

FIRST TEXAS INFANTRY

The First Texas Infantry was organized in Virginia in August 1861 after ten companies, lettered A to K, that arrived from Texas were consolidated into a regiment. The regiment's original commander was Col. Louis T. Wigfall. Col. Wigfall's military service was brief; on February 20, 1862, he resigned to take his seat in the Confederate Congress in Richmond, Virginia. Regimental Field Officers from Anderson County were Major Matt Dale, Major Alexis T. Rainey, and Major John R. Woodward.

GEN. JOHN BELL HOOD

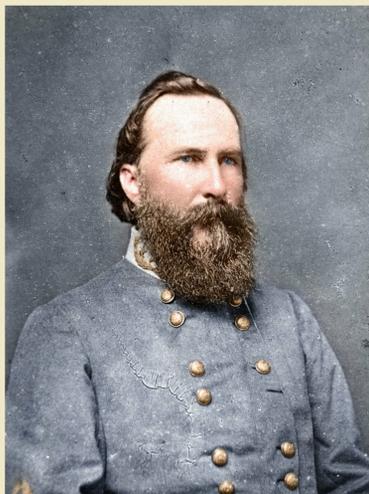


This regiment was one of three from Texas that became part of Hood's Texas Brigade commanded by General John Bell Hood. The First Texas Infantry was first assigned to duty in the Potomac District and became part of the Army of Northern Virginia. Attached to the Corps commanded by General James Longstreet, the regiment saw extensive combat throughout the war and served primarily in Georgia, Tennessee, and Virginia.

The First Texas Infantry participated in a long and impressive list of military engagements, including thirty-two major battles. Their largest engagements included Seven Pines; the Seven Days Battles; Second Bull Run; Antietam; Fredericksburg; Gettysburg; the Wilderness; Spotsylvania Court House; Cold Harbor; and the Petersburg siege. The regiment surrendered along with the rest of the Army of Northern Virginia at Appomattox Court House on April 9, 1865.

Throughout the war, the First Texas Infantry suffered heavy casualties. At the battle of Antietam the regiment lost 82 percent of its 226 troops engaged. More than 20 percent of its 426 troops were lost at the battle of Gettysburg. At the time of its surrender at Appomattox Court House, the regiment had only 16 officers and 133 men.

GEN. JAMES LONGSTREET



1st Texas Infantry with Mrs. Wigfall's wedding dress flag.

The bond between Robert E. Lee and his Texans was almost mystical. On May 6, 1864, during the fighting in the Wilderness, soon after sunrise Lee had found himself almost alone, with veteran Confederate regiments streaming past him to the rear, breaking in the face of a powerful Federal assault. The advancing blue lines were only two hundred yards away. Then, out of the drifting battle smoke into which others were retreating, twenty men in nondescript clothes ran forward with muskets at the ready, entering the field at the end of a forced march to reach the front. "Who are you, my boys?" Lee shouted to these scarecrows, as scores more dashed up to form a line of battle "Texas boys!" they yelled. In a few more seconds, there were hundreds of them. "Hurrah for Texas!" Lee said as he stood in his stirrups and waved his hat. "Texans always move them!" As he helped form up an Alabama unit for the counterattack, he shouted, "All I ask of you is to keep up with the Texans!"

— Gary Williams

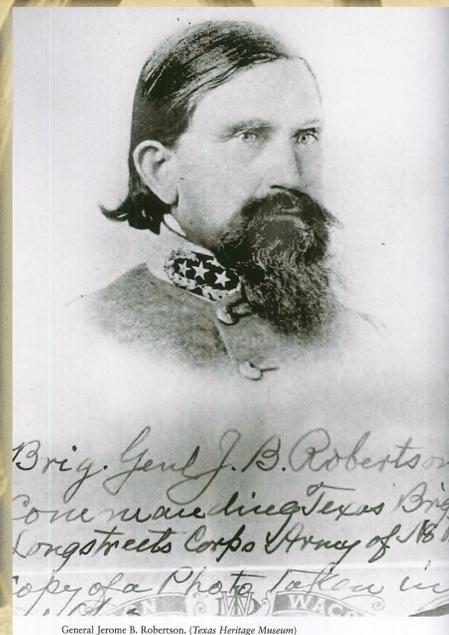
LOUIS TREZEVANT WIGFALL

Louis Trezevant Wigfall was a politician from Texas who served as a member of the Texas Legislature, United States Senate, and Confederate Senate. He briefly served as a Confederate Brigadier General of the Texas Brigade at the outset of the American Civil War before taking his seat in the Confederate Senate.



JEROME BONAPARTE ROBERTSON

Jerome Bonaparte Robertson, who was nicknamed "Aunt Polly", was a doctor, Indian fighter, Texas politician, and a general in the Confederate States Army during the war. He was noted for his service in the famed Texas Brigade in the Army of Northern Virginia.



COL. A.T. RAINEY

Alexis Theodore Rainey removed himself to Anderson County, Texas in 1854. He continued to practice law and served in the Texas Legislature. Alexis T. Rainey was a delegate to the Texas Secession Conference in Austin and along with John H. Reagan and T. J. Word signed the order of secession document on January of 1861. In May 1861, Rainey organized Company H. 1st Texas Infantry in Palestine. He served as Capt. Major and promoted to Colonel on January 3, 1862. They fought in the Seven Days Battles South of Richmond under command of General Robert E. Lee and John Bell Hood. Col. Rainey was wounded at Gaines Mill in his left arm and lost his little finger. As a result of poor health, he was sent home to Palestine to recover. In 1863, he was ordered to Galveston to serve with Gen. John B. Magruder to help plan the defense of Galveston and the coast from pending union invasion. Col. Rainey served in Galveston for the remainder of the war. He was a noble man, a soldier, a statesman, and a knightly gentleman.