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Part one



# M E M O I R S

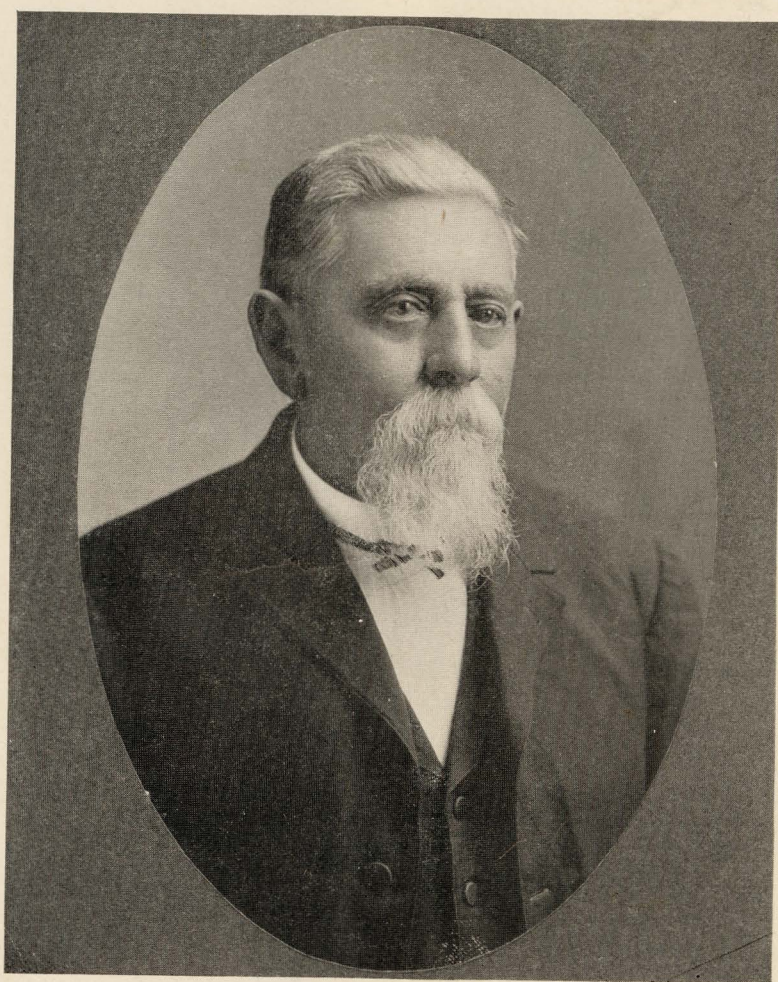
of

John W. Sansom,

1834-1916.

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John W. Hanson  
Compliments to his Daughter,  
V. M. Elizabeth J. and his wife.



*Nativity*  
M E M O I R S  
of  
JOHN WILLIAM SANSOM.....

Page 2

I am an American since the foundation of the United States Government. My mother's grand parents were John <sup>Shont</sup>Shont and wife from Germany. My father, William Sansom, and wife's grand parents were English emigrants from England to America. Both families settled first on the coast lands of North Carolina. All have been loyal to the flag and country against foreign and domestic enemies, as citizens and soldiers, except in the rebellion of 1861-5, at which time a bare majority were loyal to the stars and stripes. My ancestors <sup>or</sup> have lived much on the South frontier and have been active in guarding the border against hostile bands of Indians and other marauding bands of people. They are in the main, farmers and mechanics. Of course, some of them aspired to office and other things. Henry and Cassius Clay were related to my grand Mother, Delphia (Clay) Sansom.

I was born in the State of Alabama on February 5th, 1834, and brought to Texas by my parents in 1839, which has been my home state since, except four years that I was in New Mexico. My time of life to date is most eventful to me. I am in my 8<sup>th</sup> year, - was rocked in a pine box cradle when a babe.

MOVING TO TEXAS:

Our party consisted of Father's family, John Parson's family and John Campbell and his brother; grand father, John Shont, ~~who~~ was our guide and leader; John Shont and his brother, Michael went to Texas in 1836, with their families. They joined the Army of the Texas Colony and Republic under General Sam Houston. After the battle of San Jacinto in 1838, grand father went to Alabama, settled his business affairs there and we then went with him to his home in Texas. It seems to me now that I remember most of the things that concerned us on our long, wet, muddy road. Grand father entertained us much at night with stories of Texas, - the wars with Mexicans, commanded by President, Santa Anna, massacres by mexicans at San Antonio, Goliad and other places, drawing of beans by Mier prisoners, battle of San Jacinto and other battles, giving the names of many officers and men best



known by him. Grand father was a great admirer of General Sam Houston and recalled his name and deeds most. He said that Houston was opposed to the Americans holding to San Antonio and Goliad and going into Mexico as was done; he wanted all to stay together. He gave accounts of the Austins', their labors with the Mexican Government and failing to secure from that government for the Colony all that he expected and had been promised. I was not quite five years of age at that time but was concerned about the people, the wars and the country we were moving to. There were hundreds of things that I saw on that long, muddy road that would interest little boys and girls if they could see them as I did. Once I will mention here, as follows: My grandfather gave me a gray horse, called Bill, and my mother ~~had~~ a negro girl called Luvine. We rode Bill most of the time, I being always in front, - often we were from a mile to a half mile behind our wagons; hickory nuts, chinkpins and grapes were plentiful and we got our share. Our party ahead crosses a big creek and camped on its right bank. Soon after they crossed the creek became a river from rain. My mother guarded for our coming but did not see us until Bill was swimming and the girl screaming; I was holding to the saddle and she to me. Grandfather cheered us and met us ~~and~~ then patted us on the head. My parents said we must not get behind again and go in deep, ugly water.

#### :WASHINGTON COUNTY:

On and on we went in mud, much of the time, to our destiny, grandfather's home in Washington County where we met our kin and other folks from Alabama, which was much happiness to all of us. We movers were tired, also our horses and we took a long rest. We talked of many things, Texas and herores of her wars were mostly spoken of- it was a grand schooling to me to learn of the State, her men and women and their valor.

#### :LANDSCAPE OF TEXAS:

*my memory* of the features of the country, is that they were *great* the eastern part, say one-fourth covered with pine and other timbers, the other parts ~~providing~~ *prairie* the water courses fringed with timber, wide or narrow, all well stocked with animals of many kinds, the water with fish; snakes and reptiles in great numbers. The buffalo, deer, antelope, horses inhabited the prairie mostly,

*to page 4/ell and the*



bears, muskhogs, panthers, leopard and many other animals the cat tribes like timer mostly.

:BOUNDARY OF TEXAS:

The Mexican Gulf, south, Rio Grande and Mexico west, Louisians and Sabine river east, Oklahoma and Kansas north, and was a state of Mexico as late as 1836 at same date became an independent Republic.

:THE AUSTINS:

*begin* Moses and Stephen F. *Austin* began the colonization of Texas as early as 1820 with Mexico and succeeded in getting some 34000 Americans to go there from the States of the American Union; I think men from every state went there. They were certainly a splendid body of settlers. Moses Austin began the colonization but sickened and died in Missouri the same year, When on his death bed he asked Stephen F. Austin, his son, to take his place and carry into effect his plans, contracts and purposes with the Mexican government and people which he did judiciously as much as could until he and the Mexican government faled to do for various reasons until the Colonists revolted against the Mexican government *but* and sustained Austin.

General Sam Houston was put in command of colonial soldiers in February, 1836. On March 2nd, a convention of the people met at Washington, the County seat of county of the same name, where they declared to no longer be a part of the Mexican government but an Independent Texas Republic, with Honorable Burnet President and other State officers; sam Houston commander in chief of the army of the Texas Republic.

:FRANCE AND TEXAS:

France claimed and controlled the affairs of Texas until 1820 and later; the corwn head or Spanish Government ruled for a time, next a Mexican Republic and later still Texas Republic, when in 1845 she became a state of the American Union. Under the stars and stripes to 1861, when she seceded from that government and became a state of the so-called Confederate States of America to 1865, when she was caused by war to take her place again with the Union of States where she may or may not stay for a long period,- can't tell for sure, seems she may be a little fussy and hard to please. We are situated on the



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east side of the Rio Grande and Mexico on the west, each government claiming title to land and water to middle of the river by treaty, which is about correct. Be that so, we have on both sides of the river cultivated a disposition to rob and murder each other for what can be gained out of it. Many revenue and other officers have made money there, also merchants and stockmen- I know they do it. I wabble and zigzag more or less in my memoirs but it is done for the purpose of information to people who may chance to read this letter. My parents lived and farmed and peddled in Washington County for three years. Often I have been aroused by father and mother at night when they were moulding bullets and otherwise arranging matters so that father could attend a call to go after bands of Mexicans or Indians. We moved from Washington to Fayette County; farming and gardening was mostly our trade. In 1846 father enlisted in Tom Green's Company, Jack Hays' Regiment and went to call of General Taylor in the Mexican war. My uncles and cousins, the Shonts, went; our women and their children stayed at home and attended to the farms and other duties. That was a year of much sickness at our home,- chills and fever. Mother and her child, <sup>new</sup> ~~five years of age~~, worked the little farm when not in bed. One little sister, Delphio, died. Father was in the army and mother wept much. We were without money and no one had much. Grandfather was worn with age, his family all gone from him by death, marriage or in the army. We certainly had a lonesome and unhappy time that year. When father came home, mother and children were much happy; father brought some money which was paid to him by the government for soldiering. Father, mother and their children have felt the pinch of financial poverty seferely. Their children knew but little of school hours and books, which has borne heavily on them since.

omit

:COLONEL JOHN H. MOORE:

In 1848, Moore with some twenty of his neighbors went to Llano and SanSaba, the waters of the Colorado River, prospecting for gold and silver. Fabulous accounts were circulated of the once rick mine in that country. My father was one of Moore's party. I was twelve years old then and the only boy of the party. My gun was a single barrel shot-gun,



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flint lock- I thought I was well armed. Buffalo, honey and other game was there in plenty which served us when needed, also Indians. The Indians were not in large numbers where we were but sufficient to attempt to give us a night attack. Colonel Moore was a careful man, with much experience in a frontier life and Indians,- we had seen their signs and a few of them. Colonel Moore was careful to select the safest camping ground. We reached the Llano River about where the County Seat of county of same name is now situated and camped on a high bluff in bend of the river. A guard of two men was put out to guard. At about midnight we were attacked by Indians; their attempt was to stampede our horses and us too. Their first move, they tied bundles of hay on a horse's back, tied a dry buffalo hide to the horse, set fire to the hay and ran the horse through our camp; the Indians yelled, blew whistles and other noise; all together they made a hideous scene. Our guardsmen opened fire, horses neighed and stamped but failed to break ropes and run off. Our men were quick on their feet, some shots were fired by our men, the Indians threw arrows among us. The horse loaded with hay which was on fire, jumped from a high bluff into deep water that extinguished the fire and the poor old horse was not burned seriously. I was on my feet in time to see and hear the noise of both sides and to shoot my gun. When the horse went into the water all was in darkness and the Indians ceased their awful noise and things soon became quiet. The next morning it was told by men who were near and saw me shoot that I killed an Indian and he was taken off by other Indians. I was congratulated by all the men, Colonel Moore included. I was so excited that the men enjoyed my looks and acts. I guess it was a bush or nothing that I shot at. Father told me later that the men were having fun at my expense. I lost nothing by their fun but it made a sort of hero of me; the boys and girls at home thought I was smart and brave. The next morning after the stampede Moore and party started for home. We found gold, silver, lead, iron and other minerals, none of which has been successfully worked but may at some future time, the iron is sure to be.



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There is mineral all over most of the country and explorers of the mettle, too. Our means for a living was laboring in various things. We moved from Fayette County in 1850 to Lavaca, pitched a farm crop and sold it to Mr. Steve Bess, then went on to Comal County where we settled on Curry's Creek, waters of the Guadalupe River, and stayed there thirty years. At that point there were about two hundred Delaware Indians, their chief was known to us as Delaware Bob. On the banks of the little Blanco the Tank~~ag~~ Indians, six hundred in number, <sup>had</sup> ~~and~~ their home. Chief Placito, was their chief; both tribes were friends to the white man and were proud to be so. The Lepans, five hundred souls, were camped on the Perdenas River and thirty miles north of us, ~~was~~ their Chief, Castro. They were our friends until 1852, when they got tired of us and moved to Mexico and settled on the Sabine River. In 1855 began the depredation on citizens of Texas. They killed one Jessie Lawhon who had a wife and two little sons. Mr. Lawhon was employed by Judge W. E. Jones to look after his, Jones, farm and ranch. Judge Jones caused Governor E. M. Pease to call the Texas Rangers to protect the settlers. James H. Callahan, a man of strong mind and frontier experience, to guide the Rangers and I was one of that number.

