



SONS OF CONFEDERATE VETERANS, TEXAS DIVISION

THE JOHN H. REAGAN CAMP NEWS

www.reaganscvcamp.org

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MAY 2022

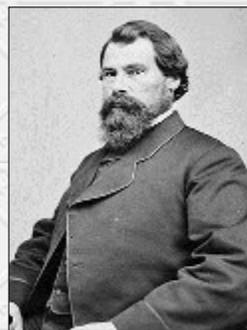
COMMANDER DYER'S DISPATCH



Hello Compatriots.  
I hope you are staying out of the heat. Most of us are so called "up in age", so be careful if you are doing anything outdoors.  
The first week of June my wife and I took a trip to Vicksburg, Mississippi. We have been there a few times before but this time it was not as enjoyable. The battle field park is in such bad condition with some park roads closed, it needed mowing and some of the signage needed replaced or repainted. When you go to the gift shop at the park you will not see a Confederate flag, as a matter of fact you won't see one anywhere in Vicksburg. It appears the folks that live there have no interest in their

heritage or just don't care anymore. There was a time as early as the 1960's that the folks of Vicksburg would not celebrate the 4th of July because that is the date it fell into yankee control in 1863. We did find the spot where my ancestor and one of my wife's ancestors that were in the same Alabama unit were located. After that we left Vicksburg very disappointed. We actually left a day sooner than we had planned. Former Texas Division Commander Gary Bray was there the week after we left and they actually were escorted out of the park, and they were just reading a monument. He may have had a Confederate bumper sticker or a flag with him. I will not return and don't recommend anyone going. Sad but true.

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

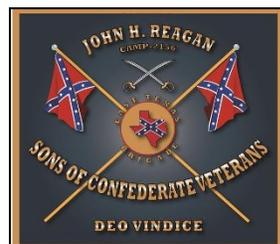
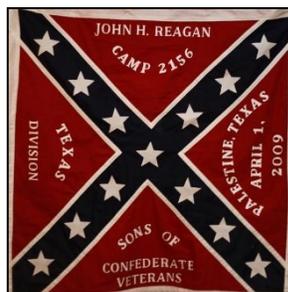
District Judge

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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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 [danielder497@yahoo.com](mailto:danielder497@yahoo.com)



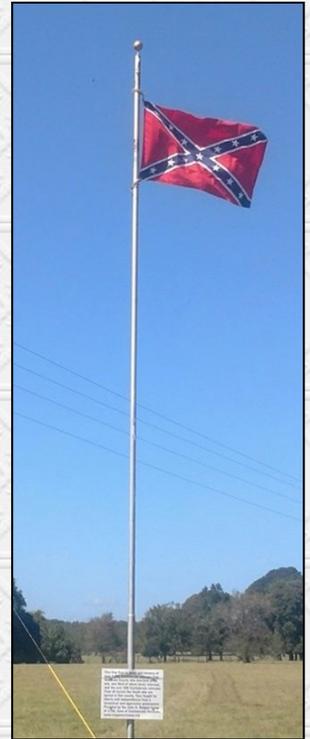
It has been over 150 years since the War of Northern Aggression was fought, but there are still some items that can be found from that war. Pictured above are some of Robert E. Lee's possessions that have been preserved. You never know what you will see as you visit various museums about the war.

**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



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](http://www.reaganscvcamp.org)



**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

June 3-5, 2022 - Texas Division Reunion

June 23, 2022 - June Meeting

July 19-21, 2022 - National Reunion in Georgia

July 28, 2022 - July Meeting

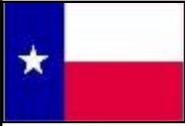
Above: Reagan Camp's battle flag and sign displayed proudly at intersection of FM 315 and Anderson Cty Rd 448, ten miles north of Palestine.

“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-

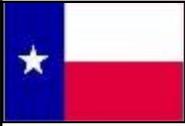


## MAY REAGAN CAMP SCV MEETING PICS MAY 26, 2022



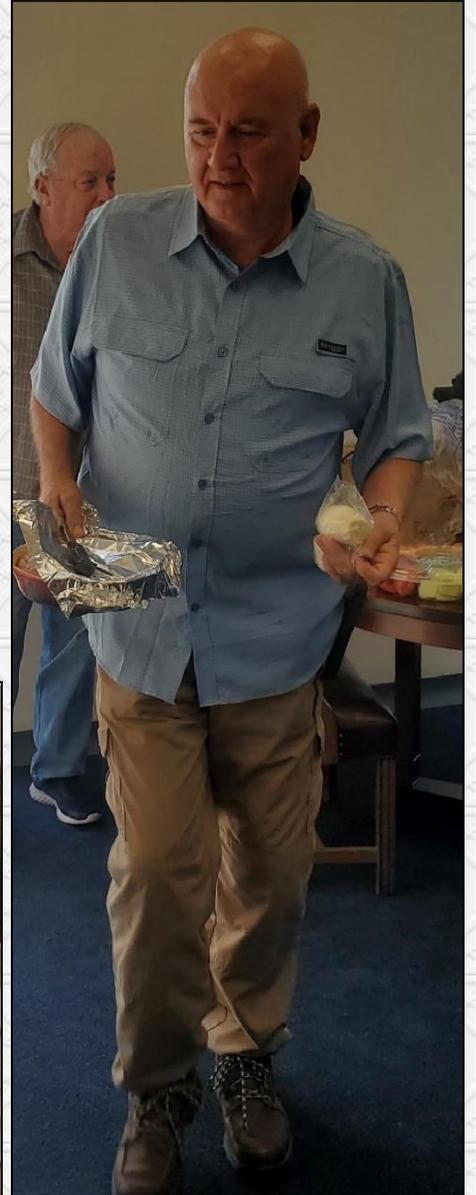
This month's Reagan Camp meeting was held on May 26th in the Commercial Bank of Texas meeting room. The meal for the night was barbecue chicken, pinto beans with ham, pizza, oysters, shrimp, crawfish, hush puppies, coleslaw, chocolate cake, Blue Bell ice cream and fresh fruit. Everything was delicious! There is always good food at the Reagan Camp meetings, and there is always plenty.

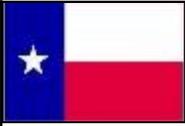




# MAY REAGAN CAMP SCV MEETING PICS

## MAY 26, 2022





## MAY HISTORICAL PROGRAM Sibley's Brigade—Conclusion BY ED HEITMANN



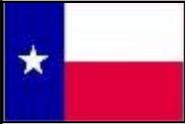
At the May meeting, Ed Heitmann presented the conclusion of the program he started in March on Sibley's Brigade. Ed has a vast amount of knowledge about the subject, and he is a very interesting speaker. He gave a lot of information on how the brigade formed, joined in San Antonio, then made the long journey to New Mexico where they fought the Battle of Valverde. The battle took place on February 20 & 21, 1862 near the town of Val Verde. Confederate General Henry Hopkins commanded the attack near Fort Craig in New Mexico territory. It was the first major engagement of the War of Northern Aggression in the far west, and the battle produced heavy casualties to each side with no decisive result. Ed informed us that New Mexico was actually part of Arizona back in those days.



Ed answered several questions about Sibley's Brigade after his program. He also pointed out the locations of several "points of interests" on a map of the Valverde region.

Marc Robinson asked Ed if he would be willing to present a program to other SCV camps who might be interested. Ed said he would definitely do so if needed.



