have walked half the time in order to keep warm facing [into] those [blue] northerners .."

On a happier note, some of the men did enjoy hunting "Mexican hogs" (walking bacon) described as "a grizzly, savage, one hundred twenty pound institution ..!"



MARCH HISTORICAL PROGRAM

SIBLEY'S BRIGADE

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Once in Fort Davis (that being over half the journey) some of the Brigade sought goods from a newly arrived sutler, especially desiring his liquor stock. Lt. Julius Giesecke, an upright German from Austin County (my German kin's unit) wrote of his disapproval of the regimental commander's (heavy) drinking ... especially after "he stayed behind and tanked up considerably.." This was also an opportunity for reacquaintance of Sibley's "Whiskey Keg" nickname ... as he was well-acquainted with pullin' a cork.

[Once he arrived in the Mesilla area, Lt. Giesecke lost his prized mount "Caspar" to thieving Apaches. As available horse flesh was becoming scarce, the poor Lieutenant was detailed as a guard at Fort Thorn, which was just beyond Mesilla]

The Texan warriors were not considered disciplined soldiers, often snubbing their officers when the notion appealed to them. Col. Reily of the 4th Texas addressed his men while in one of the many camp locations along the journey. After his speech, a Lieutenant "called out for three cheers for Colonel Reily ..!" An awkward silence followed where none of the soldiers responded. "After receiving his command in military style, we returned to our tents .." wrote a Sergeant.

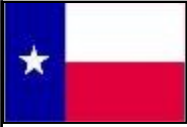
As the first units of the 4th Texas began to trickle into Franklin (El Paso) then onto Fort Bliss (Sibley's first command post), hundreds of horses and mules began to disappear, as Sibley's army had created a goldmine of opportunity for Apache thievery. The newly arrived greenhorns had little experience in Indian fighting and rarely foiled Apache efforts to thin the Texican remudas, shooting only a handful of unlucky Apache warriors.

Amongst the Indian excitement, Sibley prepared for the campaign, having already moved his command from Fort Bliss (Franklin / El Paso) to Mesilla (Las Cruces area today). Tucson to the west was a violent wild west hamlet of mostly Texans and other Southerners .. whereas "Mesilla boasted a much more stable and sedate society – noted for its fertile land (think Hatch Chiles) – rich farms – and attractive prostitutes" (I use this quote to inventory how many readers make it this far). Many of the men arriving in Mesilla also noted "it is a pretty white place", in contrast to the largely Hispanic confines of Franklin.

Christmas Day found the brigade strung out from Mesilla, (Confederate) Arizona Territory (New Mexico today) all the way back 300+ miles EAST to Fort Lancaster (the 7th Texas was the last unit to leave San Antonio in December and the last to arrive in Confederate Arizona in January, 1862).

Palestine local, [Dr.] Hal Hunter noted in his journal that "Mesilla is a very pretty town" [his journal resides at the Smith County Museum]. Hunter was a new arrival to Mesilla, bringing up the rear of Sibley's 350 mile long train with the 7th Texas, arriving 30 days after the first troops of the 4th Texas entered Mesilla. "Our horses looked better than those that had 'rested' here a month [already] .." he says in his journal. Eventually meeting Sibley, he was not impressed. "Don't like our staff and General much. Too much drunkenness among them .."

New Mexicans did not much care for the presence of the Federal army .. and they despised Texans being around even more .. modestly speaking. "The [winter] wheat fields of the Rio Grande Valley were green and lovely, and were a great temptation to the men with hungry horses," wrote Pvt. Wright of the 4th Texas. "Hundreds of horses were grazed on these fields ... and a reprimand followed ... but that did not cover the damage to the poor Mexican [farmer]. A soldier would march all day and ransack the whole country for ten miles around his camp at night .." Like most occupying armies, troops supplemented camp fare with local farm "groceries" ... they "did not stop at pigs chickens and turkeys ... but moving on to sheep goat and even old ganders along [the] line of march stood no show .."



MARCH HISTORICAL PROGRAM

SIBLEY'S BRIGADE

BY ED HEITMANN



Needless to say, the systematic pillaging of Confederate Arizona (southern NM .. below the 34th Parallel) by Sibley's men certainly embittered the local populace and rapidly deteriorated the relations between the general and the territory's governor, John Robert Baylor ("prior" Colonel of the 2nd Texas). Sibley snubbed Baylor by stripping him of all his troops and completely dismissing his plans for advancing an empire, along with destroying the 6 months of preparatory achievements Baylor had accomplished with the local Mexicans from Franklin to Mesilla.

For some in Sibley's brigade, this was the first opportunity to visit with the veterans of the Second Texas in over six months, many of these same men were neighbors back home in Central and East Texas. It was old home day in Mesilla.

