



SONS OF CONFEDERATE VETERANS, TEXAS DIVISION

THE JOHN H. REAGAN CAMP NEWS

www.reaganscvcamp.org

VOLUME 17, ISSUE 8

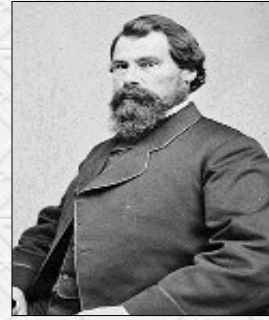
AUGUST 2025

AUGUST DISPATCH

We hear much about AI these days. It seems like artificial intelligence just keeps learning more and more. I recently did a search for "Confederate victories while being outnumbered" and found the information below from the 'AI' response. Many people don't realize how much of an advantage the Union had during the war between the states. Where the Confederate states had a population of 5.5 million on the 1860 census (plus 3 1/2 million slaves), the northern states had a population of over 18 1/2 million. Almost all of the industry was in the northern states, so the Union had a big advantage there also. Despite the Union's huge advantage, the Confederates had major victories. The biggest Confederate victory while being outnumbered was the Battle of Chancellorsville in 1863, where General Robert E. Lee's forces of 60,000 defeated Union General Joseph Hooker's much larger army of 133,868. Even though they were outnumbered over 2 to 1, the Confederates were victorious. General Robert E. Lee's audacious strategy of

dividing his forces against a much larger Union army led to a decisive victory. This battle is often referred to as Lee's Perfect Battle despite suffering heavy casualties including the loss of General Stonewall Jackson. Another victory is the Battle of Chickamauga. In this battle, the Confederate army was outnumbered 84,000 to 66,000. This battle marked the largest Confederate victory in the Western theater. The Confederate forces, under General Braxton Bragg, managed to break through Union lines after intense fighting, leading to a siege at Chattanooga. The Battle of Fort Gregg in 1865 demonstrated the determination and tactical skill of a small Confederate garrison of 214 men holding off a much larger Union force of 85,000. The effort of these men was critical in delaying the Union advance.

In the Second Battle of Sabine Pass, the Confederate garrison at Fort Griffin, only numbered 46 men. The Union flotilla of four gunboats and seven troop transports, (about 5,000 men) steamed into Sabine

**John H. Reagan**

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

Pass and up the Sabine River to reduce Fort Griffin and land troops. As the gunboats approached Fort Griffin, they came under accurate fire from six cannons. The fort's small force of 46 men, under the command of Lt. Richard W. Dowling, disabled two ships, captured the gunboat Clifton with about 200 prisoners, and forced the Union flotilla to retreat.

These battles illustrate the Confederate army's ability to achieve significant victories despite being outnumbered, often through superior tactics and leadership.

CAMP MEETINGS

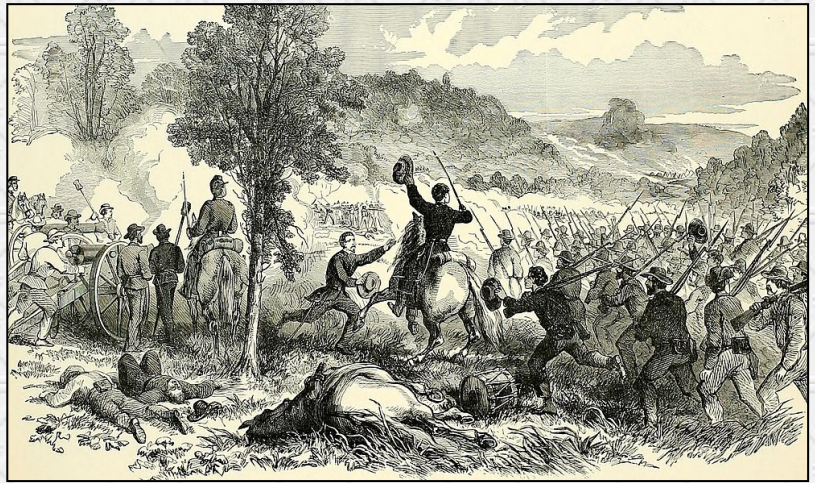
4th Tuesday of Each Month
06:30 PM at the First
Congregational Methodist
Church of Elkhart.

With a meal served
at each meeting.
Guests are welcome!
Bring the family.

www.reaganscvcamp.org
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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 Richard Thornton at 903-731-1557 or email tx_tsar@hotmail.com.**



The **Battle of Wilson's Creek**, also known as the **Battle of Oak Hills**, was the first major battle of the Trans-Mississippi Theater of the American Civil War. It was fought on August 10, 1861, near Springfield, Missouri.

Prayer List

- Compatriot Forrest Bradberry
- Compatriot Gary Gibson & his wife, Lynn
- Past Reagan Camp Historian Gary Williams
- Former Camp Commander Rudy Ray
- United Daughters of the Confederacy
- The Sovereign State of Texas

Officers for 2025

Commander - Ed Heitman

1st Lt. - David Franklin

Adjutant/Treasurer - Richard Thornton

Sgt at Arms - Marc Robinson

Judge Advocate - Martin Lawrence

Chaplain - Dwight Franklin

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

The Reagan Camp will have monthly meetings on the 4th Tuesday of each month. Meetings will be held at the First Congregational Church of Elkhart.

August 26, 2025 - August Meeting

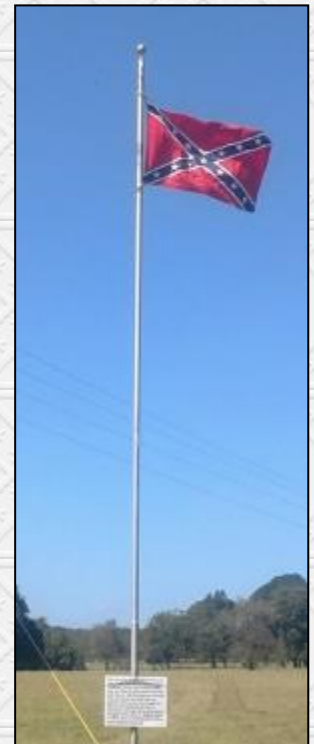
Sep 23, 2025 - September Meeting

Oct 28, 2025 - October Meeting

November meeting date is yet to be announced

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-



AUGUST MEETING PICTURES



The August meeting was held on Tuesday, August 26th, at the First Congregational Methodist Church of Elkhart. We had six Reagan Camp members and one guest in attendance. Our guest was compatriot Terry Teems who was visiting from the Major R.L. Dabney Camp in Canton. (They have their camp meetings on the second Tuesday of every month)



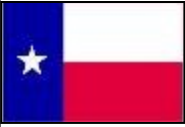
We started off by enjoying a meal of rotisserie chicken, soft fried new potatoes and onions, pinto beans, cornbread, and a cherry cobbler for dessert. All of the food was delicious. We appreciate Richard Thornton, David Franklin and Dwight Franklin for bringing the food.



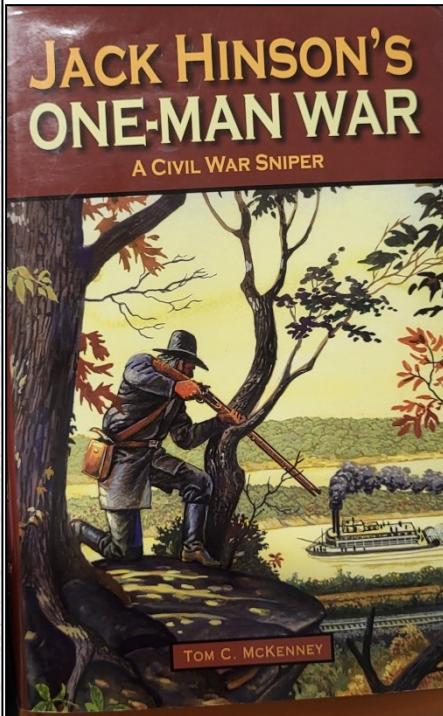
Following the meal, Marc Robinson presented the historical program on "Jack Hinson's One Man War". The program was about a man who became a feared sniper for the Confederacy after Union soldiers executed his two young sons.