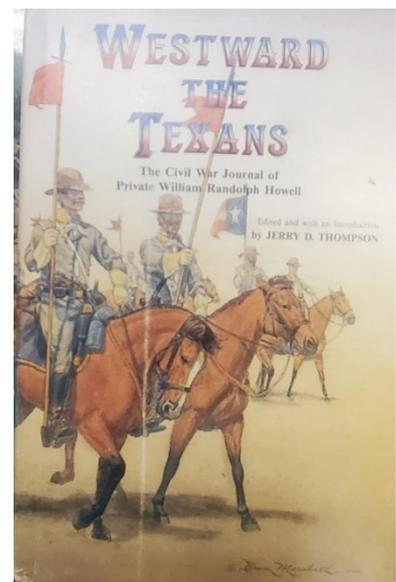
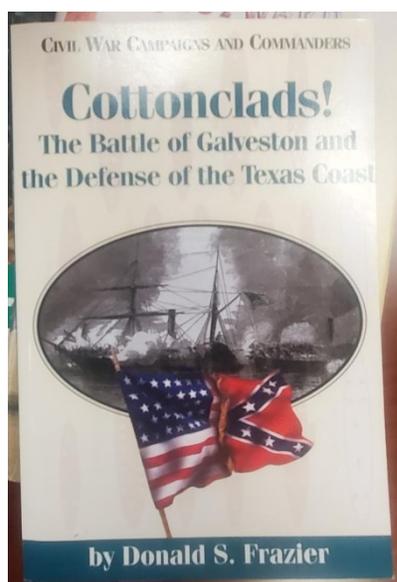
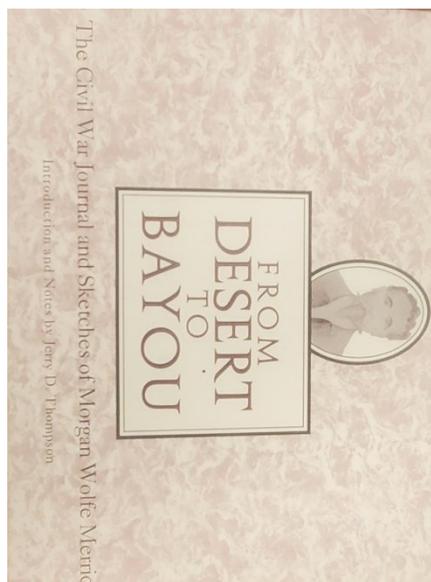
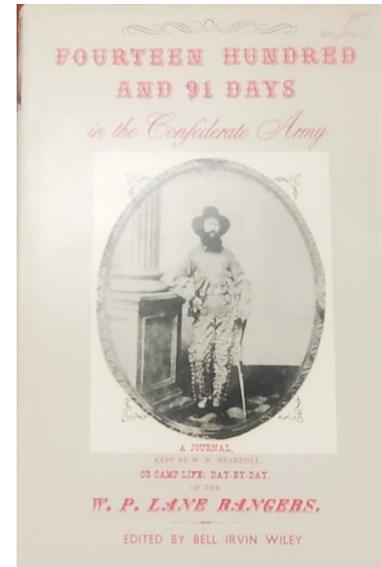
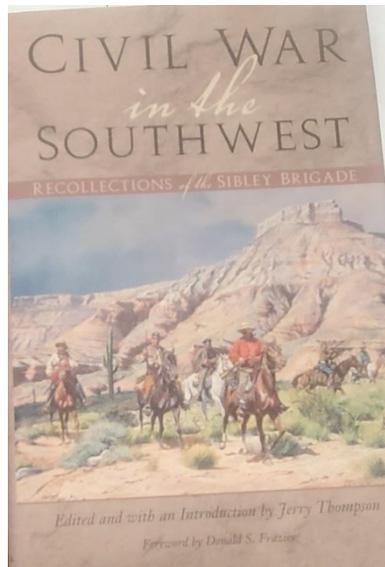
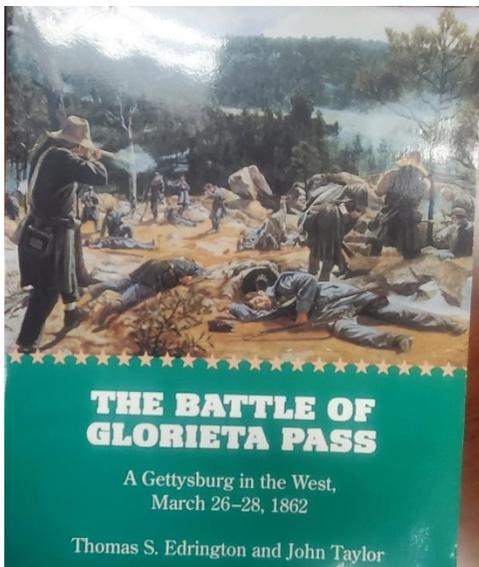


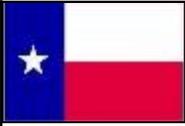
**BOOKS RECOMMENDED**  
**BY ED HEITMANN**



Ed quoted many quotes from books that had been written from the diaries of Confederate Soldiers. It is really interesting to hear what these Confederate Soldiers had to say about their lives while they were in camp, travelling, and in battle. It was also interesting to learn what they had to say about General Sibley.

Below are pictures of some of the books that Ed brought to the camp meeting. **“Fourteen Hundred and 91 Days in the Confederate Army”** contains excerpts from the journal of WW. Heartsill. **“From Desert To Bayou”** contains the Civil War journal and sketches of young Texan Morgan Wolfe Merrick. **“Westward the Texans”** is the Civil War journal of Private William Randolph Howell. All of these books contain interesting writings from actual Confederate Soldiers! They are very interesting.





## MAY HISTORICAL PROGRAM

### Sibley's Brigade Part 2

BY ED HEITMANN



Ed has allowed us to print his program so those who were not able to attend may be able to see this interesting part of history. This is continued from last month.

**Socorro to Glorieta** - as told by William Lott Davidson - Company A, 5<sup>th</sup> TMV

From Socorro we proceeded slowly up the Rio Grande on the west side. We proceeded slowly because our mules were so near worn out that they could scarcely walk much less pull our wagons. We camped the first day about 12 miles north of Socorro. Here we buried four men who died of pneumonia, measles, and smallpox. Itch and body lice were also getting in their work on us .....



Colonel Green took me out of my company and put me on his staff. My

special duty was to go to the front and scour the country for food and provisions, as we are about out [of food]. Of course, the Federals removed everything beyond our reach and if there was anything to be had for the boys, I'll get it. The enemy moved everything to eat out of the country and persuaded the Mexicans to hide their corn and wheat and drive their cattle and sheep beyond our reach.

... On my third day's hunt I found 100 bushels of wheat and 200 bushels of corn. This gave us bread enough to last sometime and at our death rate, it appeared we would all be gone before the year ended.. But the boys, sick and well, still continued to be cheerful.

[The entire Rio Grande Valley was picked clean by the Rebel Army of anything that could be ridden, harnessed, eaten, worn, or used in any conceivable manner. – Jerry Thompson, Author / Editor]

... Arriving at Albuquerque we found a few government stores, the enemy having burnt all they could, and [our] the army was marched out in the mountains east of Albuquerque [Sandi Mountains] and camped, as I thought, for the winter as the weather was very cold, sleeting, and snowing all the time. At this camp we remained a week and buried fifty men, and if the weather and exposure had continued much longer, we would have buried the whole brigade.