For the next few weeks (January into February 1862) saw Sibley's command probing the Federals above (north of) Fort Thorn, nearing the vicinity of Fort Craig, home to General Canby and his command of ~3500 troops – regular army and local "volunteers". The worsening shortage of healthy mules resulted in half of Sibley's wagons being left behind at Fort Thorn and Mesilla. Priority transportation was for ammunition first, then food stuffs. This resulted in the men marching (riding) on half rations. "Extra" equipment like tents for winter camping, extra shoes and horse tack were left behind. The Texans were slowly losing the war on modest camping comfort and adequate supplies, in order to remain a healthy fighting force.

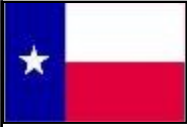
Pneumonia was the deadliest killer of the men, taking 2 out of 3 of those unfortunates whom contracted the disease. All of the troops had been inoculated for small pox by January, rendering that ailment inconsequential. Many of the men suffered greatly for lack of shoes and adequate shelter.

On the night of February 12th, scouts returned of the news of a Federal advance. Colonel Tom Green and a small contingent of troops held a position near a small hill, 15 miles south of Fort Craig, as Northern cavalryman rode forward towards their position. Green immediately sent for the rest of the army to hurry forward. That night a heavy snow fell while Green's men (5th Texas) maintained their battle array. The 4th and 7th hustled forward in haste, traveling through a grueling freezing night march. Some of the troops that were the greatest distance behind, had to cover thirty-five miles over night, in 20 degree weather. "Some were cursing the Yankees," wrote Henry Smith. "Others were almost praying for an attack."

Come morning, Green's men pushed onward towards Fort Craig, skirmishing with the enemy while some men rested. By afternoon, (superior) Rebel horsemen had successfully cut off a twenty-one man detachment of (somewhat inferior) New Mexico Militiamen, forcing their surrender. "The prisoners say they were forced to join them [Federals]," wrote Dr. Hal Hunter. "They were told that the Texans were coming to murder all – both men, women and children." Sounds like the Democrats of today. Green learned from the captives that Fort Craig was too strong to be captured by assault. The Confederate Texans eventually moved within a few thousand yards of the enemy fort.

The following day, after a heavy nighttime snowfall, the Texans boldly made preparations for a decisive battle. Twenty-five Companies rode within a few hundred yards of the seemingly deserted fort, holding 5 Companies in reserve. It was a few moments later that the Stars and Stripes was unfurled above the fort and Union troops maned the outer entrenchments. "Major Lockridge says he intends to make a shimmy out of that flag" said a Private Smith. "If he can get a wife as easy as he can get that flag he will never sleep by himself any more .." Canby sent out several companies of cavalry to skirmish with the Texans. At this most critical point of looming combat, an inebriated (hammered – toasted – smashed – etc.) Sibley turned over command to Colonel Tom Green and retired to his ambulance. Whiskey Keg Sibley is out of the picture ... and luckily so.

- Continued on the next page -



MARCH HISTORICAL PROGRAM

SIBLEY'S BRIGADE

BY ED HEITMANN



Green immediately prepared for a serious fight, with regimental surgeons taking their post, along with Captain Trevanion T. Teel's artillery coming forward in haste (First Regiment of Artillery – Texas Volunteers; originally attached to Baylor's 2nd Texas command). Trevanion T. Teel – what a great name – Triple T.

Federal horsemen galloped within a few hundred yards of the Texans before turning away. Texan rifles emptied a few saddles. The Federals returned a volley, sending minie balls buzzing by like angry hornets. Private Davidson felt his mount shutter .. then pitch forward. "They killed my mule today – over a half mile with a Minnie rifle. The fellow was actually so far off that while I could see the smoke of his gun ... I could not hear the report of it .." he later recorded in his diary.

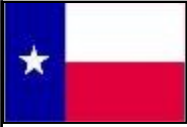
The Federals retreated into the fort, much to the disappointment of the Texans, who expected a real fight. "Nothing was done," wrote an irritated Dr. Hunter. "All a perfect farce .." Green withdrew his men a few miles and consulted with "Whiskey Keg" to consider the alternatives. A council of war that evening was held to chart the Texan army's next move.

It was agreed that a decisive fight had to be made – either Fort Craig had to be taken – or Canby's army had to be destroyed if the campaign was to proceed north. A direct frontal assault would be suicide. By-passing the fort to the east, after crossing the Rio Grande, and placing themselves north of the fort, Sibley's troops could bottle Canby within the fort. The Texans presumed they could intercept supplies destined for the fort ... which the Texans desperately needed regardless. A battle plan decision had to be made immediately, for the Army of New Mexico had only a few days rations. The Texans spent the next few days scouting and exploring their options. Scouts waded the river and found a safe river crossing point south of Fort Craig. Moving north along the east side of the river, behind elevated terrain, the Texans made their way towards the Val Verde fords, a few short miles north of Fort Craig.