:STATE RANGER:

In 1856 the Indians and Mexicans from the Mexican Republic did some thieving in Texas which caused Governor, E. M. Pease to call the rangers to drive them out. Governor Pease authorized Captain Callahan to organize a company of rangers for that purpose, which he did.

Men assembled as per the Captain's call and were by him informed that they could elect Commission officers to lead them, leaving him out as he could not serve that year. Candidates were at once called for and an election held, resulting in John W. Sansom being chosen for Captain and Richard Hockett Lieutenant. Captain Callahan made return of company organization to the Governor, who at once commissioned



*All of this*

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the officers and ordered the company to take service in June. In a few days I sent a scout under Lieutenant Hockett, a valuable, experienced officer, who found signs of five Indians on the waters of Perdenalis and five jaded horses were hobbled in a little secret glade of grass. Hockett was satisfied the Indians would be back there in a few days where they left the horses, and he arranged to catch them and did the third day, killing three of them and capturing ten horses. I reported same to the Governor, which pleased him. Twenty days later, or the next full moon, I sent Seargent, Solomon Tanner, to Joshua Creek, now in Kendall County, where he killed an Indian and wounded an other and captured thirteen horses. I then divided my company into three squads and scoured the country of upper Llano, Guadalupe and Medina for Indians hiding in the rough timbered country, close enough to the settlers to raid them when the moon light and other things suited them. All of the scouts found Indians. I, with my scout, made a sort of treaty with a party of forty Commanchie men and women to stay on the Llano all Winter, they to keep other Indians from coming in by them to the settlements to depredate and to report to me at my camp every two weeks. They were under treaty with the United States Government but had lost their treaty papers from getting wet and torn in pieces. I made a treaty in my name. Of course, I was not there to make treaties with Indians but did and made it good with the Indians and Governor Pease. The Indians acted in good faith, not another band of Indians coming in from that part of the country that winter. My other scouts drove the other marauders to Mexico. Our term of service was for three months and then we were discharged, having done good service to the satisfaction of the Governor, citizens and ourselves. All of us went to our homes where we took a rest and looked after our affairs there.



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:CAPTAIN JOHN W. SANSOM:

GOVERNOR R. H. RUNNELS ADMINISTRATION:....  
1858-1859.

# In July of 1859, the Indians of Mexico joined some Mexicans and raided a part of the Texas border; they killed some of the citizens and took many horses. Governor Runnels called for rangers and I was commissioned to recruit and organize a company. Judge W. E. Jones mustered us into the service and reported the organization. E. Cramer was elected First Lieutenant and C. L. Shont Second Lieutenant. We began service on August first for a term of three months. In that service one Indian was killed, some wounded and others driven from the country into Mexico, which restored peace and order for a few months only, when they again began raiding the settlers. The Governor did not call for more rangers. He was a candidate for re-election and General Sam Houston was also a candidate for the office. Governor Runnels was wealthy in negroes and land and defeated Houston for governor two years previous. Houston was then a member of United States Senate and had voted against the creation of the ~~Masonic Lodge and the Mason and Dickson Line~~. Houston claimed that the line when once created could not be erased entirely and would be a thorn in the way of slave owners. The slave owners in the southern states believed Houston to be wrong, hence Texas voted for Runnels in 1857. Two years later they changed their minds and voted for Houston and elected him by a handsome majority. Houston then governor called for rangers which were supplied. I did not go as I wanted to rest from the service, therefore turned my attention to my private affairs. Then in my twenty-sixth year of age I went to a county school that was taught in Blanco County by Samuel Johnson, who was an able Methodist Minister. My studies were reading, spelling and mathematics, principally, all of which I needed. The term of school was three months, there being some twenty young men and young women who attended the school. School advantages had missed us in past years.



At the end of school I visited the State of Alabame, Dallas  
County, where some of my kindred lived, returning to my home  
with some of my kindred going with me.

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MY MARRIAGE

TO

MISS HELEN VICTORIA PATTON.....

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Miss Patton was the daughter of Judge Samuel Boyd Patton, her mother, Elizabeth (Dease) Patton. Our marriage was on November 13th, 1860, by Reverend Samuel Johnson in the County of Blanco, State of Texas. My wife was born in Bastrop County, Texas, March 10th 1843, and is said to be the first white daughter born there. Our home was in the immediate front settlements of Texas in Kendall County, or where 'tis now, as long as it was facing hostile Indians, which included the years of the war of the states 1861-5. Our experiences in the Indian and Civil War were most trying in many ways; we shared the hardships of the wars and other burdens together in all things, many of which tried and strained our souls all we could bear. The Indian war was bad but the Civil war much worse on Union people than was the Indian, we know as we tried both.

:MARRIED EIGHTEEN YEARS:

When we had been married eighteen years nature's laws gave us a tiny girl baby. We named her Victoria Mary Elizabeth John. She has been a blessing to us since, - good like her mother, who shared our joys and troubles together for more than fifty years when by the laws of God she passed to the other side on January 14th 1915, and is sleeping in the Mission Burial Park near San Antonio, a family monument marking her home. To me she has been, think of what a wife should be, to me she has been that.



## KNIGHTS OF THE GOLDEN CIRCLE

1860--1865

The Knights of the Golden Circle was a secret political organization, its purposes to gather men and commit them to rebel against the Federal Government and aid in the creation of a Confederate Government. ~~Official~~ <sup>S</sup>slavery was the paramount issue of the Knights of the Golden Circle in the Slavery States, and cause set forth to strengthening slavery and add other territory for slave purposes. Offices were established in many localities of the seceding states, where recruits were enrolled and where a far reaching oath was administered to them by officers of the order. The recruits were sworn to obey orders of officers appointed over them, ~~and~~ they were lectured by able speakers who taught them that their liberty was being taken from them by the Abolitionist and that their slaves would go next. Much more was told them of their dire conditions should they not rally to the fore in self defense. The lectures were very much sugar-coated in most cases and the recruits felt wiser and better for being a K. ~~of~~ G. C.. Of course, the leaders and promoters of the Confederate cause did not take such oath; it was not necessary for them to do so. Their followers and helpers were the ones to do that and obey orders.

The K. ~~of~~ G. C. was formidable in Texas and fully able to take care of themselves, which they did in their way until the time General R. E. Lee surrendered his army to General Grant near Richmond, beginning April 9th, which brought more happiness to the American people than I can tell here. Its quite doubtful if the Confederacy would have been as formidable as it was but for the power given it by the K. ~~of~~ G. C. . The press and public speakers over the country at that time made it easy for many good citizens to join the Revolutionists.



## HOUSTON'S ADMINISTRATION

1857-1861.

But before I enter into a statement of same, will say that Governor Houston was opposed to Texas seceding from the Union of states and did his best to prevent same. He convened the Legislature but got no help from it. The minds of the people over the country were frenzy for ~~and against~~ secession. I went to the State Capitol, where I met many people who composed the secession convention. Some talked extravagantly of Lincoln's election, the abolitionist. Governor Houston and all persons who thought as he did were considered enemies of the people. Some men said they ought to be hung; Houston first, while others opposed such harsh procedure. I was so alarmed at what I saw and heard <sup>of one man</sup> ~~at~~ the Governor's office and offered him my service to protect him in person and his official acts. My offer pleased him and he thanked me, and then said you are the second man to make such an offer, Ed Burleson was first. Are you armed, he asked? No, Sir, I answered. He then presented me with a colts revolver, fixtures and ammunition, saying you can protect yourself against Indians taking your scalp when you are going home. I accepted the revolver and thanked him for it. I read between the lines in his timely gift and words following this war in February, 1861.



:HOUSTON'S ADMINISTRATION:

1859- MARCH- 1861.

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General Sam Houston, was opposed to the secession of Texas from the Federal Union and used his best efforts to prevent same. His last great effort to check the frenzy of the secessionists was to convene the Legislature in extra session, with a hope of securing help in some way from that source but failed to secure a sufficient force from that ~~source~~ *body*.

My home was in Kendall County, Southwest from the State Capitol, ~~and~~ so great was the clamor and excitement all over the country by the people and press that I went to the State Capitol to learn what they were or might do there. Next I went to Governor Houston's office and offered him my service with a company of Militia which I was captain of at that time, to protect him in his official acts. The Governor was pleased with my offer. He said: "My son, you are the second man to make such an offer, Ed Burleson was first." He then asked me: "Are you armed." I answered: "No Sir." He then drew a colts revolver from his desk and gave it to me, saying at the time: "I wish to arm you with this fine colts revolver and fixtures now, so that when you go home you may be armed to keep the Indians from scalping you." I read between the lines more meanings than one. I thanked him for the present and informed him that I was stopping with Judge John Hancock, where I would be until further notice to him. That interview was our last. Some days later the Secession Convention declared Texas no longer a State of the Federal Union.

There was a secret meeting of Unionists held up stairs in George Hancock's store the same day, ~~and~~ they decided to abide by or raise no arms against the secessionists but passed resolutions charging their acts to be rebellious and the death knell



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of slavery with the Civil War to follow.

That the reader may better learn or know some of the things Governor Houston said or did, I copy in part his message to the Legislature, also his speech at Brenham Texas on his way to his farms in Walker County, Texas.

General Houston died at his home in Huntsville, Texas, July 26, 1863.

:MESSAGE TO THE LEGISLATURE:

"The Executive feels as deeply as any of your Honorable Body the necessity on the part of the Slave-holding States as to secure to the fullest extent every right they possess. Self preservation if not a manly love of liberty inspired by our past history prompts this determination, but he cannot feel that hasty and inconsiderate action, nor can he reconcile to his mind that our safety depends on a hasty separation 'ere we have stated our grievances or demand redress. A high resolve to maintain our Constitutional rights, and failing to obtain them to risk the perils of a revolution even as our fathers risked it, should in my opinion actuate every citizen of Texas. But we should remember that we owe duties to states having rights in common with ours and whose institutions are the same as ours. No aggression can come upon us that will not be visited upon them, and whatever our action may be, it should be of that character which will hold us blameless to posterity should the step be fatal to the interests of those states. While deploring the election of Messrs. Lincoln and Hamlin, the Executive has yet seen in it no cause for immediate and separate secession of Texas. Believing, however, that the time has come when the Southern States should co-operate and counsel together to devise means and maintenance for their Constitutional rights, and to demand redress for grievances if any of the Northern States he has directed his efforts to that end. Believing that a convention of the character contemplated by the joint resolution of February 18th, 1858, should be held, and desiring that the people of Texas should be represented



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in the same and have full opportunity to elect delegates reflecting their will, he ordered an election to be held for that purpose of the first Monday in February, next. Although since that time four of the Southern States have declared themselves no longer members of the Union, yet he confidently looked forward to the assemblage of such a body.

A majority of the Southern States have as yet taken no action and the efforts of our Bretheren of the Border are not opposed to the seceding unity of the entire South. The interests of Texas are closely identified remaining States, and if by joining her Councils with them such assurance can be obtained of a determination on the part of the Northern States to regard our Constitutional rights as will induce the states which have declared themselves out of the Union ~~and with them~~ to receive their action, the end attained will silence whatever reproaches the harsh and inconsiderate may heap upon us. Texas, although identified by her insitutions with the states which have declared themselves out of the Union, cannot forget her relations to the border states. Pressed for years by the whole weight of Abolition influence, these states have stood as a barrier to its approach. Those who ask them to desert them now should remember that in our days of gloom, when doubt hung over the fortunes of our little army, and the cry for help went out while some who seek to induce us to follow their precipitous lead looked coldly on us. These men sent men and money to our aid; their best blood was shed here in our defence, and if we are to be influenced by consideration other than our own safety, these States seem determined to maintain their ground and fight the Consitution within the Union should have equal weight. And as the fact that states which have no higher claim upon us, without cause on our own part severed the ties which made us one. Whatever may be the course of Texas, the ambition of her people should be that she take no step except after calm deliberation. A past history in which wisdom, courage and patriosm united to found a Republic and a State, is in our keeping; let not the record of no rash action blur its pages. If, after passing through two revolutions another







When it became known that the secession convention had finished their work in the main and that Governor Houston would not offer further opposition to their acts, most of the Unionists then at the State Capitol went to their homes. I was one of them and we did as Houston did, quietly submitted to conditions of affairs of the States rules. Many felt cramped to be forced to submit to separation from the Union of States, but ~~they~~ offered no resistance other than to say they thought we would be forced back into the Union by the lawful people of other states that were not so helpless as we were.