... Dutchman George Gardenier along with Company A of the 7<sup>th</sup> [Captain Alfred "Alf" Sturgis Thurmond\*], charged the post at Cubero [sixty miles west of Albuquerque] and captured forty prisoners. Here we got some provisions and arms. The soldiers here were taken by surprise. Couriers were sent by General Canby to them immediately after the Battle of Valverde, warning them of our approach, but Indians [Apache] killed the courier and the first knowledge they had of our presence was the demand for a surrender. The "Yanks" thinking our whole army was upon them, surrendered.

[\* Former Texas Ranger Captain Thurmond "got sideways" with General Sibley (and/or his staff) more than once during the campaign. Once during the west mountain detour retreat, Alf was leading his men through a narrow canyon and the column was halted while Sibley and his entourage passed through. Riding ahead to ascertain the cause of his column being held up, the Texan yelled out, "What the hell are those damned wagons waiting for ..?" Sibley, occupying one of the offending vehicles shouted in reply, "Who the hell is talking so loud ..?" An enraged Thurmond shot back, "I'm Captain Thurmond of the Rangers, by God, who the devil are you ..? Sibley ordered the captain's arrest ..but the major charged with the task was met with further disgust from Thurmond. "Yes, let him come here, and I'll damn sure 'Goffin' him ..!"]

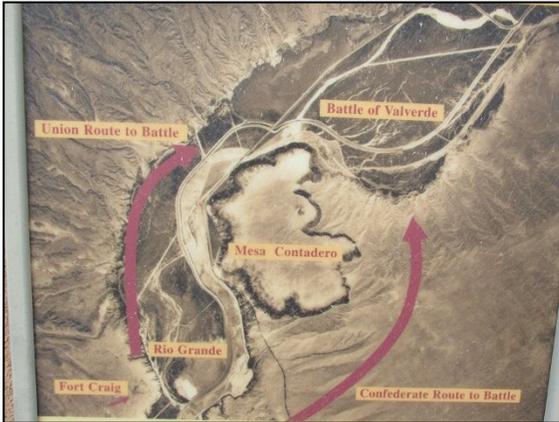
The 4th Regiment was dismounted and their [remaining] horses turned over to the balance of the brigade (2<sup>nd</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup> & 7<sup>th</sup>). Their horses were to have been paid for but never were, the Confederacy died owing for them.



## MAY HISTORICAL PROGRAM

### Sibley's Brigade Part 2

BY ED HEITMANN



I heard it stated that Colonel Scurry claimed that getting his men to give up their horses was the greatest victory of his life.

From the camp in the mountains, the brigade was divided. Captain Hardeman with Company A of the 4<sup>th</sup>, was placed in command of Albuquerque. [Bethel] Coopwood's Company was also left there [having just arrived in Albuquerque from Mesilla, taking the western detour through the Magdalena Mtns. to avoid Fort Craig – which was fortuitous knowledge of the route for the retreat of the army later that same month].

It was while on this advance [on the Fort Union Road] with Pyron and Shropshire, that I performed the greatest feat of the

war, for which Jefferson Davis ought to have sent me a commission, but he strangely forgot it, just as Grover Cleveland is now forgetting to forward the commission.

Pursuing my duty of scouring the country for provisions with a detail of three men, we ran upon Lord's squadron or some other squadron of "Yanks" and we made those hundred and twenty "Yanks" run ten miles faster than they ever did before in their lives [with the help of Shropshire's Company A].

On March 25<sup>th</sup> [1862], we got to **Glorieta Canyon** [actually it was Apache Canyon] and camped near Johnson's Ranch. The night passed off and it was too cold to sleep much. We also had to keep up our camp guard and pacing a weary beat for two long hours with bare feet on the cold and frozen snow-covered earth is not by any means comfortable.

On the 26<sup>th</sup> ... about 12 o'clock the sun made it warm enough for us to sleep and we went to sleep trusting everything in our pickets [Phillip's Company of Santa Fe Brigands] .. and they trusting everything in us. I went to sleep and they were captured and we were rudely awakened from our slumbers by a volley of musketry fired into camp. In a moment every fellow was on his feet, gun in hand, to repel the assailants.

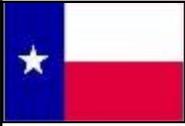
... The companies .. in picking their camping ground were considerably scattered, and while each was fighting all the time upon their own hook, yet it took a considerable time to get them together in order to have some concert of action ... We gradually pushed the enemy back about three hundred yards, and Norman,



Above is a picture of Glorieta Mesa

Hume, Nettles [artillerists] were beginning to preach to them in true war-like style from our six-pounders.

[Eventually] The enemy moved upon us from above and below and completely encircled us, we making it as lively as possible for them. After we were completely cut-off from the command and surrounded, our situation caught the eye of Capt. Shropshire ... like an avalanche he came to us right through the lines of the enemy ... amid the death-dealing missiles so thick in the air, he spoke to us, "Boys, follow me." Some one said, "We are out of cartridges." He replied, "Then take your knives and follow me." At his own expense he had made for each of us a knife, the blade about 18 inches long, a guard over the handle and made very heavy. It was a terrible weapon as it was easy to cut a man in two with every blow.



## MAY HISTORICAL PROGRAM

### Sibley's Brigade Part 2

BY ED HEITMANN



Three hundred men fighting three thousand was terrible. But those noble heroes, Pyron and Shropshire, said stay there and we stayed, but even after the sun had gone down and until night had come, did we continue the struggle. When it became too dark for "Mr. Yank" to see what he was doing, he withdrew and the fight ceased.

We remained in line under arms, as we were every moment expecting another attack. Scurry with the 4<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup>, we knew were not twenty miles of us and we did not expect them before daybreak, but we knew they were coming as fast as they could.

Between 10 and 11 o'clock that night, while wearily lying upon our arms, watching for an attack, as faint sound reached us and placing our ears to the ground we could hear it. It was the tramp .. tramp .. tramp of soldiers on the march ... I will tell you I was glad to see them. I thought they were the finest looking men I ever saw in my life, even [James Murray] Crosson (Co. F 4<sup>th</sup> Tx.) and [Gustav] Hoffmann looked real handsome that night.