The maneuver required traversing a waterless route, east of the river, for one day. A peculiar incident occurred during this trek north, that under calmer circumstances, might have caused quite a stir. Pvt. Henry Wright remembered "A young man who had been riding all day in one of these scouting parties, approached a Mr. [John] Poe who he knew to be a watchmaker and jeweler by trade .." This soldier then produced a marble-sized lump of ore which was recognized as high quality gold. "He said he found it in a gully on the day's march ... saying there was plenty more where he found this .." The soldier refused to divulge the whereabouts of his discovery, promising to return when the war was over to investigate. "We never heard from him again," Wright said. "I expect he was either killed or died ..." And thus, therein lies the reason why "Blondie" was looking for gold in "The Good Bad and The Ugly" ... kinda.

The Texans crossed the icy cold Rio Grande on February 19th, climbing the rocky ledges above the river basin and made their way north, parallel to the river, en route to Val Verde fords a few miles north of Fort Craig. Green and Sibley remained confident that their actions would force Canby to come out and fight to protect his line of communications and supplies.

Lt. Colonel John S. Sutton of the 7th Texas Mounted Volunteers rode amongst his men, urging them to "think of their rights, and remember the honor of Texas .." [not a word about "slavery"]. The night of February 20th was a miserable one for Sibley's men. "Our mules were so completely exhausted ... that they broke down and could go no further .." That night, 150 thirsty mules broke loose and ran for the river, immobilizing over two dozen wagons – having a crippling affect on the already hobbled stock. The troops dined on dried beef and husbanded their small quantity of water kegs.



MARCH HISTORICAL PROGRAM

SIBLEY'S BRIGADE

BY ED HEITMANN



February 21st dawned cold and cloudy. Details unpacked wagons destined to be abandoned due to lack of stock to pull them. Saddles, old clothes, and any other equipment for which there was no space, were piled in heaps. A howitzer, its team of horses too weak to pull the burden, was left behind. "Men and animals were exhausted and suffering the pangs of consuming thirst .." Lt. Phil Clough of Company C, 5th Texas vividly remembered. "The cry of the horses and mules in their agony was most pitiful .."

Pyron's Battalion (Baylor's 2nd Texas) saddled up and took the advance at first light, hoping to reach and safeguard the water at Val Verde fords by 8 am. The men of the 4th Texas were the next to leave camp. Five companies, under Major Henry Raguet, followed Pyron's path to Val Verde fords. The remaining men still in camp became curious as to why the delay in their departure. "Some of us were beginning to wonder why we were not ordered to march, as usually we would have been on the march a full two hours before," Pvt. Davidson wrote. Moments later a deep boom bellowed up from the Rio Grande valley. "This was a cannon shot followed by a volley of musketry," the Private added. "Pyron's at it ..! Pyron's at it ..!"

The Battle of Valverde had commenced. The Unionist fighting to cast the Rebels asunder. The Texans making an effort to secure water. Sounds similar to searching for shoes in Gettysburg.

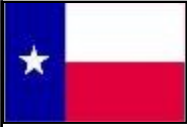
The Val Verde (Green Valley) is a two-mile-wide five-mile-long valley sprinkled with Cottonwoods, a thin covering of grass, and other scrub growth Juniper and shrubs. In February 1862, the river flowed along the western margin of the wide valley, with the prior riverbed flowing bow-like towards the eastern margins of the valley, then re-joining the current river channel a mile north. The 500' flat-topped Mesa de la Contadera prominently rose against the river on the south end of the valley.

The 180-man vanguard of the Texan march towards the river (Pyron's 2nd Texas) rode down a steep dusty draw, soon gaining sight of the river, sending back word to the brigade that the path was clear and the river was in sight. "As we were marching along in some glee at the prospect of getting some water," wrote Sgt. Major William P. Laughter of Pyron's Battalion, "we spied some tents in the timber on the east bank of the river. It was soon apparent that we had ... over cropped ourselves. In short, we bit off more than we could chew." Pyron's men dismounted and took cover behind the bank of a dry river course, and commenced firing. Four more Union companies arrived along with six pieces of artillery. "The ping! And spud! Of their bullets, the roll and thunder of their bursting bombs, and the crash of the falling timber around us had no comfort in them," Laughter added. As snow began to fall, Pyron dispatched a hasty message to the rear.

Pyron's message reached Lt. Colonel William Read Scurry's 4th Texas (Scurry County, Texas namesake), who as mentioned already were on their way. Scurry ordered his troop on a full gallop to come to Pyron's relief. At such a pace as the thirsty and weakened horses would allow, it took Scurry's first few companies of men (Raguet's) an hour to reach the ravine leading down to the river bottom, recalled Pvt. Alfred Peticolas of Victoria. "In high spirits and singing songs, we crossed the valley at the same rapid pace and dismounted among the cottonwoods." Peticolas continued. One of the next companies to arrive was the "Crockett Boys" of Captain D.A. Nunn's Company I, 4th Texas. "Volley after volley met our advance," the Captain wrote in his diary. "As we came into line the balls greeted us with the viper's hiss. The enemy cannon balls came just over our heads, tearing the trees and cutting the limbs .."