Our next meeting will be held on Sept 23rd. We hope to see you there.

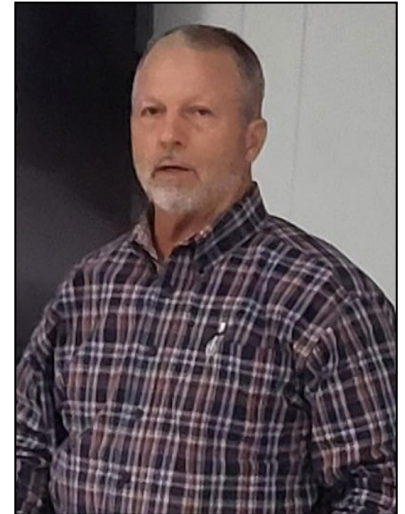




AUGUST HISTORICAL PROGRAM
"JACK HINSON'S ONE MAN WAR"
 BY MARC ROBINSON



Marc Robinson presented the program for the August meeting. His program was titled, "Jack Hinson's One-Man War". His program came from the book that was written by Tom C. McKenney. The program told about a quiet unassuming, and wealthy plantation owner, Jack Hinson,. He was focused on his family life and seasonal plantings when the Civil War started to permeate the isolated valleys of the Kentucky-Tennessee border area where he lived. He was uniquely neutral-friend to both Confederate and Union generals— and his family exemplified the genteel, educated, gracious, and hardworking qualities highly valued in their society. By the winter of 1862, the Hinsons' happy way of life would change forever.



Jack Hinson's neutrality was shattered the day Union patrols moved in on his land, captured two of his sons, accused them of being bushwhackers, and executed them on the roadside.

The soldiers furthered the abuse by decapitating the Hinson boys and placing their heads on the gateposts of the family estate. The Civil War, now literally on Hinson's doorstep, had become painfully personal, and he could remain dispassionate no longer. He commissioned a special rifle, a heavy barreled .50-caliber weapon designed for long-range accuracy. He said goodbye to his family, and he took to the wilderness seeking revenge.

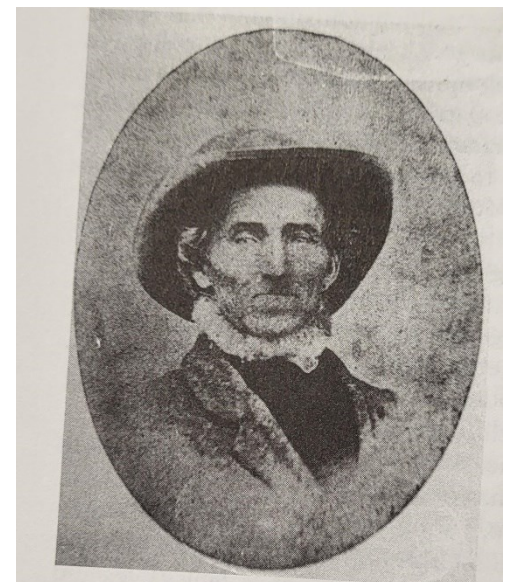
Hinson, nearly sixty years of age, alone, and without formal military training, soon became a deadly threat to the Union. A Confederate sniper, he made history after single-handedly bringing down an armed Union transport and serving as a scout for Nathan Bedford Forrest. A tenacious and elusive figure, Hinson likely killed more than one hundred Union soldiers, recording the confirmed deaths on the barrel of his rifle with precision.

Despite the number of men sent to kill him, Hinson evaded all capture, and like his footsteps through the Kentucky and Tennessee underbrush, his story has been shrouded in silence—until this book was published. The result of fifteen years of research from the author brings the story of Jack Hinson into full view.

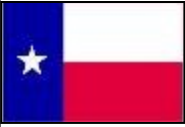
You can purchase the book and learn about the interesting life of Jack Hinson in hardback, paperback, or audio.

Jack Hinson was never caught during the war. This is a very interesting true story of a man who was the deadliest sniper in the Civil war.

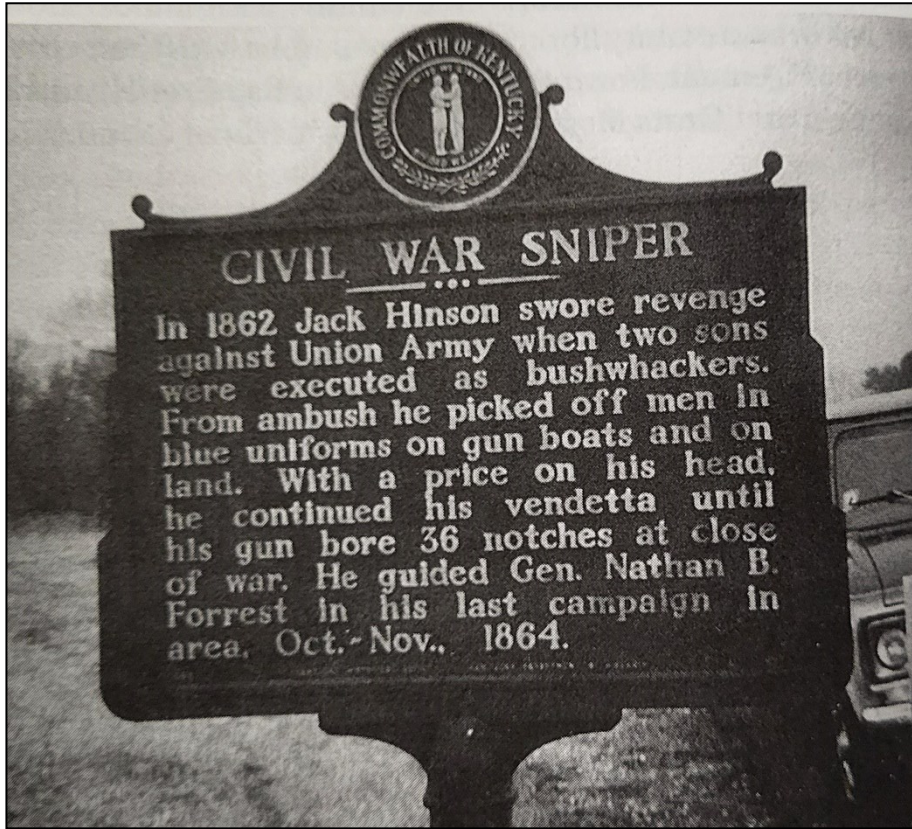
We appreciate Marc for the historical program on Jack Hinson's One Man War. It is a piece of history that needs to be told.



Jack Hinson in old age, the only photograph of him known to exist. (From Bromfield L. Ridley's Battles and Sketches of the Army of Tennessee, 1906)



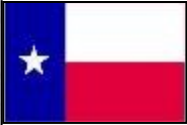
AUGUST HISTORICAL PROGRAM
 "JACK HINSON'S ONE MAN WAR"
 BY MARC ROBINSON



Above: Marc points to the area where Jack Hinson owned land between two rivers.