### Dispatch on the evening of March 26<sup>th</sup> - 1862 - as told by Lt. Phil Fulcro

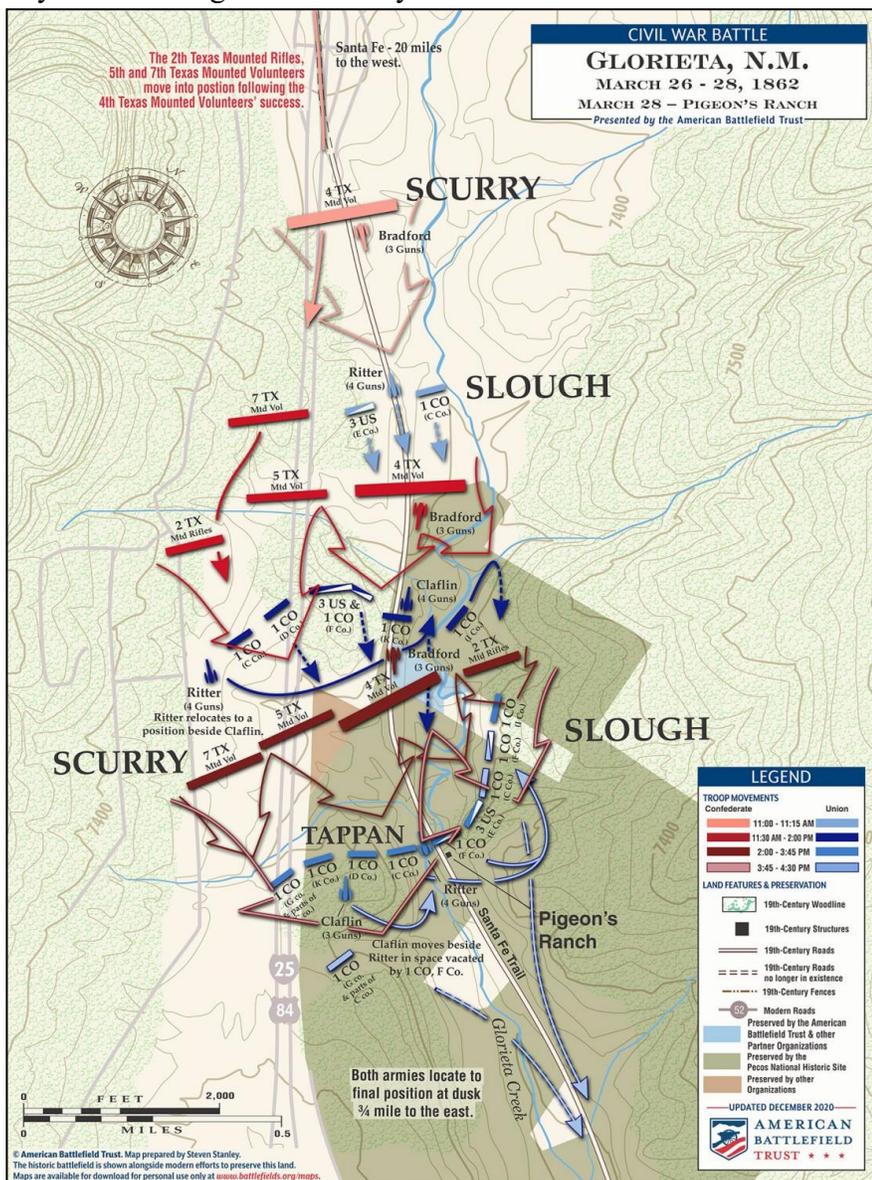
Col. William R. Scurry,  
Commanding, Camp. Galisteo

Col. The enemy has moved down from Fort Union and is in full force in my front, and we have had heavy skirmishing during the day. I have a strong position.

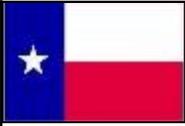
Will hold them at bay, and wait for your arrival.

Most respectfully, Chas L. Pyron,  
Commanding, Camp of Observation

### Lieutenant Fulcro continues his story ....



Scurry, upon reception of the note, moved immediately and marched all night through the snow and sleet to Pyron's relief, and upon arriving on the ground, assumed command. Scurry was ordered to hold the gap, until Colonel Green could take Companies E, F, G, H, I and K of his regiment, in the rear of the enemy. If this plan had been carried out, our success would have been accomplished but Sibley's plans were not obeyed, and this is one of the cause of our failure.



## MAY HISTORICAL PROGRAM

### Sibley's Brigade Part 2

BY ED HEITMANN



I do not mean that Curry disobeyed orders. I think he should of remained at the gap, as he was instructed. He did more than he should of done. He moved up the in the direction of Pigeon's Ranch, won the heroic fight of Glorieta and was the hero of that hard fought battle ... As it was, he won the fight but lost his [wagon] train, which was a great disaster to us, and one of the principal causes of our having to abandon the country.

Colonel Green was sent to San Antonietta, twenty miles northeast of Albuquerque [in the Sandia Mtns], to prevent the enemy from passing up or down by that route, and if the enemy advanced upon Pylon or Scurry, then Green was to swing around and get between the enemy and Fort Union and attack in the rear.

(Of course, this the plan was not executed as directed by General Sibley and resulted in another hollow tactical victory .. but ultimately a strategic loss)

### Battle of Glorieta in Six Sentences

Diary Entry for Friday, March 28<sup>th</sup> - 1862 - **William Randolph Howell** - 5<sup>th</sup> Regiment TMV Co C  
Grimes County

Rangers

Battle of Glorieta. Our arms victorious again. Our loss 35 killed and about 50 wounded. Jayhawkers are chased by our men for 3 miles [a] great many sent to their long homes. Calett, Bringles, Cabeen, Dubose and Lawless are wounded, Grissett mortally wounded. Major Shropshire and Henry Raguet both killed.



Above: Surry at Glorieta Pass

### Glorieta as told by a Private

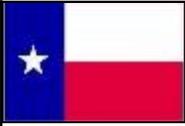
On the 28<sup>th</sup>, we advanced to attack them and they must of advanced to attack us at the same time, for we met about halfway between the two camps. The advance of the two armies, the "Brigands" on our side and the "Pikes Peakers" called out, "Get out of our way you damned sons of b-----s. We are going to take dinner in Santa Fe ..!" [typical yankees calling supper dinner ...]. We shouted back to them, "You'll take [supper] in hell ..!", and the jig opened.

Hardly had our cannon fired before they tore lose [loose] and we broke and there they came to take our cannon, nobody but Scurry and the cannoneers to defend it. They came in about twenty steps of [our] cannon, when a lot of the men that Scurry had concealed and lying down rose up and began peppering them and they began getting away from there as fast as their legs could take them.

This is the first time in the annuals of history that anybody tricked a Yankee, but they were badly tricked and from that moment they were whipped and the fight from that time on was a succession of charges ...

.... We had been gradually pushing the enemy back all day and at no time were our lines over eighty yards apart, frequently in ten steps and sometimes the fighting was hand-to-hand.

There was and could be no regular order in that place [canyon] and where the fighting became most rapid, we would work our way to help our side.



**MAY HISTORICAL PROGRAM**  
**Sibley's Brigade Part 2**  
**BY ED HEITMANN**



**Retreat to Santa Fe - as told by “Chief Scavenger” William Lott Davidson**

Getting back to Santa Fe, we found Colonel Green [of the 5<sup>th</sup>], so that our whole brigade was now together, except Company A of the 4<sup>th</sup>, [and] Company A of the 7<sup>th</sup>, [along with] Coopwood[’s command], and one section of artillery, who were with Hardeman [Co. A 4<sup>th</sup> Tex] at Albuquerque\*, as well as the sick and wounded who had been left at various hospitals along our trail.

Mrs. Louisa Hawkins Canby, wife of [the commanding Union] General Canby, was there. I was myself “laid up” undergoing repairs. Mrs. Canby won the hearts of all of our boys through her kindness to our sick and wounded. She spent several hours every day visiting our sick and wounded, bringing them delicacies and cheering their drooping spirits with kind words.

[Here .. another reason that the Confederate boys wanted to trade commanding Generals with the Yanks]

- Probably around two hundred men

**Excerpts from Martin Hardwick Hall’s “Sibley’s New Mexico Campaign” – 1960**

[This book is the original and still considered the “Gold Standard” reference for the New Mexico Campaign of 1861 – ’62 -- my comments are contained in brackets throughout the text below]

Meanwhile at Fort Craig ... Canby was flushed with anger as he read Colonel Slough’s dispatch informing him of the skirmish in Apache Canyon on March 26<sup>th</sup> and his intention of moving against the Texans with his entire force originating from Fort Union. Canby had yet to learn of the results of the battle of Glorieta Pass, and he feared that his subordinate’s impetuosity might have endangered the Federals in the north, and possibly placed the whole territory in jeopardy. Slough had been driven from the field at Glorieta and his defeat would have been disastrous had not Major Chivington saved the day by burning the enemy’s supply train at Johnson’s Ranch at the mouth of Apache Canyon.