The Union forces also continued to pour additional troops into position at Val Verde, but the fighting remained confused. By 10 a.m. Yankee Major Duncan had brought his dismounted cavalymen across the river, extending his line to the left, to counter the arrival of the 4th Texas. The Rebels had been denied water, but had drawn the Federals to the east side of the river, a move that ultimately proved to be fatal to the Yankee troops.

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MARCH HISTORICAL PROGRAM

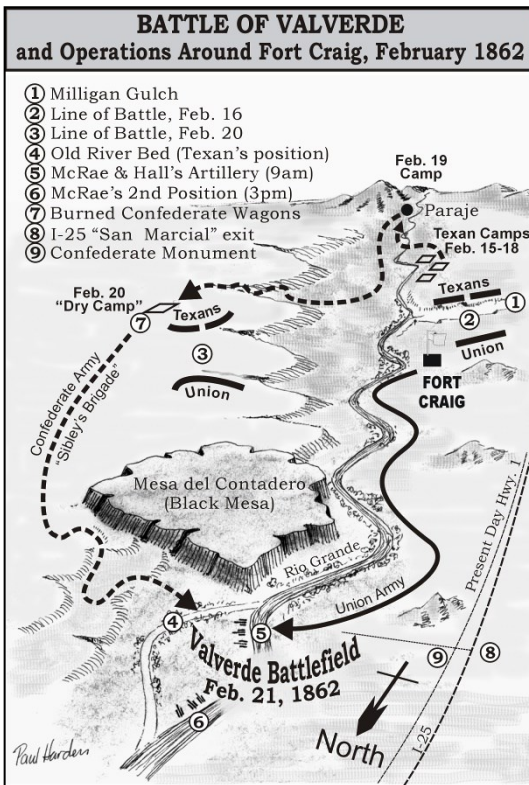
SIBLEY'S BRIGADE

BY ED HEITMANN



Union Lieutenant Colonel Roberts, furious over his subordinate's blunder, committed additional troops to the east side of the Rio Grande, sending his infantry across while keeping his artillery safely on the west side of the river. Captain Robert H. Hall's two twenty-four-pounders and Captain Alexander McReas' two twelve-pounder howitzers and two six-pounders engaged the Rebs (McCrea's 4 gun battery became the CSA Valverde Battery).

These several hundred additional enemy rifled-muskets, fired from about 300 yards, kept Scurry's men pinned behind the safety of the old east-side river channel sand banks. The Texan's shotguns and six-shooter pistols were rather useless at the moment. "We laid close to the ground and behind trees," Peticolas recorded. "Not a gun was fired while we were lying there." The lighter Texan cannon gallantly fired, but without any purchase or success, due to the enemy being too far off.



More Texan cannon arrived to join the battle at 10:30 a.m., that being a portion of Major Trevanion Teel's old battery. An artillery duel commenced between the much more powerful Union cannon and the Texans, which drew more fire through the positions of the 4th Texas still holding behind the sand bank. Eventually the Union firepower overwhelmed the Rebel guns, leaving several gunners wounded, fleeing or killed. "I noticed one of Teel's sergeants of artillery squatting behind the trees and looking very much scared," Peticolas remembered, "and making a good many exclamations suggestive of alarm." Another battery officer forced the slaker back to his post. One enemy solid-shot, bounding to a stop near the sand bank, was recovered by a soldier in Peticolas' company who, "in spite of our expostulations," crawled out and retrieved the still warm projectile. He then offered it to the nearby Texian gunners to fire back at the Yankees, "in hopes it might kill some of them.."

With the encouragement of the morning's successes, Canby moved to capitalize upon his gains by ordering his remaining troops to head for Val Verde and come into the fold of battle. Colonel Kit Carson and his well-drilled First New Mexico

Volunteers were amongst the joining forces. Colonel Miguel Pino's 2nd New Mexico Volunteers, who had fled under fire the night before, escorted the Union ammunition wagons departing from Fort Craig. The arriving Federals deployed to their left, with Carson taking a position to the extreme Union left to protect that outer most left flank.

Lieutenant Colonel Scurry found himself in a deteriorating circumstance, as Union regulars, crossing the river at a ford to the north, threatened to turn the Texan right flank (north end of the battlefield). Leaving Major Raguet and four companies to hold the center and support Pyron to his left, Scurry moved north 250 yards to counter the Yankees attempt to turn their flank. "After riding 250 yards higher up, we dismounted into a perfect hail of bullets and took our position behind the same sand bank that had protected us below – but here it was higher," recorded Peticolas. Mine balls began to thud into men and horses. "The bullets whizzed by us as thick as bees in a swarm .."