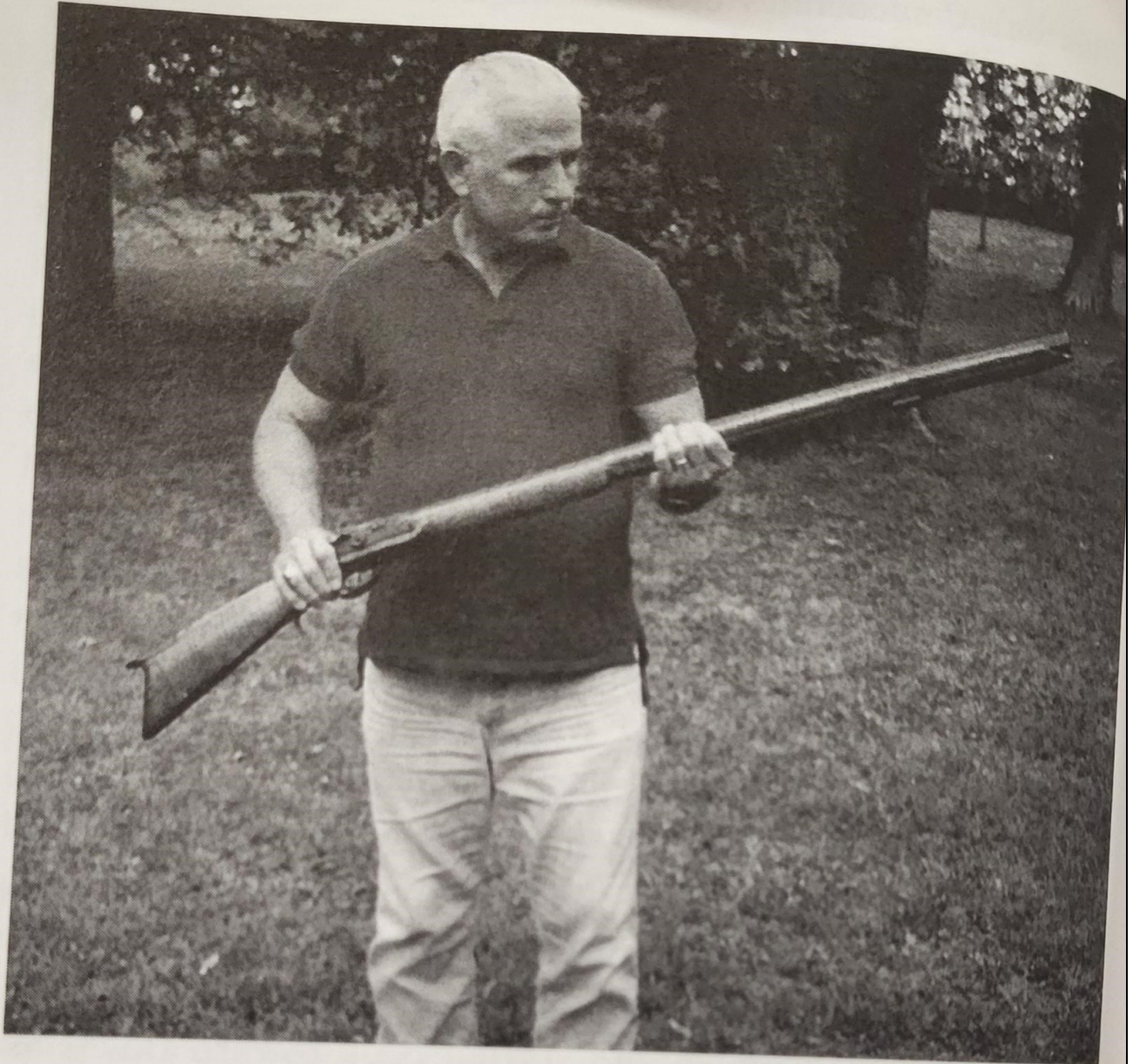
Jack Hinson before the war. (Painting by Joe McCormick)



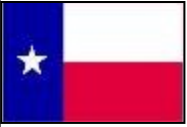
AUGUST HISTORICAL PROGRAM
"JACK HINSON'S ONE MAN WAR"
BY MARC ROBINSON



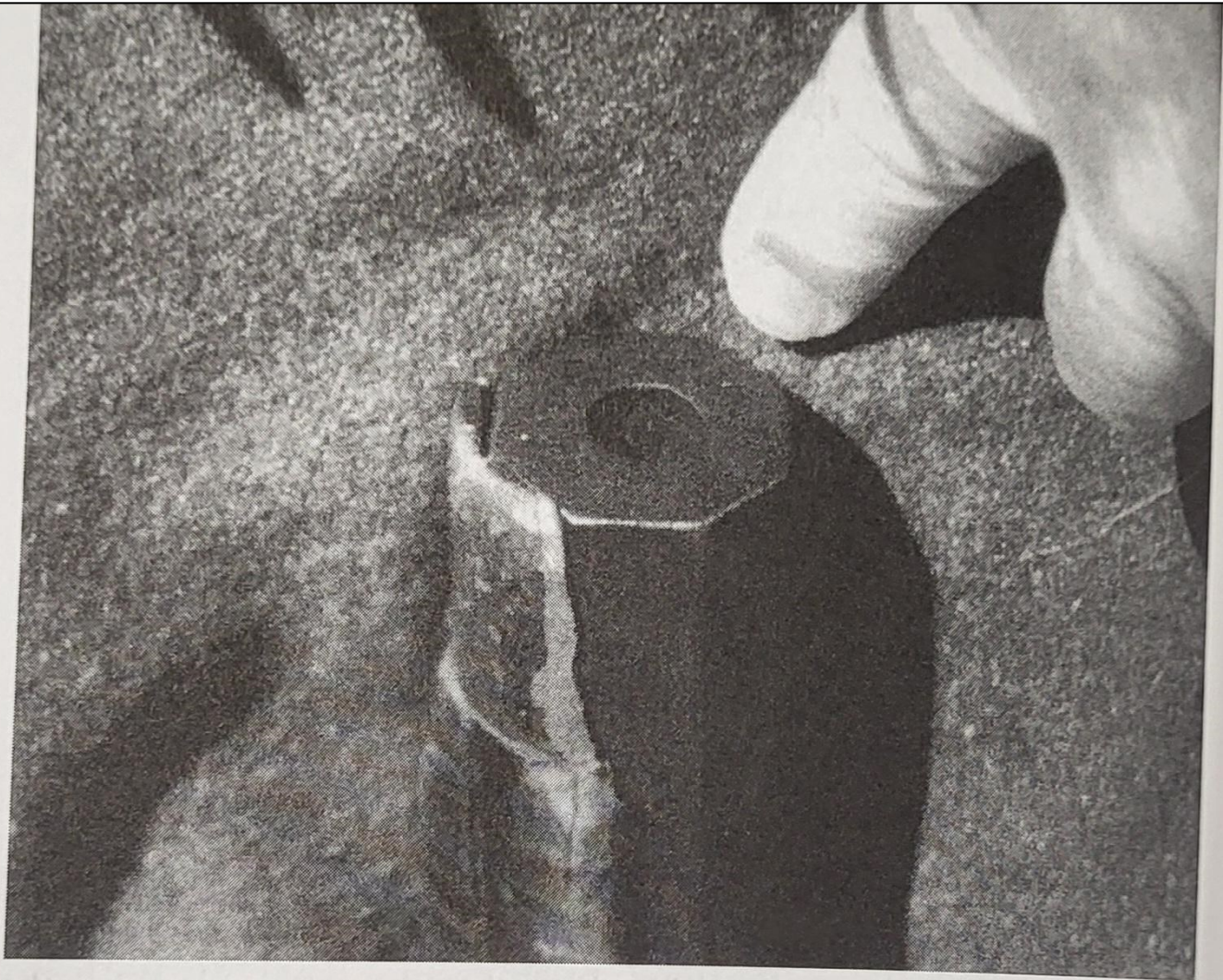
The Rifle



Jack's rifle held by the author.