[Chivington’s original mission was to attack Pyron and Scurry from the rear, whom had moved east up the canyon to Glorieta, but instead stumbled upon the poorly protected Confederate supply train. Sibley’s supply train was much better protected at Valverde, and hence suffered no losses there.]

[Chivington’s original mission was to attack Pyron and Scurry from the rear, whom had moved east up the canyon to Glorieta, but instead stumbled upon the poorly protected Confederate supply train. Sibley’s supply train was much better protected at Valverde, and hence suffered no losses there.]

Prompted by Slough’s rashness, Canby was determined to depart from Fort Craig immediately and to join forces with those in the north. A messenger was dispatched to order Slough – if it was not already too late [which it

was] – to fall back to Fort Union to wait further word concerning the junction [with Canby’s forces].

Canby departed Fort Craig on April 1<sup>st</sup> with a column of 860 Union regulars, 350 volunteers, and four pieces of artillery. Kit Carson was left in charge of Fort Craig with approximately 900 men .. and instructed to maintain “unremitting vigilance” guarding against an attack from Confederates still in Mesilla. Fort Craig was to be held “to the last extremity”.



Above: Apache Canyon



## MAY HISTORICAL PROGRAM

### Sibley's Brigade Part 2

BY ED HEITMANN

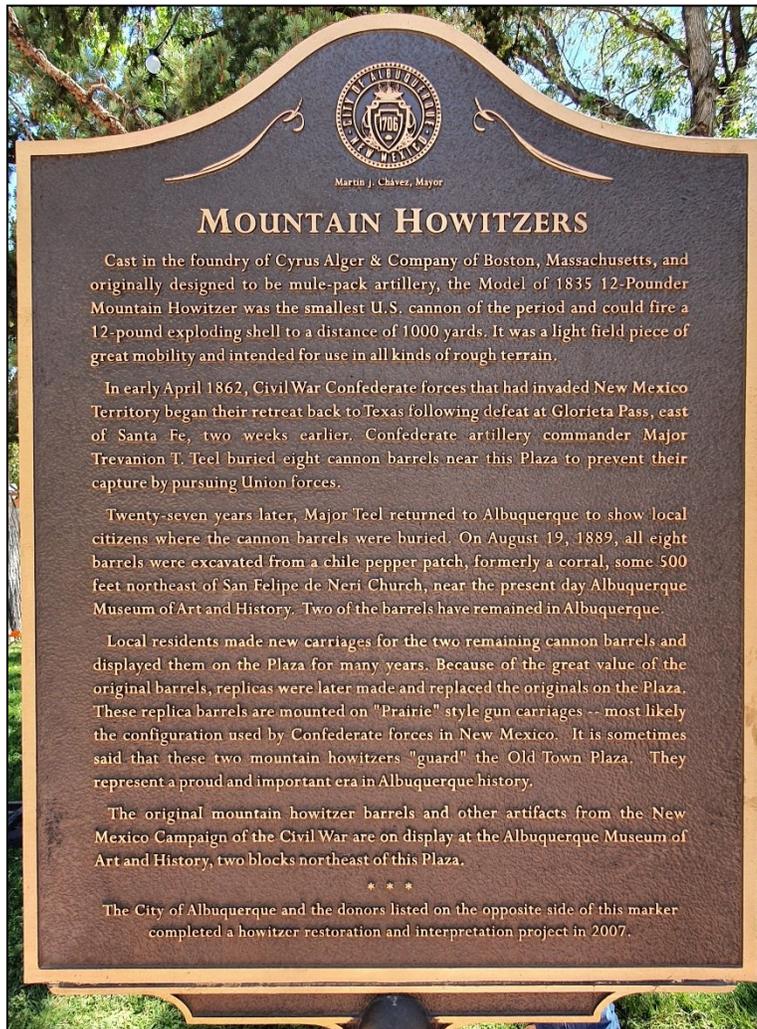


Canby heard the news of Glorieta just outside of Socorro .. or rather the news about the destruction of the enemy supply train which caused their retreat to Santa Fe. Upon informing his “commanding officers down to the lowest private in the rear rank”, the men gave out three rousing cheers which could be heard in Socorro.

When the Texans in charge of the hospital in Socorro heard the shouts, they assumed Canby was planning to storm the town .. and they quickly hoisted a hospital flag. A delegation came out to tell the Colonel that the few Confederate soldiers in town were serving only as guards and nurses for the sick and wounded. Canby assured the Confederate delegation that he was not going to molest them, reformed his men and continued on toward Albuquerque.

Upon reaching Albuquerque, Canby engaged in an artillery dual with Major Teel's Confederate six-pounders .. which did nothing but throw sand into the eyes of Canby's battery supports. But as the balls bounced harmlessly over the artillery, they kept rolling, forcing the cavalymen in the rear to take refuge near some buildings. In attempting to dodge one of these missiles, Union Major Thomas Duncan lost his balance in the saddle and fell to the ground, seriously injuring himself .. thus becoming the only casualty in the skirmish of Albuquerque.

Several citizens from Albuquerque slipped away to inform the Federals that the Texans would not allow the people to seek refuge .. Union guns doing more damage to the citizenry than the Confederate enemy ...



Canby ordered a cease fire of his artillery. The subsequent Federal departure from Albuquerque was carried out not a moment too soon .. as Canby had come perilously close to a premature clash with the entire Confederate army.

[It is here that Major Trevanion Theodore Teel (what a great name) apparently buried six cannon (the plural of cannon is .. cannon) in a hidden location of Albuquerque – only to return twenty-seven years later to dig-up a poor lady's garden that sat upon the original burial site. See the attached photo of the “Mountain Howitzer - fashionable history” plaque]

Later, during that same night in which Canby had left the proximity of Albuquerque, Thomas Green's Fifth Regiment had come into Albuquerque, followed the next day by the remainder of the army. Had Canby tarried just one day longer, he would of faced the entire Army of New Mexico.