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HON. JAMES P. NEWCOMB

Mr. Newcomb was born in Halifax, Nova Scotia in 1836. At the age of five years he came to San Antonio and made it his home until his death, October 16, 1907. He owned and edited the Alamo Express in San Antonio in 1861, opposed the secession of the States of the Federal Union with all his ability which displeased the other side to such an extent that Confederate soldiers, with some citizens, went to his office and burned his printing press and attempted his arrest with intent to do him bodily injury. Mr. Newcomb escaped his enemy and left San Antonio to go to Kansas by Curry's Creek, Kendall County, stopped at the residence of his friend, Judge W. E. Jones, first day out. I was sent for by Judge Jones and <sup>we</sup> caused Newcomb to change his way to get out of Texas. We knew he could not succeed in that route, that if he went through the white settlement he would be arrested by them, that he could not avoid the Knights Golden Circle and to go west of them would be killed by Indians. We advised him to go back to Mr. Frank Hebener, a friend of his out of San Antonio, hire a Mexican for guide and go to Mexico, which he did. From there he went to California. At the close of hostilities he returned to Texas and aided in reorganizing the State government, doing various things. One thing of much importance was Secretary of State under Governor E. J. Davis' administration for four years. Mr. Newcomb was well and favorably known by all persons of his political faith. He loved the name of being a stalwart Republican to his death, always manly, conservative and generous. Mr. Newcomb was the leading speaker of the twenty-fifth Anniversary of friends who gathered at the Comfort Monument in honor of Union men who were ~~expressed~~ massacred in Kinney County, Texas, August 10th 1862, by State and Confederate soldiers.

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## HOUSTON'S SPEECH

At

Brenham, March 21st:

Fellow Citizens:-

It was not my purpose or desire to address you today upon the great issues now confronting our common country, but old soldier-comrades who fought with me at San Jacinto, and other dear friends insist that I should explain why I refused to take the oath of allegiance to the Confederate Government, and why I have been deposed from the Governorship of our beloved State. The earnest solicitations of my old soldier-comrades outweigh my desire to remain silent until the whirlwind of passion and popular clamor has subsided and the voice of reason can be plainly heard.

I shall, therefore, speak my honest sentiments and convictions, and now submit to you the reasons why I could not take the oath of allegiance to the so-called Confederate Government, and thereby violate the oath of allegiance I took to the Federal Government when I entered upon the duties of Chief Magistrate of Texas.

It has been the invariable rule of my life to form no opinion upon any great, public question until I had first carefully and impartially heard and considered all the evidence and facts upon both sides and when I then form my verdict, no fear of popular condemnation can induce me to change or to modify it. I have never permitted popular clamor, passion, prejudice or selfish ambition to induce me to change an opinion or verdict which my conscience and judgment has once formed and tell me is right. My only desire is to be right, and for this reason I cannot and will not sacrifice what my conscience and judgment tell me is right. I love the plaudits of my fellow-citizens, but I will never sacrifice the principles of right and justice for public favor or commendation.



The vox pupuli is not always the voice of God, for when demagogues and selfish political leaders succeed in arousing public prejudices, and stilling the voice of reason, then on every hand can be heard the popular cry of "Crucify him- crucify him!" The vox pupuli then becomes the voice of the devil, and the hiss of mobs warns patriots that peace and good government are in peril. I have heard such hisses upon the streets of Austin, and I have also heard them upon the streets of Brenham, and friends have warned me that my life was in great peril if I expressed here my honest sentiments and convictions. But neither the hiss of the mobs nor the howls of their jackal leaders can deter from an open avowal of my principles, or compel me to take the oath of allegiance to the Confederate Government. I protest against surrendering the Federal Constitution, its government and glorious flag, to the Northern abolition leaders, and accepting in its stead a Confederate Government whose constitution contains the germs or seeds of a decay that must and will lead to its speedy ruin and dismemberment, if it can ever secure any real existence. That germ, that seed, is the principle of secession which permits any one or more of the Confederate States to secede from the parent Confederate Government and establish a separate government.

Can any well informed man doubt that the time will soon come when several of the Confederate States will secede from the others? Why will such results follow the establishment of the Confederate Government? Because, fellow citizens, there are ambitious secession leaders who will be aspirants for the Presidency of the Confederacy and the exercise of a controlling influence in its government, and who, when their destinies are frustrated, will lead their respective States into secession for no other reason than to secure high positions in its government. Secession accomplished by the Southern States, within ten years we will have as many separate Confederate Governments as there may be States in the original Confederacy. In time, each



Of these will fall an easy prey to a foreign government. The increase of secession leaders will be rapid and large in each of the Confederate States, and their contests with each other for political supremacy will breed discord, promote conspiracies and revolutions and finally give birth to court Julians, or traitors, who will call to their aid foreign governments to despoil the people.

Never will I consent to give up our Federal Constitution and Union for a Confederate Constitution and Union whose foundation principle of secession must and will prevent its successful establishment; or, if it should succeed, whose success would be only temporary, whose short-lived existence would end in revolution and ruin.

The Federal Constitution, the Federal Government and its Starry Flag are glorious heritages bequeathed to the South and all sections of our common country by the valor and patriotism of Washington and the brave revolutionary soldiers who fought for, and won American Independence. Our galaxy of Southern presidents,- Washington, Jefferson, Monroe, Taylor, Tyler, Jackson and Polk, cemented the bond of Union between all the States, and it cannot be broken, Washington declared for an individual Union, and Jackson made the secession of South Carolina and other States impossible. Jefferson, by the Louisiana purchase, added a vast empire to our Union, and Polk followed his example by extending it to embrace Texas, New Mexico, Arizona, Colorado and California. Monroe established the Monroe Doctrine, which will for all time preserve and safeguard the governments of the Western Hemisphere against foreign conquest. Our Presidents of Northern birth have been equally patriotic, equally just to the South. Not a single Southern right has been violated by a president, or by any Federal Administration. President Lincoln had been elected because secession Democratic leaders divided the Democratic party and caused the placing in the field of two Democratic tickets. Both branches of Congress are Democratic; therefore, it will be impossible to enact and enforce any laws or measures that can injure Southern rights. But grant, for the sake of argument, that the time may



come when both branches of Congress are republican, and laws are enacted and enforced which will injure or destroy Southern rights; what will we do then? I answer that 'sufficient unto the day is the evil thereof,' and that there will never be any danger of the Republican Party controlling both branches of Congress and all branches of the Federal Government, if the secession leaders will but let the Democratic party remain a solid, indivisible party.

But if the day should ever come when Southern rights are ruthlessly violated, or injured by the Republican party, we of the South will then fight for our rights under the Stars and Stripes, and with the Federal Constitution in one hand and the sword in the other, we will march on to assured victory.

I believe a large majority of our Southern people are opposed to secession, and if the secession leaders would permit our people to take sufficient time to consider the question of secession, and then hold fair elections, the secession movement would be defeated by an overwhelming majority. But the secession leaders declare secession has already been peaceably accomplished, and the Confederate Government's independence and sovereignty will soon be acknowledged by all foreign governments, and the Confederate Government will then be permanently established, without bloodshed. They might with equal truth declare that the fountains of the deep blue seas can be broken up without disturbing their surface waters, as to tell us that the best government that ever existed for men can be broken up without bloodshed.

The secession leaders also tell us that if war should come, European nations will speedily come to our relief, and aid us to win our independence, because cotton is king and European commerce and civilization cannot long exist without cotton; therefore, they must help us establish and perpetuate our Confederate Government. Gentlemen who use such false, misleading statements, forget, or else are ignorant of the fact that commerce and civilization existed for a long period of time before cotton was generally known or used. They also forget, or else are ignorant of the fact, that



the best sentiment of Europe is opposed to our system of negro slavery.

They also tell us that if war comes, the superior courage of our people, and their experience in the use of fire-arms, will enable us to triumph in battle over ten times our number of Northern foes. Never was there a more false and absurd statement made by designing demagogues. I warn you that Civil War is inevitable, and is near at hand. When it comes, the descendants of the heroes of Lexington and Bunker Hill will be found equal in patriotism, courage and heroic endurance to the descendants of the heroes of cow-pens and Yorktown. For this reason I predict that the Civil War now so near at hand, will be stubborn and of long duration. We are sadly divided among ourselves, while the North and West are united. Not only will we have to contend against a united and harmonious North, but we will have to battle against tens of thousand of our own people who will never desert the Stars and Stripes, or surrender the union of States for a Southern Confederacy of States whose principle of secession just inevitably lead to discord, conspiracy and revolution, and at last to anarchy and ruin.

When the tug of war comes, it will indeed be the Greek meeting Greek. Tehn, oh, my fellow-countrymen, the fearful conflict will fill our land with untold suffering, misfortune and disaster. The soil of our beloved South will drinl deep of the precious blood of our sons and bretheren. In earnest prayer to my Heavenly Father, I have petitioned Him to cast out from my mind the dark forebodings of the coming conflict. My prayers have not availed, and my mind and heart are yet darkened by the baleful shadows of approaching disastrous event. I cannot close my eyes against the light and voice of reason. The die has been cast by the designing leaders whom you have permitted to sow broadcast the seeds of secession, and you must, 'ere long, reap the fearful harvest of conspiracy and revolution.



## CLARK'S ADMINISTRATION

.....:MARCH 1861 to DECEMBER 1861:.....

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Governor Edward Clark was born in Georgia, he held offices in Texas and in 1859 was elected Lieutenant Governor with Governor Houston at the head of the ticket. Governor Houston refused to take the oath of office as Governor of Texas under the Confederate Government and his office was filled by Lieutenant Edward Clark. Governor Clark was a K. G. C. and a sincere Confederate, he did all he could for his cause in a business like way, but he did not go out of his way to prosecute, run down and kill Union men that were opposed to Rebellion but was rather kindly disposed toward them, who in turn reciprocated. Clark was not vicious, but rather gentle to all Constitutionists.

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LUBBOCK'S ADMINISTRATION

1861-1863

Governor Frank R. Lubbock was a fervent advocate of secession and a Confederate Government, and as Knight of the Golden Circle he did the best he knew how to aid in the cause of a Confederate Government and the destruction of the Federal Government by death to Union sympathizers, arson, robbery and insolence. He caused General P. O. Hebar, who was commander of the Louisiana, Texas and New Mexico Military department to declare martial law in Texas. On May 30th 1862, Hebar was made General by the Confederate Government and assigned to said department. Hebar's home was in Louisiana. He acted solely on Governor Lubbock's information, advice and request. General Hebar knew Lubbock to be Texas Governor and acted on his request. General Houston then living on his farm in Walker County wrote a letter to Lubbock, deploring and denouncing the act. If Lubbock replied to Houston's letter I never knew it. I was Sheriff of Kendall County at that time and I had witnessed all of that country made into counties and settled by the best kind of citizens, from Germany, Tennessee, Virginia, Illinois and other states. They were farmers, stockmen, mechanics and in a small way manufacturers. Many were highly educated in art and languages and the equal in civilization of any other community in all Texas. I have often been with some of them in fierce conflict with hostile Indians to save our families and friends from their scalping knife, home and live stock from destruction. All the people were quietly staying at their home guarding same and deploring Civil War, when to their horror they read in the San Antonio Herald that the people living in the Counties of Kendall, Kerr, Gillespie and Edwards were in open rebellion against the Confederate States of America.

General H. P. Bee, commanding Confederate forces, with headquarters at San Antonio, was the author of the Declaration which he followed up by creating martial law and appointing Provost Marshall, sent a military force there and made war on the citizens



LUBBOCK'S WORK

1861-1863.