AUGUST HISTORICAL PROGRAM
"JACK HINSON'S ONE MAN WAR"
BY MARC ROBINSON



The rifle's heavy barrel.

the spiraling, pointed Minié ball projectile were state of the art and provided by far the greatest accuracy of any rifle and projectile design of that day. These features enabled an ordinary rifleman to hit a target at five hundred yards, one that could be hit with a smoothbore musket and spherical ball at no more than fifty yards. And, Jack Hinson was no ordinary rifleman; he was an expert.

The unique weapon Jack Hinson would use to avenge the deaths of his sons was ready.



AUGUST CONFEDERATE VICTORY THE BATTLE OF OAK HILLS (WILSON'S CREEK) AUGUST 10, 1861



By all accounts the heat on August 10, 1861, was sweltering, even by early morning, but the temperature was not the only reason Ben McCulloch's black velvet civilian suit was inappropriate. Although he was a brigadier general in the Confederate army, the former Texas Ranger disdained uniforms and there was little other than his determined manner to indicate that he commanded the largest Confederate force west of the Mississippi River. Now he led the Western Army in desperate battle among the oak-covered hills and creek bottoms of southwestern Missouri. "That was a good shot," McCulloch said to Henry H. Gentiles, a corporal in the 3rd Louisiana Infantry. Gentiles had killed the lone Union sentry guarding the Federal position at the Sharp farm just as the man was about to shoot McCulloch. Calling on his soldiers to "give them hell," McCulloch ordered a charge, leading his army from the very front. On another part of the field, his opponent, Brigadier General Nathaniel Lyon, also led from the front, wearing a worn captain's coat rather than the finery entitled by his rank. About an hour after McCulloch led his charge, a bullet struck Lyon's heart while he was maneuvering troops into position, making him the first Union general to die in battle. Lyon's death and McCulloch's almost foolhardy courage are but two of the many circumstances that make the Battle of Wilson's Creek memorable. Fought just twenty days after the Union debacle at Manassas in Virginia, Wilson's Creek was the second major Confederate victory of the war. It played a key role in the struggle for Missouri and the Trans-Mississippi Theater. Many Confederates called the battle Oak Hills, and oak trees and prairie grass still dot the 1,929 nearly pristine acres that make the Wilson's Creek National Battlefield one of the jewels of the National Park Service.

The circumstances that produced the clash at Wilson's Creek were unusual, even amid a great civil war. Although a convention meeting in March 1861 had rejected secession, Missouri governor Claiborne Fox Jackson favored the Confederacy. In May he used the state's militia to threaten the Federal arsenal in St. Louis. This critical post was commanded by Nathaniel Lyon, who employed a small force of Regulars and a large number of volunteers to capture the state militia encampment on the outskirts of the city. Although the militia surrendered without a fight, a riot ensued as Lyon marched his prisoners through the city. Over 100 civilians became casualties when Lyon's men fired into the crowd. This "massacre" panicked the largely pro-Union legislature into giving Governor Jackson nearly dictatorial powers to defend the state. Jackson named former governor and Mexican War hero Sterling Price a major general to command a re-organized militia, now styled the Missouri State Guard. Its ranks swelled with volunteers, many (but not all) of whom hoped to see Missouri join the Confederacy.

Lyon did not give the potentially hostile State Guard time to organize. In June he declared war on the Missouri state government (an unauthorized action retroactively sanctioned by the Lincoln administration). Receiving reinforcements from Kansas, he launched three columns into motion, forcing the state legislature from the capital at Jefferson City, breaking up recruiting camps, and driving the State Guard units that had formed into the southwestern corner of the state. Skirmishes occurred, notably at Boonville on June 17 and Carthage on July 5, and by the first of August Lyon had a force of some 7,000 men concentrated at Springfield. His bold actions had secured the critical river and railway networks in the central portion of the state for the Union, but he also faced great peril. Lyon's Army of the West had penetrated deep into the Ozarks, far from the nearest railhead, at Rolla, forcing his men to go on short rations. Many of the volunteers had enlisted for only ninety days; within weeks half of Lyon's force would cease to exist. The new top commander in Missouri, Major General John C. Frémont, refused reinforcements and urged Lyon to retreat to Rolla.



AUGUST CONFEDERATE VICTORY THE BATTLE OF OAK HILLS AUGUST 10, 1861



Retreat would not be easy, for Lyon now faced a formidable foe, camped just nine miles from Springfield, where the Telegraph or Wire Road crossed Wilson Creek. When Lyon's lightning campaign forced the Missouri State Guard to retreat southward, Sterling Price sought help from Ben McCulloch, commander of the Confederate forces in northwestern Arkansas. In July McCulloch secured permission from Richmond to make a forward defense by cooperating with Price. The Texan moved 5,000 men into Missouri, the first Confederate invasion of the Union. Joining the State Guard near Cassville, they advanced toward Springfield. After several skirmishes with Lyon's advance forces, they settled into camp on August 6 at Wilson Creek, where local springs and farms provided food and water. Both McCulloch and Lyon sent out patrols and used spies (who included local women) to collect information as they planned their next moves.

The opposing forces were unusual in many ways. McCulloch commanded the Western Army by consent. His Confederate brigade consisted of Confederate troops under his direct command and Arkansas State Troops led by Brigadier General N. Bart Pearce. The latter were Arkansas militia temporarily placed at McCulloch's disposal. In addition to Arkansans, the Confederate brigade included units from Louisiana and Texas. Most carried antiquated, short-range, smoothbore muskets. Many wore civilian clothes, sometimes trimmed in flashy colors for a military appearance. Others wore uniforms of blue, black, or gray, sewed by loved ones in their home communities. Price's Missouri State Guard was 7,000 strong, but only 5,000 were armed. While a few units wore fancy blue or gray pre-war militia uniforms, and some were uniformed by their home towns, civilian attire predominated. A large number wore trimmed civilian shirts as an outer garment, a precursor of the fanciful Missouri "guerrilla shirts" of later years. While some members of the State Guard had military arms, many carried shotguns or hunting weapons brought from home and a high percentage of these were flintlocks. All of the Southerners were ragged from marching and hundreds lacked replacements for worn-out shoes. More significantly, the Western Army was critically short of ammunition, averaging only twenty-five rounds per man. As this Southern force rested in the valley of the creek, a dozen or so Cherokee arrived from the nearby Indian Territory and attached themselves casually to the army. There were a large number of civilians in the camp, mostly soldiers' wives who had followed the army. Quite a few officers employed their slaves as cooks or body servants; perhaps one hundred African Americans were present.

Nathaniel Lyon's force contained a larger ethnic component than any other army the Union sent into battle during the war. About two-thirds of the more than 1,000 Regulars under his command were born in Germany or Ireland. He had two regiments of volunteers from Kansas, but 45 percent of their men were born outside the United States. An infantry unit from Iowa had three German companies, while Lyon's volunteer infantry and artillery units raised in Missouri were mostly German-born residents of St. Louis. Although Lyon's Regulars and the Kansans dressed in blue, most of his Missouri troops wore gray overshirts, and each company in the 1st Iowa sported a different color outfit, including black, gray, and shades of blue. Like their Southern opponents, Lyon's men were bedraggled from marching and many had replaced all or part of their uniforms with civilian clothing. A considerable number no longer had shoes, but ammunition was not a problem. While it does not appear that any wives accompanied Lyon's army, some of his officers were slaveholders who brought personal servants. Lyon was an ardent abolitionist, but some of Missouri's leading Unionists held slaves.