Victory for the Texans would have meant the capture of Canby's train of desperately needed commissary and ordinance supplies. [Fighting for food and supplies (blankets for a warm night's rest) would have been a great motivator for the Texans .. just like fighting for water at Valverde had been over a month before] Conversely, defeat would have surely resulted in the surrender of Sibley's army



## MAY HISTORICAL PROGRAM

### Sibley's Brigade Part 2

BY ED HEITMANN

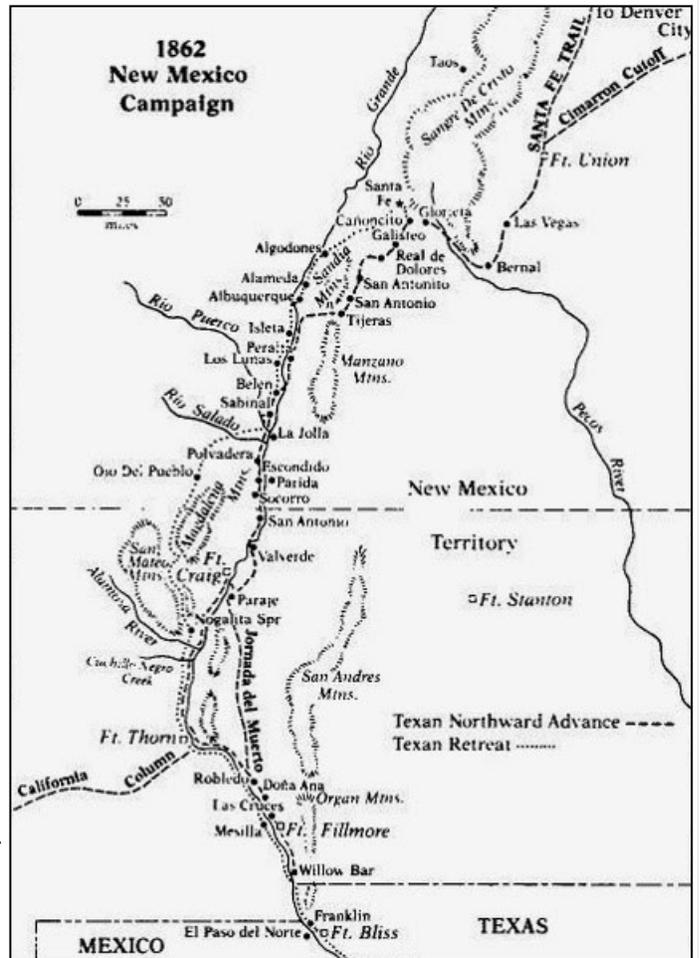


[An army fighting for its actual survival trumps an army fighting due to circumstance .. at least according to me, Humble "Historian" Heitmann]

Canby finally united his forces east of Albuquerque, numbering around twenty-four hundred men, and was ready to move against the Texans, who were now retreating down the Rio Grande from Albuquerque. Canby veered southward, following the road which angled toward the river, and at about ten o'clock that night, the Federal army struck the Rio Grande about a mile north of Peralta.

This forced march by Canby fermented discord and complaint amongst his troops .. just as it was the right of any of Sibley's soldiers to do the same. One volunteer cavalryman who did eighteen [unnecessary] miles in the saddle while on the trail to Albuquerque, only to be ordered to return to their point of origin (Galisteo), seemed justified in saying "Ten hours in the saddle for nothing is enough to excuse an oath in the mouth of the mildest Christian ...". The disgusted volunteer sarcastically states further "If there is a disagreeable task to be performed, or a danger to be encountered, they call on us; but if a town is to be occupied after the enemy has gone, the regulars come in. Howland's company went into Santa Fe yesterday and had their spree while we marched out twenty miles across the prairie and back as if we needed the exercise .."

The men of Green's Fifth Regiment who were camped at Peralta were totally unaware of Canby's approach. From captured pickets and from Union spies, the Federals attempted to learn the condition of the Army of New Mexico. Apparently ..... the Texican enlisted men were badly demoralized, while at the moment their officers were carousing at a fandango. In the distance Canby's ears were "saluted with the sound of revelry by night". The violin was in full blast, accompanied by other and more noisy instruments". Obviously the officers were celebrating their leaving despised New Mexico.



Above: New Mexico Campaign Map

[this is of course is before these same revelers experience their arduous 100+ mile journey of detour through the mountains and rugged canyons west of the Rio Grande and Fort Craig – but his account does not sound entirely accurate .. to me]

The next morning the Federal and Confederate troops were startled by a "thrilling" revile from Canby's bugles, followed by "stirring strains of Dixie thrust upon the deathly quiet by the brazen throats of Sibley's Brass Band". All thoughts of a surprise attack were now at end.

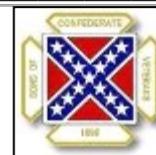
[it is very difficult for me to understand why Canby did not attack at dawn to an unsuspecting Confederate camp .. instead of announcing his presence with bugles blowing revile. I have suspicions that Canby wanted the Texans gone, without requiring a serious engagement with the hard-fighting Rebels]



## MAY HISTORICAL PROGRAM

### Sibley's Brigade Part 2

BY ED HEITMANN



Sibley, being on the opposite (east) side of the river, learned of Green's circumstances and ordered Colonel Scurry to set out immediately to bolster the Fifth with his entire available force. The ford used on the Rio Grande was nearly 800 yards wide and averaged about four feet deep. Holding their guns in their right hands and their cartridge boxes in their left, Scurry's men waded the icy waters of the river.

[Remember that Scurry's 4<sup>th</sup> Texas was dismounted and were afoot – Infantry - after the battle of Valverde]

Sibley, with part of his staff, followed shortly to assume immediate command. Having just crossed the river a group of officers that had proceeded him by several hundred yards, galloped back to inform him that a large body of enemy cavalry was approaching. Finding himself completely cut-off, the General was forced to recross the river under enemy fire. Once again the Confederate commander did not lead his troops in battle.

General Canby formulated a plan to attack the Texans and planned to do so just before a Spring wind storm kicked up a solid cloud of sand and dust making it difficult to breathe and even harder to see. These conditions made any further operations impossible, requiring Canby to abandon his plan and fall back. So ended the skirmish of Peralta.

In one instance during the skirmish, Major [now Colonel] Chivington and one of his captains barely escaped being hit by a Confederate cannon ball. The missile, after skipping along the ground toward them, bounded a few inches over their heads, fatally striking two soldiers walking nearby.

Green's Texans of the 5<sup>th</sup> had excellent use of the rather well fortified town of Peralta. His artillery was well entrenched and protected from any Federal fire, being on higher ground and sheltered by the bank of a large canal. The Texans had the exact range, forcing two Federal columns to keep moving. The Union cavalry, as one Coloradoan saw it, "was here, there and everywhere; now preparing to charge, now on foot advancing as skirmishers; always about to do something but never doing it ..!"

[This further illustrates the prejudice and rivalry betwixt the Union regulars and the (Colorado) volunteers. Luckily .. the Texans were all volunteers and could gripe, complain and hold prejudice equally amongst their comrades in arms]

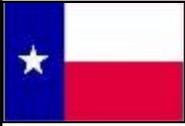
Canby incurred a great deal of grief from his troops for allowing the Texans to escape so easily. One Union soldier cynically remarked that the skirmish of Peralta was the "most harmless battle on record ... As Sibley waved his farewell from the opposite bank he seemed to say, 'Thank you, gentlemen, for your hostile intentions. Doubtless they are sincere, but Canby and I understand each other.' "

Canby realized that the cavalry and draft animals of both his and the enemy's army were so weak and jaded that neither a retreat nor a pursuit could be carried out .... The Texans' abandonment of their strong position at Peralta was substantial evidence that they did not wish to engage the Federal forces again.

Feeling certain the Texans had abandoned Peralta, Canby still left nothing to chance, cautiously circling the town before entering. He and his men observed the strength of the Confederates former position, and all were convinced that Canby had exercised good judgement in not storming the town the day before.

At this point, Canby had no intention of attempting to overtake Sibley's forces and certainly not engaging in another battle. One of his soldiers remarked, "Sixty miles per day to catch the traitors and ten to let them go ..." The next day Canby's troops had caught sight of the Texans plodding slowly along just three miles ahead ... on the opposite (west) bank of the river. The Federals hustled up closer until only the wide river separated the belligerents, the two armies generally proceeding peacefully along virtually side by side.