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MARCH HISTORICAL PROGRAM

SIBLEY'S BRIGADE

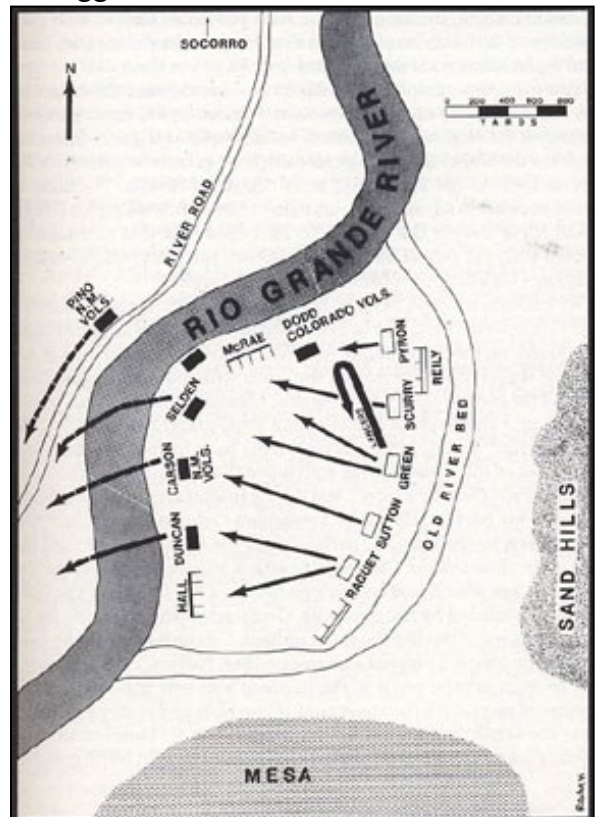
BY ED HEITMANN

Scurry was spread very thin and desperately needed support from Colonel Tom Green's troops (eight companies of the 5th), who were coming upon the battlefield around 12:30 p.m.

After hours of pummeling the Texans, Lieutenant Colonel Roberts (senior officer on the battlefield) knew he had gained the advantage over the Rebs. He directed Captain Selden “to engage the Texans with the bayonet ..” The U.S. Regulars (5th, 7th, and 10th U.S. Infantry) began a steady advance towards Scurry’s exhausted Texans. “We could see the enemy in strength just before us about 600 yards and advancing rapidly as to force our line in,” Peticolas noted. “They were taking trees as they approached and firing rapidly upon us ..” The men of the 4th suffered with only a few rifles to fight back with most having to remain behind cover. As a Texan sharpshooter emerged to take their shot, a shower of Federal bullets would meet the lone gunner. “Rounds that whistled past the concealed Texans wrought havoc among the animals. Men helplessly watched as dozens of mules and horses staggered and screamed from scores of leaden blows ..”

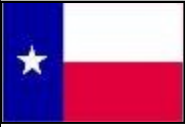
“A cannon ball had shot off the right forefoot of one 10 yards of me,” Peticolas sadly wrote. “Another had both forelegs shot off, and the last I saw of him he was trying to use and stand on the shattered stumps ..” Surely a most difficult sight to endure, indeed.

As the Union Regulars came within shotgun range, the Texans finally reaped satisfaction. “They began to pay dearly for getting so close to us,” Peticolas remarked. “Not a man shot without taking sight, for Texas boys are accustomed to the use of arms and never shoot away their ammunition for nothing. Our fire soon became extremely galling ..” The Federals withdrew towards the river after suffering devastating losses during their 30 minute exposure to Texan fire.



By 1:00 p.m. Colonel Green arrived, escorted by two Lancer Companies from his regiment. Green found the Confederate circumstances rather chaotic due to an absence of any unified command. Sibley was still with the wagons (in his ambulance – of course). The Texans were fighting piecemeal and weakening their strength by not incorporating coordinated efforts. Captain Willis Lang of Company B, 5th

Texas, requested to lead his Lancer Company into action (charge the Union line) -- The request was refused by Colonel Scurry. But Lang persisted and Scurry eventually relented to the repeated request. . The Texan cavalry, slightly more than 50 troops, began their walk, then canter, then gallop across the river valley, heading towards Dodd's Coloradans on the Texan far right, lowering their Lances for the last one hundred yards. As they closed the distance, many of the troopers noticed that their charge was unsupported. Some of the riders reigned in their mounts, turned around and fled. The remaining Lancers continued on to a tragic shower of lead, which resulted in emptying most of the saddles. The steady and well disciplined Coloradans, wearing the same gray uniforms of the New Mexican Volunteers, were mistaken for the far less capable troops. "Instantly, [the Coloradans] threw themselves in position to 'resist cavalry', the front lines on their knees with braced muskets presented a wall of bayonets ... opened fire at forty yards and brought upon the brave Texans an avalanche of fury .." - continued on next page -



MARCH HISTORICAL PROGRAM

SIBLEY'S BRIGADE

BY ED HEITMANN



The charge had been a disaster .. "Those men went into the very jaws of death. I looked on as those lances went down to rise no more ... This threw a gloom over our entire line .." Lt. Phil Fulcroed pained to remember.