- continued on the next page -



AUGUST CONFEDERATE VICTORY THE BATTLE OF OAK HILLS AUGUST 10, 1861



Ironically, both Lyon and McCulloch committed their forces to attack at the same time. Pressured by Price to take action, McCulloch decided to advance on the night of August 9 and assault Springfield at dawn. When a storm threatened, he ordered a delay until the next morning, as many of his soldiers lacked cartridge boxes for their precious ammunition. The storm never developed; after a slight sprinkle the Southern army slept peacefully, but McCulloch neglected to repost sentries to guard the camp. That same day, in Springfield, Lyon and his officers debated their next move. With supplies critically short the Federals had to retreat eventually, but Lyon feared McCulloch would overtake him and force him to fight at a disadvantage. Lyon was also loath to withdraw without striking a blow for the Union cause. He therefore decided to attack the Southern camp at dawn, hoping to damage the enemy sufficiently to allow the Federals to escape safely to Rolla. But Colonel Franz Sigel convinced Lyon to adopt a more daring plan. The German-born veteran of European conflicts argued for a two-pronged attack on the enemy camp. Lyon agreed, for reasons that have never been clear. To divide the numerically inferior Federal force was a breathtaking risk, but an attack from two directions might multiply the Federals' main advantage – surprise. Some officers believed that Sigel made the argument just to win a prominent role, for Lyon assigned one of the two columns to him.

The Federals left Springfield in the evening. Lyon's column, with 4,300 men and ten guns, followed roads leading west before turning south and marching cross-country. They halted just north of their unsuspecting enemy and then rested. Sigel had further to go. His column of 1,100 men and six guns marched almost all night, but reached a position on high ground overlooking the southern end of McCulloch's camp just before dawn. The plan was for Sigel to open fire when he heard Lyon's guns.

It is not clear how much the Federals knew about their enemy's position. The Southern army had fifteen guns in four batteries. One of these, the Pulaski Light Battery, sat at the Winn farm, on high ground overlooking the Wire Road, protecting the Southerners from any attack coming down the road from Springfield. Beyond that the Southerners were camped almost at random. Most of McCulloch's own Confederate units were positioned on a plateau on the east side of Wilson Creek, not far from where the Wire Road forded the stream. The bulk of Pearce's Arkansas State Troops were on the same plateau, just to the south. The Missouri State Guard was scattered. Price's men were organized into five unequal, mixed units labeled "divisions," each commanded by a brigadier general. The infantry and artillery from four of these was camped at the William Edwards farm, flat ground on the west bank of Wilson Creek, just south of the ford. The accompanying cavalry (together with some Confederate units) were further south and almost out of touch. They camped at the Joseph Sharp farm, on a high plateau above the valley of the creek. Brigadier Generals John B. Clark, William Y. Slack, Mosby Monroe Parsons, and James H. McBride commanded the divisions at the Edwards farm. The remaining State Guard division, under James S. Rains, was scattered. The infantry and one battery were at the Caleb Manley farm, on a hill east of the creek and some distance from the main camp. The cavalry was camped on and about a broad undulating hill on the west side of the creek, just north of the Edwards farm. Unnamed at the time, it soon earned the sobriquet "Bloody Hill." Rains' headquarters was upstream from the rest of the camp, at the gristmill of John Gibson, which sat on the east bank of the creek, opposite a ravine leading up Bloody Hill.



AUGUST CONFEDERATE VICTORY THE BATTLE OF OAK HILLS AUGUST 10, 1861



Just before dawn, Lyon's column entered the Elias B. Short farm, adjacent to a northern spur of Bloody Hill. Southern foragers had noticed his approach and raised the alarm. Lyon was surprised to find a small cavalry unit on the spur ridge, disputing his passage. The Federal commander took about an hour to deploy his artillery, charge the ridge with his infantry, and drive them away. Reaching the ridge top, Lyon could see the main body of Bloody Hill to his front, across a steep ravine. Rains' headquarters was across Wilson Creek on his left, but the main Southern camp was out of sight, on the far side of Bloody Hill, three-quarters of a mile away. Because the ravine was steep, Lyon sent only two infantry units and one battery straight forward. The bulk of his force moved to the right, along a farm road that took them west, curving around the head of the ravine, to outflank the resistance Lyon could see forming on Bloody Hill. To guard his left flank Lyon dispatched Captain Joseph Plummer with 300 Regulars and some mounted Home Guard cavalry to cross the creek and secure the Wire Road.

When Sigel heard Lyon's guns at daybreak he ordered his own artillery to open fire. The surprise was complete and the effect devastating. Artillery shells rained from the Federals' hilltop position onto the unsuspecting Southern cavalymen cooking their breakfast at the Sharp farm. In moments the 1,500 men camped there were in flight; more than half of them left the battlefield altogether. After a short time Sigel led the bulk of his force off the high ground and moved toward the Sharp farm. He and Lyon had successfully maneuvered in secret and caught their foe by surprise, a stunning achievement.

The Federals' success was even greater than they knew. Down in the valley of Wilson Creek, McCulloch and Price shared breakfast at Price's headquarters, a tent pitched next to the Edwards cabin. As dawn gave way to full light a bizarre acoustic shadow prevented them from hearing the Federal artillery firing both north and south of their position. Thirty minutes or more may have elapsed before messengers brought word that Federal soldiers were storming up Bloody Hill. Shortly thereafter, McCulloch also learned of Plummer's movement and Sigel's success. The Texan responded by ordering Price to lead the Missouri State Guard up the slopes of Bloody Hill while he dealt with the other threats.

The Federals appeared to be unstoppable. Lyon's 1st Kansas and 1st Missouri, supported by Captain James Totten's battery (Company F, 2nd U.S. Artillery), crossed the ravine and easily drove from the crest of Bloody Hill the small units Rains had positioned there. The fleeing State Guardsmen took refuge with their compatriots at the base of the hill, where Price was struggling to organize a line of battle. While Lyon waited for the remainder of his column to arrive, Totten deployed his battery and began firing southeast, across the creek. His target was the Pulaski Light Battery, which guarded the Wire Road at the hilltop Winn farm. The Arkansas militiamen turned their guns toward the threat and returned fire. This noisy duel attracted Plummer's attention. He had crossed Wilson Creek near Gibson's mill, entering a large cornfield belonging to John Ray, whose farm house sat next to the Wire Road. Plummer decided to attack the Pulaski Battery; his men marched through the shoulder-high cornstalks with confidence.



AUGUST CONFEDERATE VICTORY THE BATTLE OF OAK HILLS AUGUST 10, 1861



Meanwhile, to the south, Sigel brought his remaining forces off the high ground and continued his advance, following a small road toward the Sharp farm. When he noticed some of the Southern cavalry rallying near the Sharp farm house and along the creek, he formed a line of battle in the stubble fields where the Southerners had been camped. Before the Southern horsemen could charge, Sigel's artillery drove them into flight a second time. The Federals continued their advance, reaching the Wire Road. They were in the rear of McCulloch's army, squarely across his line of communications. It was about 8 a.m.

But as the sun rose to its full force, the initiative began to pass to the Southerners. McCulloch placed a unit to support the Pulaski Battery and dispatched Colonel James McIntosh to deal with Plummer. McIntosh led the 3rd Louisiana and the dismounted 2nd Arkansas Mounted Rifles up the Wire Road to the Ray farm, where they collided with Plummer at the edge of Ray's cornfield. McIntosh outnumbered Plummer more than two-to-one, but the standing corn hid the Federals' weakness. After thirty minutes of indecisive firing, McIntosh led a charge that drove the Federals back to the Gibson mill and across the stream. This advance threatened Lyon's left flank and rear. But as Lyon's forces came around the head of the ravine and began deploying atop Bloody Hill, quick action by a battery commanded by Lieutenant John V. Du Bois saved the day. Firing across the creek, Du Bois shelled the Southerners, causing them to retreat in a panic. Fighting on this portion of the field ceased, leaving neither side with an advantage.