That night both camps were in full view of each other, causing one Texan to say, "The sight of both campfires at night was both grand and awful .."



## MAY HISTORICAL PROGRAM

### Sibley's Brigade Part 2

BY ED HEITMANN



Sibley, feared a clash with the Union forces would be inevitable if he continued his retreat following the river route. His original plan was to retreat down the Rio Grande well ahead of Canby to attack and destroy Fort Craig as a parting gesture, but delays had thwarted that endeavor. About seventy miles beyond Sibley's current location lay Fort Craig, which would certainly contest his passage, while Canby's army could cross over from the east side of the river and join into the attack on the Confederates – a second Valverde.

The Confederate command held a council of war to determine what course to pursue, where an officer suggested that the army, being too crippled to proceed any further, should surrender to the Federals. Green, Scurry, and a number of others objected vociferously. Scurry reputedly said, "By G-----d, I will take the 1<sup>st</sup> [Fourth] regiment through or die in the attempt." Because of such determined desire to press on, the surrender proposal was "put aside".

When the Federals arose and gazed across the Rio Grande on the morning of April 18<sup>th</sup>, nothing but an abandoned Confederate camp met their eyes. The Texans had the good fortune of having Captain Bethel Coopwood to act as the journey's guide, who had already used the detour beyond the mountains to the west (Magdalena Mtns.) during his passage north from Mesilla earlier in April. Though the Texans avoided any further conflict with the Federals, the men still suffered immeasurably on this detour to the west. Water was scarce and adequate food was at times even more rare.

For nine days the broken-down Confederates had struggled through the tortuous mountain route. The troops made a pathetic sight for Colonel (now General) Steel of the 7<sup>th</sup> Regiment, who traveled north from his post in Mesilla to meet the men as they exited the mountains, following the Alamosa River towards the Rio Grande. Though the suffering had been intense, the detour had achieved its purposes – there had been no clash with the Federals, Fort Craig had been bypassed, and the Texans were now safely below the enemy. Abandoned and burned equipment littered the trail from beginning to end. Over sixty horses and mules had died from the rigors of the march.



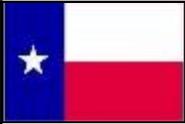
Above: Difficult terrain faced soldiers

A year later a Union officer passed over the same trail taken by the Confederates and "not infrequently found a piece of a gun-carriage, or a part of a harness, or some piece of camp or garrison equipage, with occasionally a white, dry skeleton of a man .." Partially buried bodies and bones half-eaten by wolves dotted areas along the trail west of the Magdalena Mountains.

The Texans began a river crossing to the east bank of the Rio Grande upon reaching San Diego (just south of present day Hatch, NM). The artillery was marching in advance the morning of April 29<sup>th</sup>, and they began crossing the river under Colonel Green's direction. Rafts were built to ferry the howitzers, ammunition, and the few remaining wagons containing sick and the brigade's archives. The artillery gunners, throughout their retreat, had kept their pieces loaded.

To prevent the cannon charges from getting wet during the river crossing, the men attempted to pull the loads out [sounds very dangerous to me] .. but they were stuck fast. So, the cannoneers cleared the howitzers the old fashion way – by firing all six guns.

The guns booming out through the river valley startled many men into thinking the Federals had caught up with them and commenced an attack. Most of the men decided immediately that they would rather fight twenty Yankees apiece than try another of Coopwood's short-cut detours ..!



## MAY HISTORICAL PROGRAM

### Sibley's Brigade Part 2

BY ED HEITMANN



Though Sibley's men had endured great hardship throughout the New Mexican Campaign, their suffering was far from over, unfortunately. With almost half the brigade afoot and lack of adequate food, the long journey back to San Antonio would be most difficult.

### The Confederate Empire of the West in Ruin - Parting Notes

The Texans, victorious in battle, never dealt the Yankees a crushing defeat.

The jaded and broken-down animals of Sibley's army never allowed any speedy mobility in the territory.

It was the opinion of everyone that the New Mexican [wasteland] was not worth the loss of life and money necessary for its conquest. "I do not think it is worth the life of a single Texian ..", wrote Frank Starr.

Starr listed the gains acquired during the campaign as .. "the name of our victories, the fine battery of guns taken from the enemy at Valverde, and 800 or 1000 stand of small arms taken in several engagements .. [period]."

Poor grass, deep sand, severe lack of useable water [Mescalero Apache poisoned many wells of west Texas with animal carcasses], gnats thick as grains of sand, frequent brushes with Mescaleros and probably Comanches

### **A Last Story to Tell .... From Private Henry C. Wright – 4<sup>th</sup> Texas**

Staying behind in Santa Fe to nurse his bunkmate who was wounded at Glorieta, Private Wright had been captured, paroled, then thrown in jail on trumped-up charges. Union authorities eventually released him after an inquiry, allowing him to return to Texas, but only long after his fellow soldiers had departed Santa Fe and the north country of the territory.

Wright managed to ride with a party of Union Cavalry as far south as Fort Craig. From that point south, the road was quite perilous.

He joined a six-man Union patrol scouting the road, observing a party of Indians in the distance, traveling with a huge flock of stolen sheep. The Union patrol stopped thirty-five miles north of Mesilla near Fort Thorn. The commander of the little party announced that this was as far as he had orders to go.

The call of home being too strong for CSA Private Wright, he was determined to proceed forward at all risk. His Union escort provided the Rebel with a rifle, twenty rounds of ammunition, and all the provisions he could carry.

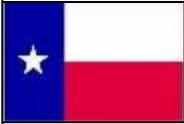
Armed but afoot, Wright headed the remaining distance alone. Wright kept east of the springtime flooded Rio Grande to avoid Indians until he reached Las Cruces. There the people ran out to meet him, his Yankee clothing saving him from being torn apart as one of the hated Texans.

He convinced the mob of townspeople that he was a Union scout, and the citizens gladly told him of the whereabouts of the closest Confederates a few short miles to the south

....



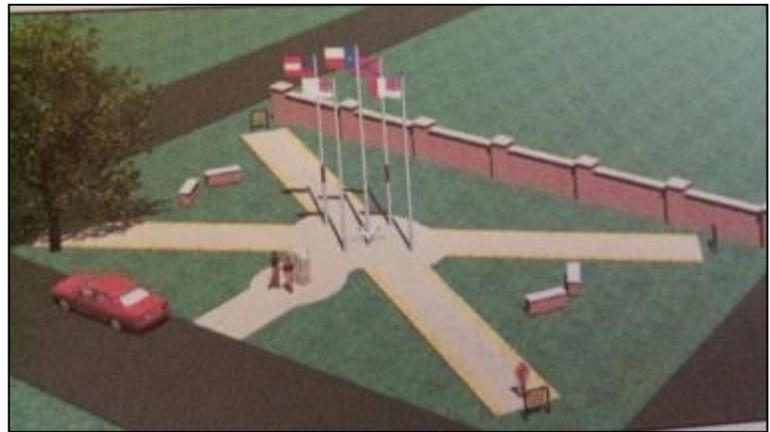
Picture is of an original Confederate gravesite in Glorieta



## 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 BTTN 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 D. 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.