It might be superfluous to mention ... this was the last Lancer Charge [against rifleman] in all of 'modern' warfare.

To be continued

We appreciate Ed for the program and look forward to him continuing his program on Sibley's Brigade at the April meeting on the 28th. We invite everyone to come listen to it live. He is a very good speaker.

The Battle of Valverde

You may be surprised to learn that a bloody confrontation of the Civil War was fought only a few miles from Fort Craig.

The main Battle of Valverde was fought in the winter on February 21, 1862. Colonel Edward Richard Sprigg Canby's Union troops and Colonel Henry Hopkins Sibley's Confederate forces fought in the arroyos and gullies of a dry riverbed below Valverde. Control of the battlefield constantly moved back and forth between the two forces.

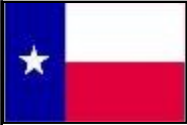
The battle was also fraught with internal problems. Both sides found their regiments physically cut off from one another, and frequently unable to communicate with their leaders. For Union troops, the language barrier between the Anglo regulars and Hispanic New Mexico volunteers caused serious communication problems and a fundamental lack of trust.

Casualties ran high. The Valverde engagement finally ended with the Confederate forces holding the field, but at the end of a tumultuous day's fighting, the losses on both sides were comparable. Union forces reported around 68 soldiers killed, 160 wounded, and 25 missing or captured. Confederate forces reported 36 dead, 150 wounded, and one missing.

The next day, Sibley demanded the surrender of the fort and its supplies to the Confederates. Canby adamantly refused. The Confederates, who had lost so many of their wagons, supplies, and equipment that they could no longer contemplate launching an attack on the fort, were forced



to press onward, leaving the badly needed supplies of the fort in the hands of Canby and his troops. Although the Confederates had "held the field," their objective failed. Modern military reviews of the battle do not call Valverde a Confederate victory.



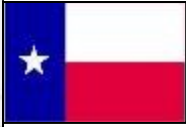
MARCH HISTORICAL PROGRAM **SIBLEY'S BRIGADE** **BY ED HEITMANN**



Above: Battle at Valverde Monument



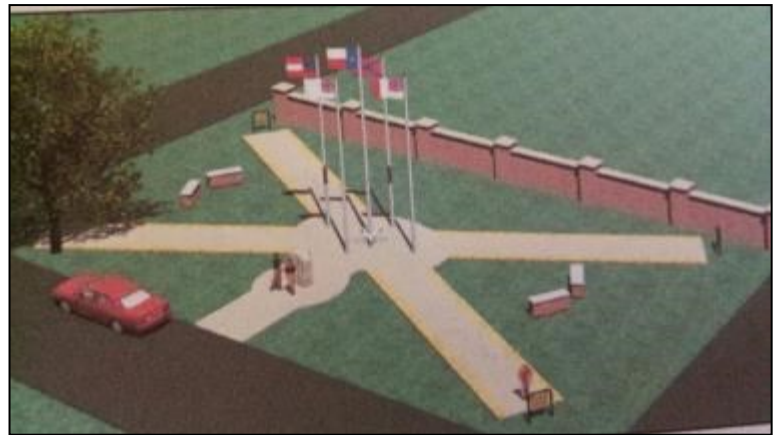
Left: Flag at Glorieta Pass



A GREAT WAY TO ENSURE THAT YOUR ANCESTOR'S SERVICE AND HONOR IS NOT FORGOTTEN



Many Americans have forgotten that freedom isn't free at all. There have been hundreds of thousands of Americans who have willingly given their life for their country so that we could continue to have the rights of free men. But there is a group of people in our country who have decided that they have the right to take away the rights of others, especially if those others do not agree with their agenda. These people have no respect for the true history of anything that goes against what they want. Although they cannot change true history, they are changing the history books and in so doing are changing what people are taught about the history of our country. These people don't care if they are dishonoring our Confederate ancestors. They care nothing about our ancestor's service. Do you care about preserving your ancestor's service? If so, you can do so by having his service noted in the Confederate Veteran's Memorial Plaza with a paver that will include his name and service information on it for only \$50. It will last for years and years to come and will let countless people see his name and information. It is a wonderful way to give him the recognition that he deserves.