Governor Lubbock was a member of the Knights Golden Circle and a most zealous worker for the so-called Confederate government. He issued many proclomations to the people urging them to war measures, one of which he said to the people was: Prepare yourselves for war and defend your families against carnage, slaughter, massacre and other outrages of the vandals who are invading your country and home. Another act of the Governor was that he caused General P. O. Hebert to declare martial law in Texas on May 30th, and in July the Counties of Kendall, Kerr, Gillespie and Edwards were declared to be in rebellion against the Confederate State of America. General H. P. Bee who commanded Confederate forces with headquarters at San Antonio, Texas, ordered Captain James M. Duff with three companies of Confederate soldiers and one company of State troops to go to the counties said to be in rebellion and put down the rebellion there. I was sheriff of Kendall County at the time and witnessed the invasion of the county by Captain Duff and men. One Mr. Graham was appointed Provost-Marshal in Kendall County. One military company commanded by one Lieutenant Holmes was placed there to aid the Marshall. Holmes did some service; the Marshall, Colonel Graham, was a considerate man and did only his duty as he saw it under conditions. I will again tell more of Captain Duff's awful work.

It was claimed that under Governor Lubbock's administration he organized in Texas, <sup>90,000 soldiers</sup> for the Confederate government. I don't know as to that, but am satisfied there was never more than 30,000 who did active service. I know that many men of the organized forces refused to go East of the Mississippi River. I also know that Governor Lubbock's entire administration to be tyranical and savage.



INTRODUCTION *to*  
*Battle of Nueces Massacre.*

The many discordant versions prevalent among our people respecting the tragedy known under the appellation of the "Nueces Massacre," which took place Aug. 10th 1862, during the dark days of our Civil war, and the further fact that a trustworthy or exhaustive report does not exist, or cannot be obtained from official archives, has induced the author, as a participant and eye witness (in so far as individual can be an eye witness to such an encounter) to publish his experience and observations, as they now are, and as long as life holds out will be portrayed in his memory's eye.

Peace now reigns through our land. But a few years and those that took part in that great conflict will have been gathered to their sires and no witness remain. To the older inhabitants the horrors of our Civil War are still vivid to the memory, to the middle-aged they are but a history as other histories, and to the young a tradition bordering on the mythical. This may be well and at all events it is natural, but to those of our people, who, through relatives or friends are interested, and to those making a study of our troublesome times, these pages will be welcome.

John W. Sansom,

The Author.

San Antonio, Texas, October 1st 1905.



## BATTLE OF NUECES RIVER

McKinney County, Texas, August 10, 1862.

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I have often been asked by the Unionists engaged in the battle with Confederate forces on the Nueces River, August 10th, 1862, have made no report of the affair from their view point. Not knowing all the reasons that have caused their silence, I can only say for myself that I went along with the party as a guest, it was neither my duty nor my privilege to make any report. In common with all the Unionists survivors there engaged and their relatives and friends, I expected that duty to be performed by either the leader of the party or by the Chief of the Union Loyal League, which had in 1864 been organized in the country north and west of San Antonio, Texas, and under whose advice the party was under way to Mexico.

As however, the Unionists have not published an account of the affair, as all but a few are dead and the living survivors old and feeble and may not undertake the work, and because official reports have been made on the Confederate side that, if not absolutely untrue in their entirety are yet exceedingly partial and quite misleading. I deem it now both my duty and my privilege to put on record a true and concise account of the battle as I saw it and know it to have been. Had I told the story at any time before "Father Time" had cooled my blood and so tempered my mind as to enable me, I believe, to write both fairly and impartially, I would likely have embellished it with comments, little calculated to be soothing to certain Confederate officers. But time softens all asperities and whatever ill will I felt in the Sixties against individuals, or aggregations of individuals, has been transformed, as far as human nature permits, into friendship and love. Then, I should have held more than one person up to the indignant scorn of their fellow compatriots; now I shall simply relate facts, and leave inferences and conclusions to the good sense and consciences of my readers.



Before going into the details of the battle, though, let me put on record a chapter of hitherto unwritten local history which may prove of interest to the descendants of the old-timers, and which will explain why it was the Unionists came to be where they were when attacked by the Confederates.

Not only was there a very light vote polled on the question whether or not Texas should secede, but only a bare majority of the votes cast spoke in favor of secession. In portions of West Texas, and notably in the Counties of Gillespie, Kerr and Kendall, and in localities of Medina, Comal and Bexar Counties, the opposition to a severance of the Union remained unchanged by the election, and but for wise counsel, might have produced more and bloodier strife than there was between those who held fast to the Union and those who transferred their allegiance to the Southern Confederacy. That this opposition was composed in large numbers of German residents in the counties and sections named, is true; and it is also true that they were then as now citizens of the State of Texas and of the United States of America by birth and adoption, and had every right as Americans to continue faithful to their convictions. That the wise counsel needed was not lacking, is demonstrated by the fact that shortly after the promulgation of the Ordinance of Secession, a "Union Loyal League" was organized in June 1861, by representatives from the sections named.

Its object and purpose, not to create or encourage strife between Unionists and Confederate sympathizers, but to take such action as might peaceably secure its members and their families from being disturbed and compelled to bear arms against the Union, and to protect their families against the hostile Indians. Only eighteen persons were present at the first and initial meeting, but these were the chosen representatives from as many different sections. Each of these bound himself by a solemn vow not to bear arms against the Federal Government, and each was appointed by the body as a Committee of one whose duty it was to persuade others to join the League and make the same pledge. Then the eighteen dis-



persed and went to work so dilligently amd with such success, that on July the 4th, 1862, several hundred male Unionists met on Bear Creek in Gillespie County, and proceeded to perfect the organization. Among other measures taken up was the organization of three companies, to wit: The Gillespie County Company, Jacob Kuechler, Captain; Valentine Homan, Lieutenant. The Kendall County Company, E. Kramer, Captain Hugo Deneger, Lieutenant, and the Kerr County Company, Henry Hartman, Captain; Phil G. Temple, Lieutenant. Having elected Company officers, the three companies then elected Fritz Tegener as Major to command the battalion. In addition to the foregoing action, an Advisory Board of which Edward Degener, Esq., since a member of Congress from Texas, and others of the members, was appointed, and a joint meeting of the Advisory Board and the officers elected immediately held. Then the Companies were dispersed to await such orders as further developments might require.

A few days later Captain Henry Hartman, Lieutenant Phil G. Temple and other members of the American Company left Texas and went to New Orleans by way of Mexico. Several other members were killed by Duff and Company at their homes later.

Up to the date of the meeting on Bear Creek, there had been no friction between the Unionists and Confederate authorities. But about the 20th day of July 1862, Major Teneger while at work in his grist and saw mills received information that the General then in chief command in the State of Texas had declared the Counties of Gillespie, Kendall, Kerr, Edwards and Kimble to be in open rebellion against the Confederate States of America, and had ordered Col. James M. Duff to take such prompt and vigorous measures as, in his judgment were necessary to put down the rebellion in said Counties. Major Tegener at once called a meeting of the Advisory Board of the League, and when they assembled it was decided to disband the three Companies organized, as an assurance to the Confederate military authorities that no armed conflict was to be expected, and that all Unionists unwilling



to submit to Confederate rule, be invited and advised to meet Major Tegener at a point on the headwaters of Turtle Creek in Kerr County, on the 1st day of August, and accompany him into Mexico.

On the 25th of July, Hon. Edward Degener came to my house on Curry's Creek, and communicated to me the facts concerning the organization of the Union Loyal League, and the recent action of its officers and Advisory Board and the reasons therefor. He also informed me of the intention of his two sons to accompany Major Tegener into Mexico, and said that if I wanted to go and could make my arrangements in time, he would be glad if I would go as their guest. Although I had previously decided to go to Mexico by a different route, I changed my mind and accepted Mr. Degener's kind invitation, and having settled my home affairs went with his sons to the meeting place on Turtle Creek, arriving there on the 31st of July.

Assembled there and recognized Major Tegener as their leader were about eighty men. In the afternoon of the following day, August 1st, 1862, sixty-one of these, including myself and Major Tegener, set out for the Rio Grande with the intention of crossing over into Mexico. Believing, as did the Major and most of the party, that they had eluded the Confederate troops, known to be hunting for them, we pursued our way slowly and very much at our leisure, about fifteen miles a day on the average being made. Later, but alas too late to be of service to us it was learned that a man by the name of Burgeman, who had been at many of the meetings and had been confided in as a true Unionist, had betrayed to the Confederates the place of meeting and the route to be taken. Burgeman was not a resident of any of the counties from which the members of our party came, and subsequently developments gave us reason to believe that while associating with a Unionist, he was acting as a spy in the employ of the Confederates.

But suspecting neither betrayal nor pursuit, Major Tegener while moving on steadily made no haste. On the eighth day we fell in with four men, Tom Scott, W. B. Scott, Howard Henderson and William Hester. Being solicited by Major Tegener to join us, they



replied that as the Nueces River was not far distant, that they would accompany us that far certainly, and that once arrived there, might decide to go on with us to Mexico. We made the Nueces River early in the morning of August the 9th, pitched camp about one hundred and fifty yards west of the stream in a tolerably open place under cedar trees so scattering as not to obstruct the breeze. Still not even suspecting we were being pursued, and least of all that an overpowering force was close on our heels, no special precautions were taken against surprise. Although two men were detailed as guards, it was more for the purpose of keeping our horses together and on good pasturage than for protection of our party against the sudden and unexpected approach of enemies. Deer, turkeys and other game were abundant in the country where we were, and hunting parties were going and coming all day. It was not until about sunset that the least uneasiness was felt. About that time one of the hunting parties returned with the report that they had seen strangers whose evident desire for concealment appeared suspicious. This intelligence created considerable commotion. But at that juncture another party of hunters returned to camp, and learning the excitement quickly allayed it by the statement that they were the strangers the first party had seen- that just to see what the first party would do, they had first shown themselves and then made a pretence of concealing themselves. This statement at once turned the laugh on the first party; it was too good a joke not to be enjoyed, too reasonable an explanation of the first party's alarm not to be accepted as the true and only one. All uneasiness vanished and calm instantly restored, not an effort was made to verify or prove false the story told by the first party. And while the supposed victims of the second party's joke were being unmercifully teased and made fun of, a third party of hunters came in and unwilling to acknowledge themselves victims of the same joke failed, until too late to do any good, to report that they had also seen strangers who acted so suspiciously that they had come back at once to camp to report the circumstances.



But even in the midst of all the joking and jollity, there were duties to be performed, for by the time the sun was fairly down, the horses had all been caught and tied, and a night guard detailed and instructed. Then came a feast on the game that had been killed during the day, and after that some of the young men amused themselves by wrestling, turning summersaults, playing leap-frog and light games. When they tired themselves, speech-making began, some of the subjects of the speeches being "Fatherland," "America," "Citizenship," "Civil War," and "Refugeeing ~~to~~ Mexico." The speeches were interpreted to me by Major Tegener, a German and English scholar, and I thought them suited to the occasion.

The speaking at an end, I called Major Tegener to one side and said to him: "Are you entirely satisfied, Major, that our boys saw no strangers around this evening?" "Of course I am," he answered, "why do you ask?" "Because, said I, "I fear they did see strangers, and if they did, it means harm to us", and continuing, I suggested that as he had never put me on guard duty, he should do so that night. He replied that there was no need of me doing guard duty at any time, and as for that particular night, the guard had already been detailed and instructed. I then asked him to instruct the guard to call me at two O'clock in the morning, and he promised to do so. A moment later, I said: "Major, you can if you will, get ready and leave here in thirty minutes. The moon is shining and the night air will give us cool traveling. Suppose you pull right out from here, and cross over into Mexico before halting again." Much more I said to the same purpose, and it evidently set the Major to thinking seriously. At any rate he said he would confer with others of the party, and if they thought as I did, the march would be resumed as quickly as possible. But when he broached the subject to Captain Kuechler and Lieutenant Degener, both of them expressed themselves as being convinced that no strangers were any where around, and as being in favor of remaining in their present camp until morning. That settled the question against an immediate start and dropping the subject, all retired to their pallets to rest.