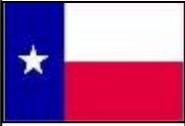


ROBERT E. LEE CALENDAR



MAY 2022

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 undated—[children] should also be taught to know that after having been reared & educated by their parents, they should not expect them to further provide for them.	2 May 2, 1865—To Markie: I trust in time to be able to procure a humble home somewhere.	3 undated—If habits of self control & self denial have been acquired during education the great object has been accomplished.	4 May 4, 1851—Be strictly honorable in every act, & be not ashamed to do right. Acknowledge right to be your aim & strive to reach it.	5 undated— to Custis  Hold yourself above every mean action	6 undated— Diligence & integrity in any useful pursuit of life will be sure to secure prosperity.	7 undated— In answer to the prayers of God’s people. I trust He will soon give us peace. I haven’t seen my wife for nearly a year—my home in nearly two years.
8 undated to Custis Daily exercise of all your energies, acquiring knowledge, & knowing to do your duty, will bring you a delight surpassing all that idleness & selfishness can give	9 undated— The choice of a profession is not of so much consequence as the manner in which it is pursued.	10 May 10, 1863— To Gen Jackson: Tell him to make haste & get well & come back to me as soon as he can. He has lost his left arm, but I have lost my right arm.	11 Undated—to son No one will attend to your business as well as you will yourself.	12 undated to wife Study human nature, more by experience than by precept, learn to guard himself & his actions & not to be deceived by the low, the cunning, & the envious.	13 undated to Mrs. Fitzhugh  In truth the wilderness of Texas is more agreeable to me than its cities.	14 undated—  We must never relax in our efforts to save our people or save our Country.
15 May 15, 1864 to General Hill: When a man makes a mistake, I call him to my tent, talk to him, & use the authority of my position to make him do the right thing the next time.	16 May 16, 1864 to Gen. Hill: These men are not an army... I have to make the best of what I have.	17 May 17, 1867—The greater difficulties in our lives the harder must we strive for success.	18 May 18, 1857—to wife: If they [daughters] can lead the life of pure & earnest Christians they will realize the only true happiness in this world.	19 undated to Custis The necessity I daily have for money has I fear made me parsimonious.	20 May 20, 1863 to Jeff Davis: I wish to take advantage of every circumstance to inspire & encourage, & induce the officers & men to believe that their labours are appreciated.	21 May 21, 1863 to Gen. Hood: There never were such men in any army before. They will go anywhere and do anything.
22 undated— I know the difficulty of farmers. Their success & in a measure their pleasure, depend upon their daily attention to their affairs.	23 May 23, 1863 to wife: I hope the doctor’s prescriptions under the blessing of Heaven relieve your painful affliction for I can do nothing but offer my feeble prayers to God for your relief.	24 undated to wife: Kiss my daughters for me, & you must all remember me in your prayers	25 May 25, 1863 to Agnes: Good-bye my precious child. Kiss your mother for me & take good care of her.	26 May 26, 1863 to Robert: I wish I could be of some advantage to you, but I can only give you my love & prayers, & commit you to God who never forgets those who serve Him.	27 undated—to Custis: so long as I meet with such return from my children, & see them strive to respond to my wishes I can meet with calmness all else the world may have for me.	28 May 28, 1870 I am unwilling that my family should become a tax to the College, all its funds should be devoted to the purposes of education.
29 May 29, 1866 Above all things, learn at once to worship your Creator & to do His will as revealed in His Holy Book.	30 May 30, 1858 to Rooney: I hope you will always be distinguished for your avoidance of the “universal balm”, whiskey & every immorality.	31 May 31, 1863 to wife: I pray that our merciful Father in Heaven may protect and direct us! In that case, I fear no odds & no numbers.				



## TEXAS CIVIL WAR HISTORY IN MAY



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

**May 6th, 1864:** On this day in one of the most moving incidents of the Civil War, Confederate General Robert E. Lee ordered the celebrated Hood's Texas Brigade to the front, and they in turn ordered him to the rear. During a critical moment of the fierce Battle of the Wilderness, as the Southern battle line was crumbling, Lee, commander of the Army of Northern Virginia, was heartened to see the Texas Brigade, under the command of John Gregg, arrive on the field as reinforcements. With a cry of "Hurrah for Texas!" Lee ordered them forward against the Union Army and, carried away by his enthusiasm, began to lead them into the charge. The Texans unwilling to risk their idol in battle, stopped and gathered around him, yelling "Lee to the rear!" and held onto his horse until he withdrew. The Texas Brigade suffered severe losses, but the Union army was once more fought to a standstill.

**May 9th, 1865:** On this day near Abbeville, Georgia, Jefferson Davis, former Texas governor Francis R. Lubbock, and Confederate postmaster and temporary treasurer John H. Reagan were captured by Union forces. Davis had been forced to flee Richmond with his cabinet on April 2, and the Confederate government had eluded Union patrols in both North and South Carolina. After his capture, Texan John Reagan was imprisoned until December.

**May 13, 1865:** On this day, more than a month after the surrender of General Robert E. Lee, the last land action of the Civil War took place at Palmito Ranch near Brownsville. The battle lasted four hours. Confederate casualties were a few dozen wounded. The federals lost 111 men and four officers, captured, and thirty men wounded or killed. Ironically, at the same time, the Confederate governors of Arkansas, Louisiana, Missouri, and Texas were authorizing Confederate commander Kirby Smith to disband his armies and end the war.

**May 17th, 1865:** On this day, the last 1,200 Federal prisoners left Camp Ford, a Confederate prison camp located four miles northeast of Tyler, Texas. The Camp, named in honor of Col. John S. (Rip) Ford, originally opened in 1862 as a facility for training Confederate conscripts, but the Trans-Mississippi Department ordered the establishment of a prison camp there in July 1863; the notorious John Pelham Border became commandant in May 1864. About 6,000 prisoners were confined at Camp Ford over the two years of its existence, making it the largest Confederate prison camp west of the Mississippi River. Of this number 286 died there. The remains of the prison compound were destroyed in July 1865 by a detail of the Tenth Illinois Cavalry.

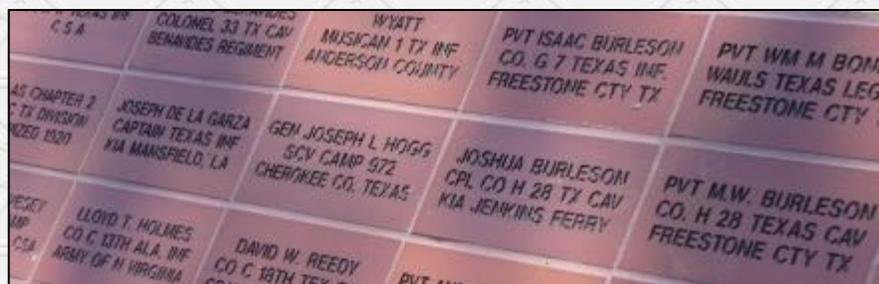
**May 25, 1896:** On this day, the Texas Division of the United Daughters of the Confederacy met for the first time in Victoria. The United Daughters of the Confederacy was established in 1894 by the merger of state groups in Georgia, Missouri, and Tennessee. The Texas Division was organized by Kate Cabell Muse, who had earlier organized a local chapter in her hometown, Dallas. The Texas Division has been active in marking historic locations and holds annual memorial observances to remember not only Confederate Veterans, but veterans of all wars. The division formerly sponsored the Texas Confederate Home and the Confederate Woman's Home and each year awards thousands of dollars in scholarships to descendants of Confederate veterans. It also maintains the Texas Confederate Museum.



## 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: [danieldyer497@yahoo.com](mailto:danieldyer497@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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Please visit our website @

[www.reaganscvcamp.org](http://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.