WILLIAM C FRANKLIN CO D 12 BTNN ARK SHARP SHOOTERS	JOHN DANIEL LILES PVT DIED 4 / 25 / 1865 POW	WILLIAM J. CHAFFIN CO H 5 TEX CAV CSA 1829 - 1908	JOHN H. REAGAN SCV CAMP #2156 PALESTINE, TEXAS	PVT WM. H. FOSTER CO. H 1ST TEX INF DIED AS POW OCT 63
JASPER N. CARNES CO B 8 REGIMENT TEXAS INFANTRY	RICHARD A. HODGES CO K 22 TX INF CSA 1833 - 1905	ANDREW J BEAUCHAMP CO F 13 TEX INF 12-9-1834 9-1-1894	GEORGE KNOX GIBSON PVT. CO. B 12TH TEXAS CAVLRY, CSA	WILLIAM H. CRIST COMPANY I 7 TX CAV C.S.A.
JACOB L. SHERIDAN CAPT CO I 1ST REGT TEXAS INFANTRY	JOHN H. SHERIDAN PVT. CO I 1ST REGT TEXAS INFANTRY	COL. A.T. RAINEY CO. H 1 TEX. INF. HOOD'S TEX. BRIG	PVT. R. M. LUMMUS 53 GEORGIA INF. COMPANY B C.S.A	PVT ALLEN G TURNER CO A 7TH BATTALION MISS INF. CSA
L. E. SHERIDAN PVT. CO I 1ST REGT TEXAS INFANTRY	PVT WM. N SHERIDAN CO C 6 BATTALION TEXAS CALVARY	STEPHEN O. RAINEY CAPTAIN 1ST BATT. TEX CAV	SGT. AMOS G. HANKS CO F. 1ST TEX INF HOODS BRIGADE CSA	WILLIAM H. DYER PVT CO K MISS INF C.S.A.

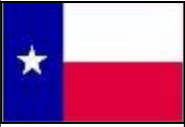
Above are some pictures of some of the pavers in the plaza. If you would like to purchase a paver for your ancestor, you can pick what you want to have inscribed on it. These pictures will give you some ideas to what you might want on your paver.



ROBERT E. LEE CALENDAR



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 1864 Kilpatrick's raid goes awry as troops and horses succumb to fatigue.	2 1863: Much of East Coast digs out after crippling snowstorm.	3 1865: 38th U.S. Congress meets for the final time to outline aid for displaced African Americans.	4 1865: Lincoln delivers his greatest speech, a 750 word second inaugural address.	5 1864: CSA government demands half of all space on blockade runners.
6 1865: Clara Baron attends Lincoln's inaugural ball at the White House	7 1862: Largest battle west of the Mississippi continues at Pea Ridge, Ar.	8 1865: Sherman enters North Carolina, having advanced some 350 miles through the Deep South.	9 1862: Modern naval warfare begins as ironclads clash off Virginia coast.	10 1809: U.S. Navy Admiral David Porter is born.	11 1861: Confederate Congress adopts constitution that specifically allows slavery.	12 1864: Admiral Porter leads a fleet of 13 ironclads into the Red River.
13 1865: President Davis signs law allowing African Americans to Carry arms for Confederacy	14 1865: African Americans seen in Richmond for the first time in soldier uniforms.	15 1866 Texas repeals the actions of the Secessionist Convention	16 1861: Robert E. Lee promoted by Lincoln to colonel of U.S. 1st Cavalry.	17 1862: McClellan's army begins its deployment to Fort Monroe on Virginia's Peninsula.	18 1861: In Texas, war hero Sam Houston refuses to take oath of allegiance to Confederacy.	19 1865: Heavy fighting erupts around Raleigh, NC, near the Harper House.
20 1865: Battle of Bentonville continues to rage outside Raleigh	21, 1864 Abe Lincoln signs legislation allowing Nevada & Colorado to become states even though they don't meet requirements	22 1864: After a wet snowfall, Confederate soldiers enjoy a huge snowball fight in Richmond.	23 1862: Stonewall Jackson opens famous Valley Campaign outside Winchester, Va.	24 1863: The last attempt to take Vicksburg, Ms, by water fails.	25 1865: In his last assault of the war, Lee attacks Union lines at Fort Stedman, Va.	26 1863: West Virginia voters approve gradual emancipation of slaves.
27 1865: Lincoln meets with Grant, Sherman, and Porter on riverboat to discuss war's ending.	28 1862: Battle of Glorieta Pass rages near Santa Fe, New Mexico	29, 1861 Mississippi ratifies the Confederate Constitution	30 1865: In pouring rain, U.S. forces probe Lee's fatally overstretched lines.	31 1862: Lincoln meddles with McClellan and recalls some 15,000 troops to defend Washington.		



TEXAS CIVIL WAR HISTORY IN MARCH



From the Texas State Historical Association— <https://texasdaybyday.com/#feedCarousel>

March 1, 1861: Texas accepted as a state by the provisional government of the Confederate States of America.

March 2, 1861: Texas Secessionist Convention reconvenes.

March 5, 1861: Texas secessionist convention accepts Confederate statehood.

March 11, 1846: U.S. Troops move into disputed land between Nueces and Rio Grande Rivers.