I was not called by the guard at two O'clock, but I awoke just about three O'clock, and a few minutes later was called. I had not undressed when I lay down, but had slept as soldiers express it, "on my arms," so arising at once, I followed the guard, Mr. Leopold Bauer. When we had gone about sixty yards, he in front and I about twenty feet behind him, he entered a dense cedarbrake, and, as he entered, was, without being hailed, shot dead by a Confederate lying in ambush at that point. I replied to the shot by firing instantly at sixty or more Confederates who at the sound of the first gun rose from their blankets and rushed pell-mell over a space of open ground to a part of their command which lay under the cedars some sixty yards south of the place where Bauer was killed. The shot that killed Bauer alarmed the camp, and fast and furious firing began between the contending parties. At its very beginning, Ernest Bosler, a Unionist guard, who unluckily stood between the two fires, was killed, but whether by friend or foe will never be known. I saw him fall and know that he fell fighting. A moment later the Confederates made a charge upon the Unionists which was gallantly repulsed, and a counter-charge made upon the Confederates. While repulsing the advance of the Confederates or during the counter-charge, Major Tegener was seriously wounded in two places, and two members of his command also received wounds. I think there was up to this time a hundred shots exchanged, then came a lull of an hour during which there was but an occasional shot fired.

The camp of the Unionists had been approached by the Confederates from the east and south. According to my watch the battle began a few minutes after three O'clock A.M., two hours sooner, I have reason to think, than the Confederates intended it should begin.

As will appear from what I have already said, I was not in the Unionists camp at the time the firing commenced, but about sixty yards away from it where Bauer was killed. When I sought to join my friends there, they very naturally took me for



an enemy, and firing on me, came very near killing me, one ball passing through my clothing and grazing the skin ~~above~~ <sup>of</sup> my stomach, and another cutting the flesh from a finger of my right hand.

I crawled to a place out of sight of both parties and began to think what I could and should next do. It occurred to me at once, that I could do the greatest good for myself and my Unionist comrades by making a careful reconnoissance of the Confederate forces, and this I did effectually by creeping around to their rear, and so near to them as to fully satisfy myself concerning their numbers and their location. This accomplished, I went some distance back into the cedars, and taking a course that I thought would carry me well around the Confederates, started to our camp. Not going far enough to the west, however, I walked right up to a squad of Confederates concealed in a thick standing grove of cedars, some sixty yards southwest of the Unionist camp. Before I knew it I was so close to the party that I could easily have put my hand on one of them. Noticing that they wore no hats but had handkerchiefs tied around their heads, I immediately took off my hat, and carrying it in my hand, backed away from the party. They saw me plainly, but, I reckon supposed me to be a Confederate; at any rate they did not take me to be a Unionist, and so, let me go. Not unwilling to go, I went quickly to a point northwest of the camp, and thence crawled on my stomach into its friendly precincts. But careful as I was, I narrowly missed being fired at. When about twenty feet from the camp, I heard the click of the locks of guns about to be aimed at me, and called out, "Don't shoot, Sansom." No reply being made, I repeated the call, was then answered by Captain Cramer, who said: "Come on, come on, Captain, I came near shooting you."

Knowing what I did, I at once advised Captain Cramer and Lieut. Simon (they were brothers-in-law) that if they wished to continue the fight, the Unionists should abandon their present position and select one where they would not only be less exposed to the fire of the enemy, but have a better



chance to damage the enemy. I then went to where Major Tenegeer, who although bleeding profusely had not relinquished command, where he lay on his pallet using his saddle as his breast work, and to him reported the discoveries I had made during my reconnaissance- putting the number of Confederates at one hundred and perhaps more of picked and well-armed men, and advising a prompt withdrawal of our forces. He seemed to favor the move, and I went over to my own pallet close by where lay my four mess-mates, Hugo Degener, Hilmer Degener, A. Bruns and Pablo Diaz, <sup>The latter</sup> a Mexican, all of them ready, if not anxious, to continue fighting. During a conversation I had with Lieut. Degener, he asked if I knew what the plans and intentions of our officers were, I told them I believed they had determined to withdraw to a better position. "Withdraw!" he exclaimed; "Never! Our two guards have been killed, Major Tenegeer and two others of our comrades wounded, and if we leave here, they will get our horses, our rations, and all our equipage. I would rather fight here until every man of us is killed than to go anywhere else." In reply to this I said: "Hugo, they out-number us greatly, and they have a much better position than we. For these reasons we ought to withdraw. In the shuffle and excitement of going from one place to another, we may get their horses and equipments in exchange for those we may lose. I am in favor of retirement from our present position, so am going to carry my saddle with me and look out the safest route for our withdrawal. The Scott boys, Henderson, and Hester, who had heard all that was said, immediately proposed to accompany me and the five of us, I carrying my saddle made our way cautiously to the spot where young Bauer lay dead, face downward. Turning the body on its back, I covered it with one of the many blankets the Confederates had left scattered around.



Triller Barker - a grand  
just man killed



John W. Sanborn  
coming his command with a men kit  
captured from the enemy



Seeing no movement in the camp which indicated any effort to withdraw, I said to the men with me: "Well, boys, they have not yet made up their minds to withdraw, but may later, so let's tie some of these horses back in the cedars where the boys can easily get them." By this time we had tied a number of the horses to the trees, day began to dawn, and the firing commenced. Our party of five moved closer to the enemy somewhat to their rear, intending to attack from that direction, but when we pulled triggers, four of the guns snapped, mine only firing. While the Scott boys, Henderson and Hester were picking the tubes of their rifles in an effort to clear them of bad powder, the Confederates made a determined charge upon the Unionist camp. All of them, however, were driven back except one man, presumably an officer. "They are giving way boys, come on, charge." Encouraged by that information the Confederates faced about and again charged and won the fight.

While these assaults were being made, I fired as rapidly as I could at the Confederates, but my comrades could do nothing. When I saw Major Tegener and the survivors of his command leave the camp and the Confederates take possession of it, I told the men with me to get horses, and hurried back to Bauer's body where I left my saddle. I at once saddled a comrade's horse, using a Confederate blanket for a saddle pad, and also taking another one to use as a pallet. I captured these blankets right where comrade Bauer lay dead, mounted my horse and rode in a circle completely around the encampment and scene of battle.

At a point west of the camp about 250 yards, I was hailed by four Confederates. As I did not stop, they fired several shots at me and I at them. Crossing to the east bank of the river, I came upon four of my comrades, namely, Henry, Schwelthelm, Jacob Kusenberger, F. and A. Graf, but as they took me for one of the enemy, I did not succeed in halting them. Going on a little further I came to a high bluff in a cedar brake which overlooked the late battle ground, <sup>Some 150 yards away</sup> and here I remained until about 8 O'clock A. M. watching the Confederates



as they stood and walked about the camp and its dead and wounded, and going to and from the river, their only place of securing water. Then satisfied that I could do no more good by a longer stay, I rode away, dazed by the tragedy that had robbed of their lives nineteen vigorous young men, and wounded more or less seriously six of whom I know of.

The number of dead and wounded would have been the same or nearly so, on each side, had not the Confederates killed all of our wounded who fell into their hands, and put to death the wounded who surrendered to them.

Of the Unionists at the beginning of the battle there were exactly sixty-five men. About forty of these were fairly well armed with muzzle-loading guns and six-shooters; the others were poorly armed- one man having neither gun nor pistol.

As before stated, I estimated the number of the enemy at a hundred or more. Every man of them was well armed, some of them, likely, breech-loading rifles. Besides, I have no doubt that they had been specially selected for the occasion. At no time were we hailed by the Confederates,- at no time was an inquiry made as to who we were, where we were going or what were our purposes. Having read a proclamation from the Confederate Government announcing that all persons <sup>un</sup>friendly to it might leave the country, we believed we had a right to go in large or small bodies, as best suited our convenience, to the border and there cross over into Mexico. We wanted to go peaceably, and would have gone peaceably, but for being followed and attacked. Then believing that we had a God-given right to defend ourselves from violence, come from what quarter it might, we put up a fight of which not one of us need to be or are ashamed. Major Tegener and the brave men he commanded fought as heroes do for the right, and notwithstanding the Confederates had largely the advantage in numbers, quality of arms and position, sustained themselves manfully. The Confederates fought well and won, but twice during the engagement reeled under the fire of the Unionists and staggered



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back to cover, and seemingly felt no assurance of victory until the camp was abandoned by able-bodied defenders and resistance there was useless.

Every man of the Union force, wounded or unhurt who surrendered on the 10th of August, 1862, or subsequently, was put to death.

The Confederate forces consisted of detachments from Captain Donnelson's Company of the 2nd Texas Mounted Rifles, Capt. Duff's Company of Texas Partisan Rangers, Capt. Davis' Company of State troops, and Taylor's Battalion, all under command of Lieut. C. D. McRae of the 2nd Texas Mounted Rifles.

Brave and fearless as I must frankly acknowledge Lieut. McRae to have been, I am compelled to doubt to the point of emphatic denial, the truth of that part of his report in which he says, in effect, that as no quarter was asked by the Unionists he had no prisoners to report. That the Unionists made a determined resistance and fought with desperation is perfectly true, for each man of them was a brave man, but that not one of them, either wounded or unwounded, asked for quarter, is contrary both to human nature and fact. It is simply impossible that not one of those who on that day and subsequently, fell into Confederate hands while life lingered in his body, surrendered without arms in his hands, and by that act, if in no other way, asked for quarter,- for the treatment which civilized people the world over, accord willingly to a prisoner of war. I know of my personal knowledge that only nineteen of the Unionists were killed in battle. Six of the wounded Unionists only, made their escape,- what became of the other wounded?

Commanding the men as he did and knowing the country so well it would have been an easy undertaking for Major Tegner to have ambushed and killed every Confederate command, large or small, that was sent into the counties that were declared to be in rebellion against the Confederate Government. But not willing to add fuel to the fires of hatred against Unionists already burning



in the bosoms of Confederate sympathizers, not willing to inaugurate a strife in Texas between neighbors that would have laid waste a fair and smiling land and brought grief and death to women and children, he and his neighbors thought it best to leave the State and wait for the better times they felt sure were coming. It was while leaving, and leaving peaceable at that, that his party was attacked and so many of it murdered.

The members of the Union Loyal League were good citizens—their occupations being farming, raising live stock, and in a small way, manufacturing. Two-thirds of them were Germans either by birth or parentage, the other third Americans. Of the Unionists under command of Major Tegener at Nueces River 59 were Germans, all of the others Americans except Pablo Diaz, a Mexican, Hon. Edward Degener, the head of the Advisory Board of the Union Loyal League, was a German by birth, but an adopted citizen of Texas and the United States. In my opinion he was a most astute thinker and as loyal to the Union as any man. Hilmar and Hugo Degener were his sons.

Of course I have rambled more or less in this report of the awful tragedy of August 10th, 1862, but only as it appeared necessary in order to place before the reader all the facts and circumstances needed for a clear understanding of the affair, I am sure it will be pardoned.

The following named Unionists were killed on the battle ground, that is, in the camp attacked by the Confederates:

Leopold Bauer, F. Behrens, Ernst Beseler, Louis Boerner, Albert Bruns, Hugo Degener, Fritz Vater, Hilmar Degener, Pablo Diaz, Johann Geo. Kalenberg, Heinrich Markwart, Christian Schaefer, Louis Schierholz, Heinrich Steves, Anrey Schreiner, Wilhelm Telgmann, Michael Weirich, Heinrich Weyershausen and Adolph Vater.

Nineteen in all, not one of whom was buried by the slayers; but three years later, in 1865, all the bones to be found of these nineteen martyrs to their convictions were gathered together by their relatives and friends, and buried at Comfort, Kendall County, with all the solemnity due to the last remains of



good citizens and true patriots and over the grave a monument was placed as a constant reminder of the tragic fate of nineteen brave Unionists.

The following named Unionists, members of Major Tanager's party who fell into the hands of Captain Duff's command subsequent to August 10th, 1862, were killed, and later their names added to the monument shaft, as well as those killed October 18th: Wilhelm Boerner, Theodore Buchisch, Conrad Bock, F. Tays, Herman Flick, August Luckenbach, Louis Ruebsamen, Adolph Ruebsamen, Heinrich Stieler and Christian Petsch.

The following named Unionists, members of Major Tegener's party, were killed Oct. 18th, by Confederate troops under the command of Capt. Homsley while crossing the Rio Grande River into Mexico: Joseph Elster, Ernst Felsing, Peter Bonnet, H. Hermann, Valentine Hohmann, Moritz Weiss and Frank Weiss.