Meanwhile, as his battle line lengthened on the crest of Bloody Hill, Lyon sent the 1st Missouri and 1st Kansas cautiously forward, probing downhill among the waist-high prairie grass. Within a few minutes the Federals ran into units of the Missouri State Guard. Price was struggling to form his own battle line near the base of the hill, with his right flank anchored on the creek. The sounds of muskets and shotguns soon filled the air. The State Guard had little training or practice with drill, so Price led units individually from their camps and placed them carefully into position. This took time, but the Missourians eventually outflanked Lyon's two regiments, forcing them to withdraw under pressure. As the Southerners advanced, Lyon brought up reinforcements. These and his well-trained artillerists drove the Southerners back down the hill. A lull ensued. Lyon had possession of Bloody Hill, but he had lost the initiative. His attempt to attack the Southern camps had failed and thereafter he fought on the defensive. Much would depend on the actions of the column under Sigel.

Sigel reached the Wire Road about 8 a.m. Within moments his artillery was firing on Bloody Hill, striking Price's units in their rear as they fought against Lyon. Sigel soon halted the firing, however, because he could not clearly tell friend from foe as the distant figures maneuvered back and forth in the tall prairie grass. The soldiers on both sides wore every uniform color imaginable as well as civilian clothes, and flags hung limp in the morning heat. Sigel was content to place his cavalry on his flanks and leave the bulk of his infantry in column on the road. He failed to send an adequate force of pickets into the low ground directly to his front, to guard against surprise. His main concern was to prevent "friendly fire" casualties should Lyon's column break through and join him on the plateau at the Sharp farm, but he dispatched no messengers to inform Lyon of his presence or progress.



AUGUST CONFEDERATE VICTORY THE BATTLE OF OAK HILLS AUGUST 10, 1861



While these events were unfolding McCulloch remained busy. After receiving an inaccurate report that the Federals were also approaching from the east, he left most of Pearce's Arkansas State troops on the plateau by their camps. Then, from a small rise, he witnessed Sigel's arrival at the Sharp farm and moved immediately to end this threat to the Southern army's rear. Calling upon a portion of the 3rd Louisiana which had rallied at the ford of Wilson Creek after their fight at the Ray farm, he led them into the low, concealed ground just in front of Sigel's position. A few Missouri State Guard units joined him. As the Southerners advanced uphill they encountered Corporal Charles Todt of the 3rd Missouri Infantry, Sigel's lone sentry guarding against surprise. Todt challenged the approaching force and drew a bead directly on McCulloch, but Corporal Henry Gentiles shot him down before he could fire. After McCulloch complimented Gentiles on his marksmanship, the Southerners charged. Batteries from the Missouri State Guard and Arkansas State Troops opened fire in support. When the Louisianans reached the plateau and opened fire, Sigel assumed they were Federals and ordered everyone to cease firing. By the time he realized they were the enemy it was too late. McCulloch's surprise attack swept Sigel's column from the field in a panic. Sigel risked his life to rally his men but the task was impossible. The disordered Federals fled back to Springfield by various routes, losing five of their six guns.

On Bloody Hill the initiative passed from Lyon to Price. About 9 a.m. the Missouri State Guard advanced slowly and cautiously. With each man having only a handful of ammunition, and many possessing short range weapons, they closed to almost point blank range before opening fire. Although outnumbered, the Federals held their own on both flanks, thanks in large part to supporting artillery, but their center nearly gave way. Lyon had already been wounded slightly in the head and right leg, and his horse was killed. Remounting, he repositioned the 1st Iowa and 2nd Kansas Infantry to meet the threat to the center. Lyon was killed while leading them into place, but his maneuvers were successful and the Southerners retreated. Price nearly suffered the same fate as Lyon. He was painfully wounded in the side as he, too, led from the front.

Command of the Army of the West passed to Major Samuel Sturgis. Under his direction the Federals survived another attack. McCulloch and Price directed this next Southern assault together. With threats elsewhere eliminated they began concentrating all their units against Bloody Hill, constantly extending their left in hope of turning the Federals' right flank. They nearly succeeded. A lone Texas cavalry unit even made a circuitous charge into the Federal rear, only to be driven off. By about 11 a.m. the Southerners had withdrawn once again. During the lull that followed, Sturgis decided that his men had accomplished their mission of stunning the enemy. With casualties mounting and no clue as to Sigel's fate, it was time to withdraw. Sturgis handled the tricky maneuver with great skill, leaving the field in good order even as the Southerners launched another attack. By noon the guns on Bloody Hill were silent. McCulloch made no pursuit. His men were fatigued and the Southern army's ammunition was almost entirely exhausted.



AUGUST CONFEDERATE VICTORY THE BATTLE OF OAK HILLS AUGUST 10, 1861



The Federal army rallied in Springfield. Early the next morning they began a successful retreat to Rolla, leaving their contemporaries (and historians) to argue over who won the battle. The Southerners held the field, and they had routed Sigel's column, but Lyon's column left of its own volition and the Federals accomplished safely the strategic withdrawal they had intended to make all along. Meanwhile, more than 2,000 men lay dead or dying in the August heat. The Federals had lost a quarter of their army, the Southerners more than 12 percent, making Wilson's Creek one of the bloodiest battles in American history up to that time.

The fight is best understood not as a clear-cut win or loss for either side, but as an important point in the long-term struggle for control of Missouri and the Trans-Mississippi. Following the battle McCulloch took his Confederates back to Arkansas. Price surged north with the Missouri State Guard, capturing a large Federal garrison at Lexington, on the Missouri River, in September. Some 20,000 new recruits rushed to join him. Price, however, had no logistical base, no facilities to feed, clothe, or equip his army in the long term. During the fall and winter, as the Federals drove him back to Springfield and then into Arkansas, two-thirds of Price's men deserted. For the Federals, the fight at Wilson Creek and Price's subsequent advance were annoying distractions from their main mission, which was to open the Mississippi River. They could not do so with a hostile force threatening their rear. John C. Frémont commanded the initial movement driving Price back. Later, Major General Samuel R. Curtis took command, beginning the maneuvers that would lead to the Battle of Pea Ridge, Arkansas, in March, 1862. That Federal victory cemented their control of the region, essentially completing Nathaniel Lyon's work. Thereafter Federal control of Missouri was threatened by raids and disturbed by guerrillas, but never seriously challenged.

Missouri remained a bitterly divided state. In October, a rump session of the state legislature passed an ordinance of secession and a few weeks later Missouri became a Confederate state – in name, at least. In reality the Confederate government of Missouri was a government in exile. Some 40,000 Missouri Confederates fought gallantly in Arkansas, Louisiana, and the Indian Territory, as well as in states east of the Mississippi River, returning only at war's end. More than 60,000 Missourians fought for the North, some even accompanying Major General William T. Sherman on his march to the sea. But whether they wore blue or gray, they all followed a very long road, one which had begun on a hot day in August 1861, when gunfire echoed amid the scattered oaks and tall prairie grass on a yet unnamed hill, and blood stained the water of Wilson Creek.

Author Note: Wilson Creek is the correct name for the body of water. Soldiers misunderstood it to be Wilson's Creek, giving that name to the battle.