March 28, 1864: Civil War guerrilla leader William Quantrill was arrested by Confederate forces in Bonham, Texas. The Ohio native, wanted for murder in Utah by 1860, collected a group of renegades in the Kansas-Missouri area at the beginning of the Civil War. He fought with Confederate forces at the battle of Wilson's Creek in August 1861 but soon thereafter began irregular independent operations. Quantrill and his band attacked Union camps, patrols, and settlements. While Union authorities declared him and outlaw, Quantrill eventually held the rank of colonel in the Confederate forces. After his infamous sack of Lawrence, Kansas, and the massacre of Union prisoners at Baxter Springs, Quantrill and his men fled to Texas in October of 1863. There he quarreled with his associate, William "Bloody Bill" Anderson, and his band preyed on the citizens of Fannin and Grayson counties. Acts of violence proliferated so much that regular confederate forces had to be assigned to protect residents from the activities of the irregular Confederate forces, and Gen. Henry McCulloch determined to rid North Texas of Quantrill's influence. On March 28, 1864, when Quantrill appeared at Bonham as requested, McCulloch had him arrested on the charge of ordering the murder of a Confederate major. Quantrill escaped that day and returned to his camp near Sherman, pursued by more than 300 state and Confederate troops. He and his men crossed the Red River into Indian Territory. Except for a brief return in May, Quantrill's activities in Texas were at an end. Quantrill was killed by Union forces at the very end of the war.

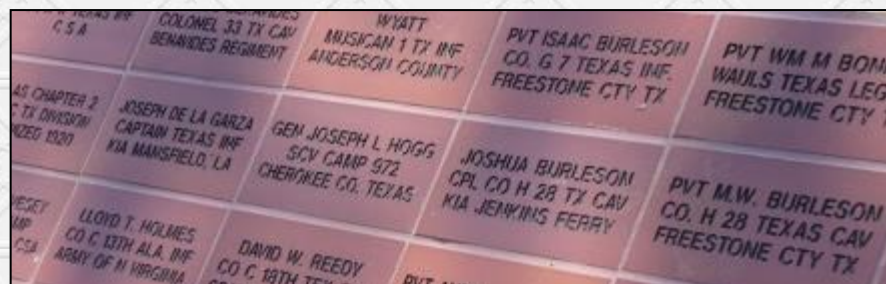
March 31, 1861: General John Bankhead Magruder reassigned from Arkansas to Texas.



CONFEDERATE VETERANS MEMORIAL PLAZA INFORMATION



The Confederate Veterans Memorial Plaza had the official opening and dedication on April 13, 2013. It is a beautiful Memorial to the Confederate Veterans. Although it is open for visitors, there is still room along the sidewalks for you to purchase a brick paver in the name of your confederate ancestor. This will ensure that your ancestor's service to the confederacy will not be forgotten, but will be remembered for years to come. If you would like to make a donation for a paver, please contact Dan Dyer at E-mail: danielyer497@yahoo.com or Phone: (903) 391-2224



Would you like to honor you ancestor? There is still room in the plaza for you to have a paver with your ancestor's name and military information. You can also acquire a paver in the name of your SCV Camp.



JOHN H. REAGAN CAMP #2156

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Editor: dwightfranklin1@yahoo.com

Please visit our website @

www.reaganscvcamp.org

The citizen-soldiers who fought for the Confederacy personified the best qualities of America. The preservation of liberty and freedom was the motivating factor in the South's decision to fight the *Second American Revolution*. The tenacity with which Confederate soldiers fought underscored their belief in the rights guaranteed by the Constitution. These attributes are the underpinning of our democratic society and represent the foundation on which this nation was built.

Today, the **Sons of Confederate Veterans** is preserving the history and legacy of these heroes, so future generations can understand the motives that animated the Southern Cause.

The SCV is the direct heir of the United Confederate Veterans, and the oldest hereditary organization for male descendants of Confederate soldiers. Organized at Richmond, Virginia in 1896, the SCV continues to serve as a historical, patriotic, and non-political organization dedicated to ensuring that a true history of the 1861-1865 period is preserved.

Membership in the **Sons of Confederate Veterans** is open to all male descendants of any veteran who served honorably in the Confederate armed forces. Membership can be obtained through either **lineal or collateral** family lines and kinship to a veteran must be **documented genealogically**. The minimum age for full membership is 12, but there is no minimum for Cadet membership. **Friends of the SCV** memberships are available as well to those who are committed to upholding our charge, but do not have the Confederate ancestry.

THE CHARGE TO THE SONS OF CONFEDERATE VETERANS

*"To you, Sons of Confederate Veterans, we will
commit the vindication of the cause for which we
fought. To your strength will be given the defense
of the Confederate soldier's good name, the
guardianship of his history, the emulation of his
virtues, the perpetuation of those principles which
he loved and which you love also, and those ideals
which made him glorious and which you also
cherish."*

Lt. General Stephen Dill Lee, Commander-in-Chief

United Confederate Veterans

New Orleans, Louisiana, April 25, 1906.



Camp meetings: 4th Thursday Each
Month - 06:30 PM
Meal served at each meeting.

Commercial Bank of Texas on the
corner of N. Mallard & E. Lacy Street

The Bank is located just south of the
Anderson County Courthouse
Annex.