The following Unionists, members of Major Tegener's party escaped death at the hands of the Confederates and served three years with much credit to themselves, being promoted from the ranks to commissioned or non-commissioned officers in the United States Army, as members of the First Regiment of Texas Cavalry Volunteers from October 1862 to October 1865:

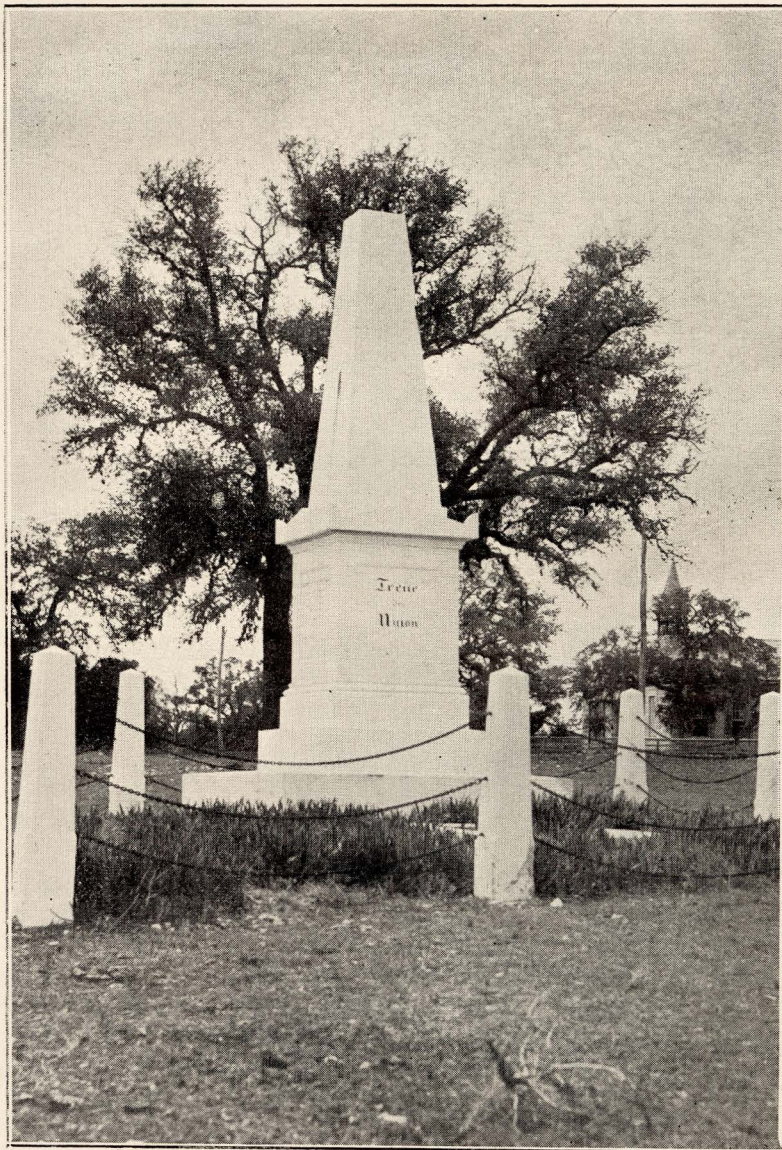
ZOELLER

Captain John W. Sansom, Lieutenant Adolphus Zaller, Lieutenant Jacob Kuesenheuser, Sargeant Howard Henderson, Corporal Wm. Hester, Corporal Tom Scott, F. Graff, A. Graff, W. B. Scott, Henry Schuethelm, Wm. Vater.

To recapitulate: Nineteen Unionists were killed in the camp on the Nueces River, nine were killed after that battle was over and the Unionists dispersed, six were killed in an attempt to cross over into Mexico, and eleven joined the Union Army, making forty-five of the sixty-five engaged in the battle. The others, some went to Mexico, some to California and some returned to their homes and secreted themselves thereabout..

Soon after the "Battle of the Nueces," I took a squad of nine men out of the Confederacy, and later forty-eight, and still later thirty-six and into the ranks of the Union Army, where as commissioned officer, I had the honor of serving until the Union





Monument erected in honor of these Union heroes at Comfort, Texas,  
and the following names are inscribed on three sides.



was re-established.

It gratifies me to be able to say that notwithstanding I separated myself from the majority of my neighbors and obeying the impulse of loyalty, served under the Stars and Stripes in one of the greatest of all wars. I never forfeited the respect and personal good will of my fellow Texas.

That my statement is true and made without a touch of ill feeling or malice, I trust my surviving comrades will vouch for; as to the rest, I place my faith in God.

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Since writing the Battle of Nueces River, I find cause to add another chapter, or more that will give further light on those troublesome times.

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:CAPTAIN WILLIAMS:

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Mr. Williams, an Englishman and Confederate soldier, went with the expedition from San Antonio commanded by Colonel James M. Duff, under orders of General H. P. Bee, to the Counties of Kendall, Kerr and Gillespie to put down the then rebellion, as called by General Bee, in July 1862. Williams later was given the title of Captain, and still later on wrote a book on border life in Texas, entitled: "The Border Ruffians," Memoirs of the Far West, 1862-1863, in which is given an account of the tragedy Nueces as it appears to him. He says:

"We marched to Fredericksburg by easy stages and there found most of the inhabitants remaining quietly at their homes. The morning after our arrival we moved out fifteen miles to the west of town, and camped on waters of the Perdenalis. Captain Duff issued his proclamation announcing his appointment as provost-marshal, and giving the inhabitants three days to come in and take the oath of allegiance to the Confederacy, threatening to treat all failing to do so as traitors who would be dealt with severely, at the discretion of the officer commanding.

Our camp was a pleasant one and we were taking a rest that we needed. Presently, however, sinister rumors of Duff began to spread and it was said among other things that he had given certain of his followers to understand that he wanted no prisoners brought into his camp. The majority of our men were utterly opposed to such deeds and many of us, myself among the number, declared we would do all we could to put a stop to such procedure. Duff, in the preparation of his infamy, believed in hanging Union men as the best way of converting Union men to the true faith. I soon noticed that neither I, nor any of those whom I thought were



with me, were sent out as scouts. It was very suspicious, and especially when presently parties were detailed to scour the country, and did not bring in any prisoners, but were very reticent about their doings. Among these there were two parties of twenty-five men each, that were sent out with wagons to bring in from the scattered ranches the families of those who had taken to the mountains, and I fear to burn their homes. In four or five days they returned with their wagons loaded with prisoners, four or five men, and eight women with their little ones. The latter were sent to Fredericksburg, the men were confined in the guard-tent. It was a pitiful sight to see all these poor folks stripped of their property, such as it was, earned by hard toil and exposure on a dangerous frontier.

Not many persons appeared to take the oath, having not learned of Duff's proclamation and its purposes. The day after the return of the wagons, one hundred of us were ordered to prepare several days' rations and go on a scout to find and attack the Unionist camp. One of the prisoners, an old soldier and friend of Duff's had been released, and he was to act as our guide and betray his friends if possible into our hands. We got off in high glee, passed several homesteads, deserted and ruined, some burned; these homes belonging in part to the families that had been brought into our camp. I was sorry for those poor women, who bore themselves with sorrow and dignity in a most becoming way. We struck the trail of the Unionists that led in a westerly direction, and followed it as fast as we could over a very mountainous, rocky, thickly timbered country for six days, coming in sight of the enemy the last day, Saturday morning, August 9th. The scouts had seen the camp of the Unionists about three miles away, on a small prairie surrounded by cedar brakes, on the western side of the Nueces River. From the cliffs the scouts overlooked the camp; the enemy were estimated at about one hundred by them, and same number of horses. From the fact that they had no scouts out, and their carelessness, it was evident they had not the slightest suspicion that they were be-



ing followed. Three of our officers went forward to reconnoiter before forming a plan of attack. In about two hours they came back and orders were issued for an attack to be made just after midnight. Then we moved about a quarter of a mile up a ravine, where we were securely hidden, where we awaited the coming fight with what patience we might. I may say we were pretty confident of whipping the Germans, the general idea seeming to be that they would show but little fight, but I thought, as I had before said, that we had a pretty bad job before us, unless we could effect a complete surprise of the camp. However, we were to put the question to the test of experience very soon. About 11 O'clock my comrades and self were roused and fell into line; arms were carefully inspected, hats were discharged and handkerchiefs tied around our heads, then on foot we marched off by single file, by the light of the moon and over break-neck rocks and cliffs. Silence had been strictly enjoined, for their own sake, and kept by all. We crept through the cedars and landed on the south of the camp; the other detachment on the east side. We were to capture the guards in silence; all a beautiful theory had it worked. Some one had loosed off his gun at a sentry and instantly the camp was in a buzz- like a swarm of bees. Men ran hither and thither in great confusion; no one knew what to do; the Germans fired a volley at our far side. This was replied to by our people and the firing became general. We were then ordered to double quick and join another party, and did. The defenders showed a bold front and dared us to come on, and threatened to charge us. Some of our men were inclined to bolt, but were rallied by Lieut. Harbor. By this time the defenders had lost heavily and began to make off in small parties; some of us followed to catch them, and when we got back the camp was taken, with a loss on our side of twelve killed and eighteen wounded. The defenders suffered very severely in comparison with ourselves, fighting as they did in close formation in the centre of the camp, while we were more less behind cover. In the narrow space



inside the mott law sixteen dead and twenty wounded. One poor creature had fallen into the fire. I pulled him back but he soon died.

The scene was a ghastly one, and for a time there was plenty to do separating the wounded from the dead and dressing the hurts of the former as best we could, for we had no surgeon with us. Since there were plenty of helpers for our own poor fellows, some of the more humane did what we could to ease the suffering of the wounded Germans. They had fought a good fight, and bore themselves so pluckily that I felt sorry that I had taken any part against them. We bound up their wounds, gave them water, and laid them as comfortably in the shade as we could. Poor creatures, how grateful they were. It was Sunday morning, and my thoughts turned away to a country church that had been so precious to me. What a contrast!

At about four O'clock P. M., I hurried from where I was to the Germans to see how they were getting on, and was surprised to find them gone. Asking what had become of them, I was told they had been moved to a better shade a short distance away. With this answer I was quite satisfied and never dreamed the brutes would be guilty of foul play, especially after the gallant fight the enemy had made. Just then one of our wounded called for water and I gave him some. As I was giving it to him I heard firing a little way off. I thought at first they were burying some of the dead with the honors of war, but it did not sound like that either. Then, thinking it might be an attack on us, I seized my rifle and ran in the direction of the firing. I met a man coming from it, who, when he saw me running, said "It's all done; you needn't be in a hurry, it's all done; they have shot the poor devils and finished them off." "It can't be possible they have murdered the prisoners in cold blood?" I said. "Oh yes," said the man, "they are all dead, sure enough, and a good job too." Feeling sick at heart, I hardly credited the report. I ran on and found it only too true. It was a cowardly



murder. I denounced the deed in as strong language as I knew how. It was the work of a man and his fallacies that I call "Luck" rather than his name. Luck handled his six shooter as if to use it on me, but his cowardly self was afraid to, for there were some good friends of mine present that backed me up. I saw no way to help myself only to get out of the company, and did. In justice to Lieut. Col. McRae, he was a brave and kindly man, I should mention that he was severely wounded and knew nothing of the crime committed by Luck (Burgman) and his fallacies, is my belief. Doctors and other help was furnished from Fort Clark, that was some twenty-five miles away. Our own dead were buried in a long trench. The dead of the Germans were carried to where their wounded were shot; all their best clothing taken off of them by some of our men."

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THE AUTHOR'S COMMENT

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I know that most of Captain Williams' account of that scout he was with to Fredericksburg, and then on trail to where the battle was fought, is quite true. He mentions more men killed than were; also did Lieut. McRae report more. Ten days later other men of the Unionist party were killed, and names added to the first nineteen, which brings them up to McRae's number. Others of same party were killed; their names have never been added to the monument stone at Comfort, Texas.

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*General Letter bottom*

Providence, Rhode Island, December 1, 1908.

Captain John W. Sansom;

San Antonio, Texas.