*Professor William Garrett Piston has taught at Missouri State University since 1988. He is co-author (with Richard W. Hatcher III) of *Wilson's Creek: The Second Battle of the Civil War and the Men Who Fought It* and *Kansans at Wilson's Creek; Soldiers' Letters from the Campaign for Southwest Missouri*. In 2004 he testified before the House Subcommittee on National Parks as part of a successful effort to expand the boundaries of the Wilson's Creek National Battlefield.*





JOHN H. REAGAN CAMP

AUGUST IN THE LIFE OF JOHN H. REAGAN



August 3, 1857: John H. Reagan
Defeated Lemuel D. Evans by a vote
of 341 to 9,929 in the race for U.S.
Representative.

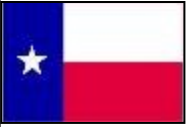


August 1, 1859 John H. Reagan defeated William B. Ochiltree
by a vote of 23,977 to 3,464 for a 2nd term as a U.S.
Representative



August 1, 1946: Home site of John H.
Reagan deeded to Anderson County
by Mrs. Jeff D. Reagan





THE BATTLE OF SHARPSBURG & THE FOOLISHING BRAVE COLONEL HOLMES

BY KEVIN PAWLAK BLUEANDGREYEDUCATION.ORG



On September 15, 1862, roughly 400 men of the 2nd and 20th Georgia Infantry regiments took position on an imposing bluff some 50 feet above Burnside Bridge on Antietam Creek near Sharpsburg, Maryland. The Georgians quickly prepared their defenses.

The 20th Georgia guarded the western opening of the bridge and ground to the north, while Lt. Col. William R. Holmes' 2nd Georgia extended the line south of it.

September 17, 1862, became the most documented day of William Holmes' 40-plus years. A native of Burke County, Georgia, Holmes had become a prominent physician before the war, leading Co. D of



Burnside Bridge now



THE BATTLE OF SHARPSBURG & THE FOOLISHING BRAVE COLONEL HOLMES

BY KEVIN PAWLAK BLUEANDGREYEDUCATION.ORG



the 2nd Georgia Infantry off to fight in 1861.

According to the Georgia Journal and Messenger (October 15k 1862), “Colonel Holmes was often heard to say he would be slain in battle, and if so, that he did not care what became of his body.”

Unmarried, with only a mother and aunt at home, Holmes requested that if he fell – as he believed he would – his “beautiful blood bay” horse be sent to his aunt. On the morning of September 17, as cannon fire echoed from the north and fighting closed in, Holmes told his superiors he “would hold the Bridge or die in the ditch,” wrote Philip Thomas Tucker in *Burnside’s Bridge: The Climactic Struggle of the 2nd and 20th Georgia at Antietam Creek*.

Throughout three Federal assaults, Holmes’ leadership shone. One soldier later wrote, “[He was as] brave a man as I ever saw. He was perfectly cool & calm & did not seem to know what the word danger meant.”

Around noon, the final Union attack began, led by two regiments. One eyewitness recalled seeing Holmes shoulder a rifle and personally shoot down the color bearer of the 51st Pennsylvania. Yet despite Holmes’ heroics and the stubborn resistance of his men, the Federals at last forced their way across the bridge.

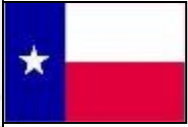
Recognizing the futility of holding the bluff, the Georgians withdrew. In a final act of sacrifice, Holmes drew his sword and led a small detachment of the 2nd Georgia down the slope to the creek bank. Near the bridge’s western end, according to the *History of the Twenty-First Regiment Massachusetts Volunteers*, Holmes “with a cry of defiance shook his sword in the faces of our men for a moment, and then fell pierced by a dozen bullets.” Several of his men attempted to recover his body, but heavy fire and the enemy’s proximity prevented them.

Union soldiers who crossed the bridge soon encountered Holmes’ body lying in a ditch. Capt. James Wren of the 48th Pennsylvania wrote in his diary: “[Holmes] was in full uniform & had a fine gold watch which one of our troops relieved him of ... Captain Gilmour, of Co. H of our regiment, got a shoulder know & the Buttons off his Coat was all cut off by the men as relics of the event.”

Yet those same Federals recognized his courage. Writing in the *Weekly Constitutionalist* (Augusta, GA) on December 3, 1862, William A. Campbell observed: “The Yankees greatly eulogized Col. Holmes for his bravery, and one of them took his watch from his pocket and said he should keep it in remembrance of him.”

Holmes’ horse, as he wished, reached his aunt in Georgia. His body never returned and rests in an unmarked grave, though a memorial headstone now stands for him in the Confederate Cemetery in Waynesboro, Georgia.

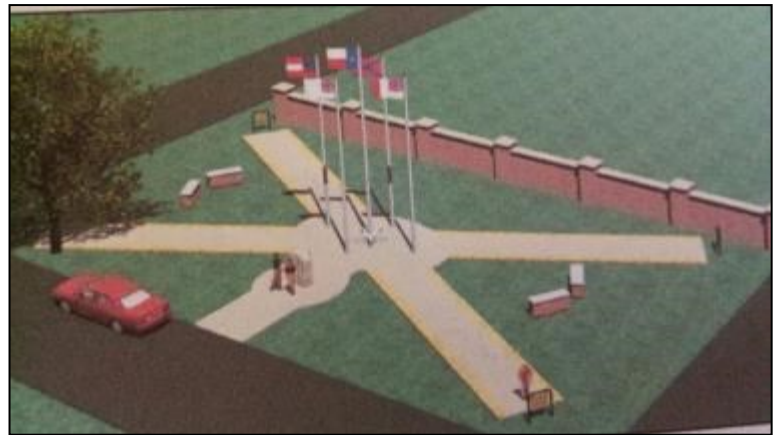
Whether enemy or friend, Holmes’ valor was undeniable. Pvt. Charles Frederick Terrill of Company C, 2nd Georgia, captured it best: “[Holmes] was foolishing brave.”



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
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

JOHN H. REAGAN SCV CAMP #2156 PALESTINE TEXAS	PVT WM. H. FOSTER CO. H 1ST TEX INF DIED AS POW OCT 63
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
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

PVT. R. M. LUMMUS 53 GEORGIA INF. COMPANY B C.S.A	PVT ALLEN G TURNER CO A 7TH BATTALION MISS INF. CSA
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.