Dear Sir:-

I read your account of the most horrible massacre of Union men- on the Nueces River, August 10th, 1862,- that I ever heard of. Two brothers by the name of <sup>CHARLES and Gottlieb VETTERLEIN</sup> Feterlein came to my camp south of El Paso, Texas, who were in that battle. For cloting they wore corn-sacks they had gathered on the trail of Sibley's retreat from New Mexico. They were a woe-begone sight. One of them was wounded in the Nueces fight. He was treated by our doctor and nurse, recovered, and both were given employment later in the Quartermaster's department. Your account of the battle interested me very much.

Yours very respectfully,

George H. Pettis.

*Major W.B. Army*

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Ingram, Texas, Oct. 16, 1908.

J. W. Sansom,

San Antonio, Texas.

Dear Captain:-

I was in the Nueces battle, as you know, and while reading your pamphlet account of it, could see it just as it was. For goodness sake, write a book and tell more of those times.

I am now on my death-bed. I know that J. M. Duff and his company of murderers killed many of my neighbors and friends. My uncle and cousins, Schram Henderson, my wife's father and brother, Turknette, were murdered, my neighbors, Hiram Nelson, Frank Scott and his father, Parson Johnson and old man Scott were all butchered by Duff and his gang. Rocks were tied to their feet and they were thrown into Spring creek. Many others of my neighbors were put to death, their houses burned, and their wives and children taken to the camps of soldiers where, when not otherwise insulted, they were compelled to listen to the foul tongues that denounced their husbands and fathers, all of whom, as you personally know, were first-class citizens.

Some of my relatives and friends as far away as New Mexico and Colorado. have been to see me, and my children have been with me lately. I guess I will never see you again, my comrade, and now bid you God speed. My family has written for me. Good bye.

Howard Henderson.

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Office of County Surveyor, Edwards County, Texas, Nov.  
17th, 1895.

Captain, J. W. Sansom,  
San Antonio, Texas.

Dear Old Friend:-

I have just had the pleasure of receiving and reading your very truthful, impartial and graphic account of the battle and massacre on the West Nueces, in August, 1862. I am as familiar with the details of that battle as any one can be from hearsay. I was First Lieutenant of Captain Davis, company which was there, and Bill Arbor, who opened the battle, was Second Lieutenant. I had been transferred to regimental quartermaster's place. I saw and talked with many of the men of both sides who took part in that battle and massacre. There is living in this county today, a well-to-do ranchman whose head, like yours and mine, is hoary with age, and who on that occasion was one of the Duff and Davis men that followed your party, and made the night attack which brought on the battle you so well described. After the battle was over and the union party vanquished, he, Bill Wharton, was one of the men detailed to murder the helpless wounded unionists who lay upon the battle ground. This may be the reason why he is now allowed to carry a six shooter; he no doubt fears that some relative of the murdered men might attempt to take his consecrated life.

The massacre was one of the most shameful acts remembered in the unwritten history of the Southern Confederacy, and I am glad that you, as an eye-witness have portrayed it as you have in your very neat little pamphlet which I most surely appreciate. It shows the guilty parties, who will not be indorsed by innocent Confederates.

Yours very truly,  
James M. Hunter,  
County Judge, Edwards County, Texas.



CAPT. JAMES M. DUFF:

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I have been asked who Duff was before sent by Gen. H. P. Bee to make war against the people of counties already named, to which I now give as follows:

General D. S. Stanley, who commanded the U. S. military forces Texas Department, in the 80's, stated to persons present at a dinner given in his honor at my house, that he knew the said J. M. Duff quite well; that Duff was a Scotchman. He came to America and soon after joined the U. S. Army as a private soldier before our Civil War 1861-65. While a soldier committed a crime for which charges were made against him, and he court-martialed, found guilty, tied to a whipping post, whipped and drummed out of the army service.

General Stanley further stated that Duff was a right smart fellow, and that he kept track of Duff and by sort of accident met him in Denver, Colorado, the year before; that Duff was well-to-do at that time financially, member of a Denver Club in good standing. On his, General Stanley's arrival in Denver, a committee from the Club waited on and invited him to meet with them. General Stanley did not meet with the Club as invited, and by them another committee was sent to his hotel to learn the cause for his non-attendance. General Stanley said he thought he was duty bound to the Club and himself, and informed the committee that under army regulations and usages as commissioned officer in the army he would not be justified by them to attend such meeting with a disgraced man as Duff was. Duff from that left Denver, went to Paris, France, where later he died.

Duff's spy and murderer, F. Bauman, that aided him in running down Union men and murdering them, was a stranger in the country and aided in assassinating unarmed men of the Nueces Battle. After the war he went to Mexico and was followed by a Seminole Indian Negro, killed and thrown into the Rio Grande.



## MARTIAL LAW WAS PROCLAIMED IN TEXAS

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May 30th, 1862 by General P. O. Hebeart, at the instance of Gov, Frank R. Lubbock of Austin and Gen. H. P. Bee, of San Antonio.

Gen. Hebeart was made a Major General by the Confederate government and assigned to the military department of Texas and Louisiana. His residence was in Louisiana. He was later assigned to another branch of service and Major Gen. Magruder to the Texas and Louisiana Department.

Lubbock with State militia and Bee with Confederate soldiers spliced them together. General Bee declared war against the people and counties named, and sent Capt. J. M. Duff with four companies of soldiers who slaughtered many good citizens in a most horrrid manner.

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It is true that the story contained in this little book is history pure and simple and cannot be successfully denied; that being true, surely all Unionists that lost their lives because of loyalty to the American government are martyrs of the high type and will be honored by good men and women. I know the heroes I am now writing about and know them to be as good citizens as any others in Texas or elsewhere, for honesty, industry, capability, civility and other good qualities. They were courageous as the heroes of Goliad, Alamo, San Jacinto, or any other places in Texas.

Every year loving relatives and friends go to the graves of the Union men, at the base of the Comfort Monument in Kendall County, Texas, and bend themselves in love and prayer for dear ones, plant flowers by them, hanging evergreens on their sepulcher and dropping tears on their graves.

At the fiftieth year of the murders some five hundred relatives and friends met at the Comfort Monument in memory of



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the heroes and did them honor. Speeches in English and German, singing by Kendall and Kerr County Singing Society, poems were read, and flowers and evergreens profusely strewn over their grave. A military brass band from Fort Sam Houston furnished suitable music for the occasion. The Hon. Henry Steler, (a Comfort boy) of San Antonio, was the principal speaker, who did credit to the occasion. I knew that ~~the~~ country before it was settled by these splendid men and many of them as they came there, some of whom I have stood side by side in fierce conflict with hostile Indians to save their family and home from destruction. All had homes with families, or friends, that they paid for with money and labor. What moral right had any man, or men, to deprive them of a home and family? Some silly or uninformed persons may say, "it was war times, and all is fair in war." I say the Unionist in no instance was first to assault a Confederate. I am fully aware there were good men among the soldiers that did no murder and robbery. They are not by me condemned. General U. S. Grant and General Robert E. Lee at Appomattox Court House on April 9th, 1865, placed a cover of protection over all Confederate officers and men, not criminals. That being true, why did Gen. H. P. Bee, Gov. Pendleton Murrah, Col. James M. Duff, Major John Henry Brown, Col. Chilton, Col. Bruin, and others, all implicated more or less in the death and destruction of Unionists in West Texas go to Mexico in great rush where they stayed four years before returning to Texas?

Gov. Frank Lubbock did not get off with that crowd, he was a Federal prisoner about Washington somewhere at that time.

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## GOVERNOR EDWARD CLARK

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Gov. Clark's administration was from March 1861 to Dec. 1861. He was manly and kind to his political opponents in Texas and by them appreciated. I do not believe he ever thought to use the State soldiers to kill Texas Unionists for their expressions of love for the Union of States. Clark was as loyal to the Confederate government as any man.

Why did Gov. Clark, Gen. Slaughter, Col. John S. Ford, Maj. James M. Hunter, Capt. Bill Tobin and many other men of prominence stay at home? My answer would be to such question they were not murderers of their Union neighbors, but brave subjects of the Confederate government, that did their soldiering in a manly humane way.

In another chapter of this book I stated that three companies were organized and the purposes of same, that the Unionists in the counties named were about two Germans to one American. I now say that two of the companies organized at the 4th of July meeting, 1862, were Germans and one American. The American company disbanded a few days later. Capt. Henry Hartman, Lieut. Phil G. Temple and a few of their men went to Mexico before James M. Duff went to Kerr County. Some eight or ten of the company that staid at home were murdered. They were mostly old men with grown sons and daughters, and natives of Virginia and Illinois.

## GOD'S LOVE

The Father of the Universe in his wisdom made provision in the nature of mankind to forgive his enemy, which I find to be true of myself, more or less as time softens my nature and shows cause for the wrongs done. Ignorance may be the greatest cause for wrongs done. 'Tis true in most cases of wrong doing we forgive but seldom forget. When I bring to mind of the splendid men killed by Duff it makes my heart ache, although done more than fifty years back. Other than this 'tis all over



NUECES BATTLE GROUND

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I left the Nueces Battle ground about 8 O'clock A. M. at five miles from there I overtook two Indians going my way down the river and at forty miles was made a prisoner by two men of Captain Dick's company, State Troops. I made a good talk and they let me go. I there about faced from my way to Mexico and went to Captain Ben F. Patton's camp of State Troops on the Rio Saco. When in two miles of his camp I saw seven Indians pass in front of me with some thirty head of horses. They saw me; I went on to Patton's camp. He was my wife's brother. I told Patton of the Indians and Nueces Battle and for him to go to the battle ground as soon as he could. He and all his men except Dick Nowlin and Billy Maning went after the Indians and caught and killed all of them the next day. I remained in his camp until noon of next day, eating and resting myself and horse that had not eaten anything for more than two days. I reached my home three days later. Soon after the people all over the country were in a rage of excitement over the Nueces Massacre and soldiers were after me and others. I concealed myself in a big cedar brake, my companions there were a great panther and Mexican hog. I killed both of them, got with ten good men who were hunting me and went to Mexico and on to Monterey. I borrowed \$100.00 of Government Bedowery then went on to Matamoras, Mexico, where we met some hundred or more American refugees. Stopping with Mr. Pierce, the American Consul. Eight days later we went twenty-five miles to the mouth of the Rio Grande to a chartered schooner planned by the Consul, boarded it, got into a storm almost wrecked, on to New Orleans by October and began the formation of the first regiment of Texas U. S. Cavalry on the 27th day of October, 1862. I enlisted as a private on the 28th Inst.. Major General Ben F. Butler treated us manly. At that time he commanded the Gulf Department of U. S. forces.

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FIRST REGIMENT OF TEXAS CAVALRY

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The first Texas Cavalry did much service in Louisiana, on the Mississippi River in 1863, when General Grant was there and at Vicksburg. They did much scouting, guarding and fighting on horseback.

In September we led General Franklin's expedition up the Bayotesh where we had considerable runs fighting with Texas Confederate soldiers. We fought the Mississippi Tigers, burned a shoe factory and tannery. The Tigers were good soldiers but were forced by us to give way. About October 3rd a Federal force of some four thousand men, consisting of Infantry, Artillery and Cavalry went to Brazos Island in Texas on way to Brownsville, twenty-five miles from where General H. P. Bee was carrying on a large cotton trade for the Confederate Government, accompanied by a like trade for Confederate officers and other individuals. The main cause of said expedition was to break up the cotton trade and a general contraband business between Mexico and the Confederate Government, which was accomplished. When the expedition reached Texas the sea was rough and delayed the landing of soldiers for two days. The First Texas Cavalry was first put on shore, they rushed to Brownsville to learn that General Bee, with his entire command, had made a straight line from there to San Antonio and near there, the hurry and haste of Bee was all that it could be. We followed him 100 miles and then returned to Brownsville.