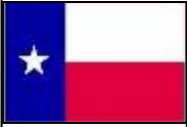


ROBERT E. LEE CALENDAR

AUGUST 2025



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 undated - to Annie I wish you to be very good, very wise, very healthy, & very happy	2 undated - If the subject of education could be of more importance at one period of our history than at another, that period is the present.	3 undated - My only object is to endeavor to make students see their true interest, to teach them to labor diligently & to prepare themselves for the great work of life.
4, August 1861 - to wife. What a glorious world Almighty god has given us. How thankless & ungrateful we are, & how we labour to mar his gifts.	5, August 1867 - to Robert A farmer's life is one of labour, but it is also one of pleasure.	6 undated - We must expect reverses, even defeats. They are sent to teach us wisdom & prudence, to call forth greater energies, & to prevent our falling into greater disasters.	6 undated - We must expect reverses, even defeats. They are sent to teach us wisdom & prudence, to call forth greater energies, & to prevent our falling into greater disasters.	7 undated I dislike to have more than I actually require	8 undated - to Jeff Davis I know how prone we are to blame others for the nonfulfillment of our expectations. This is unbecoming in a generous people & I grieve to see its expression.	9 undated to Jeff Davis No matter what may be the ability of the officer, if he loses the confidence of his troops disaster must sooner or later ensue.
10, August - to Rooney I shall endeavor to procure some humble, but quiet, abode for your mother & sisters, where I hope they can be happy.	11 undated - To succeed it is necessary to set the example.	12 undated - Incubating discipline is a painful tedious process, & is not apt to win popular favour.	13, August 1863 - God is our refuge & strength. Let us humble ourselves before Him. Let us beseech Him to give us a higher courage, a purer patriotism, & more determined will	14 undated - to Eliza Stiles It is sad to see a soldier die, & heart rending to announce it to his parents.	15 undated - to Charlotte. Teach him that his only refuge is in Him, the greatness of whose mercy reacheth unto the heavens, & His truth unto the clouds.	16 undated — to a son. I hope you will continue never to exceed your means. It will save you much anxiety & mortification.
17 undated — to Judge Andrew Magrath The best troops are ineffective without good officers	18, August 1865— To Carter Lee I have to labour for my living and I am ashamed to do nothing that will give me honest support.	19 undated — That is a political question, Mr. Hill & you politicians must determine it; I shall endeavor to take care of the Army.	20 undated to Custis Do not dream. It is too ideal. Live in the world you inhabit. Look upon things are they are. Take them as you find them	21, August 1835 - to wife I must not consent to do aught that would lower me in your eyes, my own & that of others.	22 August 1866 - to H. C. Saunder I prefer remaining silent to doing anything that might excite angry discussion.	23 undated - to College Trustees I think it the duty of every citizen, in the present condition of the country, to do all in his power to aid in the restoration of peace & harmony.
24 August, 1865 - to College Trustees it is particularly incumbent on those charged with the instruction of the youth to set them an example of submission to authority.	25 undated - I speak of the proper rule in republics, where, I think, we should have neither military statesmen nor political generals.	26 undated - to Jack Mackay It is so much more easy to make heroes on paper than in the field.	27 August 1864 - to Custis I have only one earthly want, that God in His infinite mercy will send our enemies back to their homes.	28 August 1865 - There is no labour so beneficent, so elevated & so sublime, as the teaching of salvation to every man.	29 undated - to Gov. Letcher It is the part of wisdom to acquiesce in the result.	30 undated - to B. Duncan Every man must do his part in this great work. He must carry into the administration of his affairs industry, fidelity & economy.
31 undated - to E. Pollard My thanks for the compliment by your proposition to write a history of my life. Independently of the few national events it presents little to interest the reader.						



TEXAS CIVIL WAR HISTORY IN AUGUST



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

August 9, 1946 - On this day, the last Confederate reunion was held at Camp Ben McCulloch. This golden Jubilee included a memorial service for the camp's last two members, who had died the previous year. The camp, near Driftwood, in Hays County, was organized in the summer of 1896 as a reunion camp for Confederate veterans and named for Confederate General Benjamin McCulloch. Annual three-day reunions were held at the camp, often with 5,000 to 6,000 persons attending. In 1930, Ben McCulloch was said to be the largest Confederate Camp in existence. Subsequently, the camp became the location of the annual meetings of the Sons and Daughters of the Confederacy, with various activities and services spanning a week in early June. The campsite, on a branch of Onion Creek, also remains a popular picnic area for residents of northern Hays County.

August 10, 1862 - On this day, Confederate soldiers attacked a force of Hill Country Unionists camped in route to Mexico beside the Nueces River in Kinney County. The skirmish is known as the battle of the Nueces. The sixty-odd Unionists, mostly German intellectuals, had camped without choosing a defensive position or posting a strong guard. Nineteen of them were killed and nine were wounded. The wounded were executed by the Confederates later in the day. Two Confederates were killed and eighteen wounded. Of the Unionists who escaped from the battle, eight were killed on October 18 while trying to cross into Mexico. After the war, the remains of the Unionists were gathered and interred at Comfort, where a monument commemorates them.

August 13, 1906 - On this day, black soldiers of the Twenty-fifth U.S. Infantry allegedly attacked citizens of Brownsville. The event resulted in the largest summary dismissals in the history of the United States Army. The soldiers, newly arrived at Fort Brown from the Philippines and Nebraska, confronted racial discrimination for some businesses and suffered physical abuse from some federal customs collectors. A reported attack on a white woman during the night of August 12 so enraged the citizens that Maj. Charles W. Penrose, after consultation with Mayor Frederick Combe, declared an early curfew. Just after midnight on the thirteenth, a bartender was fatally shot and a police lieutenant was wounded. Various citizens claimed to have seen soldiers running through the streets shooting, even though it was dark. Several civilian and military investigations presumed the guilt of the soldiers without identifying individual culprits. When suspects were not forthcoming, the army inspector general charged a "conspiracy of silence." On November 5, president Theodore Roosevelt discharged "without honor" all 167 enlisted men garrisoned at Fort Brown. This action fueled political and "due process" arguments for more than sixty years. In 1972, the Nixon administration awarded honorable discharges, without back pay, to the soldiers involved. The only surviving veteran, Dorsie Willis, received a \$25,000 settlement.

August 20, 1866 - On this day, President Andrew Johnson, declaring that "the insurrection in the State of Texas has been completely and everywhere suppressed and ended," officially ended the Civil War by issuing a proclamation of peace between the United States and Texas. Johnson had declared a state of peace between the U.S. and the other ten Confederate states on April 2, 1866. The last land battle of the Civil War took place at Palmito Ranch near Brownsville on May 13, 1865, more than a month after Robert E. Lee surrendered at Appomattox Courthouse.

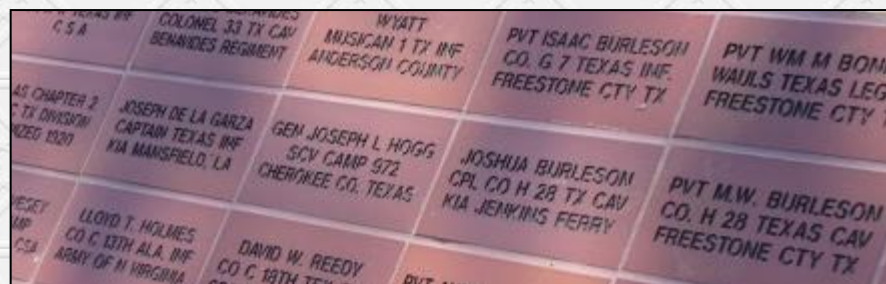
August 30, 1862 - On this day, Hood's Texas Brigade played a distinguished part in the battle of Second Manassas. After a Union assault was broken up by artillery fire, Confederate General Longstreet launched his First Corps, with the Texas Brigade in the lead, in one of the most successful counterattacks of the Civil War. The Fourth Texas Infantry, under the command of Lt. Col. B. F. Carter; captured a federal battery of artillery, losing eleven killed and twenty wounded in the process. After the battle the commander of the brigade, Gen. John Hood, encountered the commander of the Army of Northern Virginia, Robert E. Lee, who playfully asked him what had become of the enemy. Hood answered that the Texans had chased them across Bull Run "almost at a double quick." A regiment of New York Zouaves was shattered by the assault, and, seeing their brightly uniformed bodies scattered about the next morning, a Texas officer wrote that they gave the battlefield "the appearance of a Texas hillside when carpeted in the spring by wildflowers of many hues and tints."



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 Commander Ed Heitman, E-mail: edheitman@gmail.com; Phone: (903-504-6674) or Dan Dyer at E-mail: danieldyer497@yahoo.com; Phone: (903) 391-2224 or Richard Thornton, Adjutant/Treasurer at E-mail: tx_tsar@hotmail.com



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

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 Tuesday**
Each Month - 06:30 PM
Meal served at each meeting.

Held at **First Congregational**
Methodist Church of Elkhart

510 N. US 287, Elkhart, Tx
75839