I was detailed from the regiment to gather information for the government and recruit men for the Texas Cavalry. In February 1864, accompanied by a friend of our family, Mr. John W. Weaver, and A Mexican for guide, I left Brownsville for the interior of the State, which was a most dangerous undertaking. My good friend, John W. Weaver, was a brave and prudent man and citizen. He went with me to save me from harm if he could. He knew that a price had been named for my life by Governor Lubbock and General Bee and that Colonel Benevides, of a regiment of Mexican soldiers were the most likely parties to gain the price in West Texas. Colonel Benevides



had given me close calls. Other men were promised much for me. Weaver and I, with guide, reached a ranch known as Benevides Ranch, some hundred and fifty miles North of Brownsville. The country was quite dry then and I sent the guide to the ranch to see if we could get water there. Weaver and I stopped back in the mesquite brush some six hundred yards away until our Mexican guide could reconnoiter the water ranch. He had all of our rations and stayed there. Two Mexican soldiers on foot came near to us but went back. Weaver and I became alarmed, we knew our guide was a prisoner or had betrayed us to our enemies from the time he was away. Therefore, we left there on fast time and when ten miles away we heard horses feet running. It was three soldiers. Two galloped around in front of us and the third stopped in our rear. Weaver and I wore a Talmer each over our bodies which completely covered our arms. The first two men dismounted, took our bridles at the horses mouths and ordered us to dismount that we were their prisoners. The Mexican soldiers were heavily armed and carried six shooters in their hands. Weaver and I had our pistols in hand, cocked and covered by Talmer. I asked: Ready ~~to~~ go, and both of us shot our man holding bridles. They shot, missing us but broke the neck of the third man's horse. The horse fell on the leg of his rider who pulled out and rose, running. The first two Mexicans were then in a manner dead and never spoke that we understood. We again turned our way, got water at a creek, traveled all night and hid ourselves and horses the best we could. Rested the next day, traveled at night five days and nights to Curry's Creek. We stopped an hour in San Antonio with my friend, the Honorable Edmond Degner who lost two sons in the Nueces Massacre. We were two days without food and our horses fared badly but they got some grass. That was a dangerous and laborious expedition.

I soon visited Austin and other places, learned all there was of Confederate soldiers, numbers, whereabouts, means of war and reported same through the offices of the Mexican Government.

We located our camp in a secret wood and mountain and began meeting men who wished to go to the Federal Army and defend their flag. My wife and Mrs. George Lang were our recruiting officers. They went horseback over much country at night to places



where the men joined us. No women in Texas or elsewhere excelled their labor. In April I had forty eight men, all armed and mounted, so left for Brownsville, followed hard by Confederate troops doing service in different parts of West Texas, but I beat them to Mexico and on to Brownsville. That trip completed, I returned to Texas, got my father and thirty-five other men and brought them through safely. No other man than myself ever succeeded in taking men from the Confederate lines and army to the Union Army and lines as I did in Texas.

I was commissioned Captain of Company "C" Texas Cavalry on July 12th 1864, and guarded the evacuation of Brownsville by the Federal Army with two other companies of cavalry, all commanded by Major E. J. Noise. Major Noise was a Massachusetts boy and the best officer of our regiment in several ~~years~~ <sup>ways</sup>. For three months we were guarding our lines below Brownsville against Confederate soldiers commanded by General Shalwater and Colonel John S. Ford. They continually came to us or near us for a skirmish and fight. They invariably got the worst of the fighting. Of course, they were good soldiers but knew when they had enough. Our Major Noise showed his ability and courage to command soldiers while we were there three months. In the last days of October we went to Morganza in Louisiana where we joined our regiment and where I left same. I went to New Orleans to see my dying brother. My brother, Joseph, was a manly man and I yet mourn his loss. Brother Joe, like myself, could have joined the Confederate service and remained in Texas, but was loyal to his convictions and flag, hence his action.

We enlisted for three years or during the war and were mustered out at San Antonio in November, 1865.

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:MASSACRE OF EIGHT MEN:

Major J. W. D. Alexander massacred eight men near the County Seat of Bandera in Bandera County. The men were traveling on the main road that led from Georgetown to Eagle Pass, the spokesman of the party was one Mr. Sawyer; they had two pack horses, four men to a pack ~~and~~ two messes. A soldier returning from his home in Blanco County to his company when Alexander was informed by him that he had traveled some thirty miles with eight men who told him they were going to Mexico. Alexander with twenty-five men put out after them <sup>on</sup> hours after they had passed his camp and overtook them the next day near Castroville in Medina County. All of Sawyer's men were laying down under trees, resting, when hailed by Alexander who had guns ready to shoot. He informed them they were his prisoners. After questions were asked and answered between the parties, Sawyer and men submitted to arrest and were soon on their horses, feet tied together under the horses bellies and hands and wrists corded together, and in that condition they were taken back some thirty miles, two miles from Bandera and there put to death, seven by hanging ~~and~~ Sawyer was shot. The date of the execution was July 25th 1863, and their names are C. J. Sawyer, W. M. Sawyer, George Thayne, Jack Wetmore, Jake Kyle, John Smart, N. Van Winkler, William Shumake. Their wives, mothers and friends caused a tombstone, with their names engraved, to be put over them. The W. O. W. put a fence around the graves.

Messrs. B. F. Patton and Richard Nowlin were part of Major Alexander's command; they were Master Masons and known to be Union sympathizers. While on way back Mr. Sawyer informed Mr. Patton that his mess had seven hundred dollars in gold and the other mess had about five hundred dollars in gold. We were on our way to Mexico to secure us a home there and we don't want to lose our money. What is the best way to secure it from loss? Keep it about you or you may give it to the Major to keep, either way is safe. After that talk with Sawyer, Patton told Alexander of their conversation and soon after Alexander and Sawyer were seen together as they rode on. Some hours later night came on and they camped some two miles Southeast from the town of Bandera. By that time Nowlin heard some soldiers say they would



hang them damned Yankee scoundrels that night. Nowlin told Patton. Sawyer was a Master Mason of the Blue Lodge. Patton and Nowlin could not afford to defend the prisoners, fearing for their own safety Patton called to Alexander and asked a leave of himself and Nowlin to go to Bandera to look for some records there. The request was readily granted and they left their company and went to town.

The next morning Alexander and company reached Bandera without the prisoners and reported that Indians had captured and hung them, ~~nine~~ <sup>7</sup> of them and shot one. The soldiers talked and laughed openly of the affair. O. B. Miles, the County Judge, summoned six men as jurros of inquest and went to where the men were executed and found them, divested of their clothing which was new and good and the men were naked. ~~Nine~~ <sup>Sawyer</sup> of them were hung with two hair ropes of the prisoners which they used to fasten the packs on the horses. One at a time was pulled up to the limbs of a Live Oak tree and the ropes cut off at their necks. Mr. Sawyer said to them, "Don't get another rope, I would rather you would shoot me," when five of the men shot at him with pistols, only one shot taking effect and that in his arm. Sawyer fell on his back, exclaiming: Oh! God! Then William Cude stepped forward and shot him in the breast. A rod, the gun wiper was in his gun on the ball and powder. Messrs. Sawyer and men begged for their lives and permit to write letters to their wives and mothers, but were denied the privilege.

Judge Miles and men held an inquest and their verdict was that ~~teh~~ men came to their death at the hands of Texas State soldiers. Judge Miles and men buried Sawyer and men there in one grave. (See Bandera County records for other proof.) Major Alexander and men reached their headquarters that day at noon. At night of the same day a mock-hanging and funeral was conducted by the men at Alexander's quarters. Some of the men put ropes around the necks of others of their party who would kneel and pray. My brother, Joseph Sansom, who was a Unionist and opposed to murdering men, quietly left the house. Alexander and men of his scout looked at each other and my brother. Sargeant Coke



and other Unionists saddled brother's horse and told him to leave or he would be mobed by them. He left and went to the Federal Army and was killed there in battle. I was personally acquainted with most of Captain Lawhon's Company of State troops; later took eighteen of them to the Union Army where they joined and served in the U. S. Texas Cavalry to close of the war.

No report of that massacre was ever given out to the public. Alexander was a K. G. C. and was made Major by Governor Lubbock. The property belonging to the victims consisted of ten horses with equipment, mens clothing and money, all of which was taken by Alexander and men and they got the property.

The massacre of Union men began under Lubbock's administration and was continued to the close of the Civil War in Texas, 1865. The victims were good citizens, the riff-raff and vicious men of Texas had in the main joined the Confederate and State soldiery and did the bidding of men above them in the rank. Most of the Unionists in Texas would have stayed at their homes as General Houston did, had war not been made against them by Governor Lubbock and General Bee.

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65-

MURRAH'S ADMINISTRATION

1864 to 1865

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16-P

Pendleton Murrah was a native of South Carolina, came to Texas about 1850, was elected Governor as stated above. He was not healthy from that dreadful disease, consumption, which was too much for him to bear up under and administer the affairs of Texas in the time of Civil War. One of his first official acts was good, namely: The appointment of Captain James M. Hunter as Major of Texas Militia in Colonel McCord's regiment of frontier forces with headquarters at Fredericksburg in Gillespie County, Texas, in the latter part of 1864. Conditions in Gillespie and adjoining counties were alarmingly serious, caused by murder and robbery of Union men. A secret association of men was organized in Burnett County by men of the K. G. C., ~~known as~~ <sup>and</sup> Soldiers Friend, and one Mr. Gibson made captain of ~~the~~ <sup>the latter</sup>. Governor Murrah instructed Major Hunter to enforce the law, or, help do so at all hazards. Hunter was a North Carolinian by birth, a Democrat conservative with much legal and executive ability and well known as such by his indorsers to the Governor. Hunter knew he had a critical duty to perform to carry out the Governor's instructions to him, but with courage began the task.

His first step was the appointment of a bright young man, Hampton Cox, as detective to bore into the Soldiers Friend association, which was successfully done by Mr. Cox. As soon <sup>Bounty</sup> as Cox was heard from, Major Hunter arrested one Captain ~~Baity~~ <sup>Baity</sup> of his command, and ~~with~~ five men of ~~Baity's~~ <sup>Baity's</sup> company, and turned them over to the Sheriff of Gillespie County, then sent Lieut. J. G. O'Grady to arrest Captain Gibson at his headquarters sixty miles from there but Gibson was not there. He, with twelve men, was on his way to Mexico. A courier went from Hunter's camp and reported Captain ~~Baity~~ <sup>Baity</sup> and men arrested.

Lieut. O'Grady followed Gibson and men to Padres Nages, Mexico, and caused them to be arrested by Mexican



officers and held subject to Governor Murrah's and Major Hunter's instructions or action. At the time of the arrest I was at Padres Nages, stopping with Mr. McManis, the American Consul stationed there, and on hearing of the arrest ~~of~~ Mr. McManis <sup>and</sup> I went to where they were. I, personally, knew Gibson's men but not him. Our presence caused Captain Gibson to suspect we were there for no good to them and that he would rather be back in Texas than there. Gibson asked the mexican officers to let him go to Eagle Pass just on the other bank from there, where there were two companies of Confederate soldiers with an officer, which was not granted. The next day Captain Gibson attempted to cross the river at a ford some hundred yards away and for that purpose asked the Sargent of the guard to go with him to the river. The Sargent had been out at other places with him ~~and~~, therefore, knew him and went with him. On reaching the ford Gibson made a dash for liberty into the river for the Texas side, the mexican mounted on horse following him. The ford was ~~a~~ deep and dangerous place ~~between them and they~~ <sup>they</sup> fought with water, then Gibson attempted to pull the Sargent from his horse and was about to do so, when a shot by the Sargent with a Colts revolver was fired and Gibson was taken from the river some hours later. I saw him laying on the river bank dead, which brought to my mind his awful deed to other men. I ~~then~~ went to Gibson's men and we talked quite a while. They were fearful of us refugees who had fled from their kind of men in Texas and Mexicans. I told them they need not fear us nor did I believe in danger of the mexicans. Major Hunter was pushing the law on all transgressors he could catch with some parties who had lost relatives and friends at the hands of Captain Bouty and the men with him in jail were attacked in the jail at night with guns. They shot through the jail bars, wounding Bouty and two other men. The men in jail could not be seen by the shooters outside or all would have been killed. Hunter had been an officer some two months. He had broke up Captain Gibson and the Soldier Friend clan but brought upon himself all the fury



of that order and of the K. G. C. and their friends. Major Hunter was cursed by them and the Governor the same, said clans put the country into a furror of excitement, they could not get <sup>Justice</sup> ~~advice~~ <sup>Hunter</sup> of law from ~~State officers~~ and Governor Murrah must do something to quiet matters. Captain Gibson killed in Mexico, Captain <sup>Bouty</sup> ~~Bouty~~ and men arrested and put in jail and there shot, was heaped upon Hunter mostly when he was doing as instructed by the Governor. The Governor did not take Hunter's commission from him, but took his command and gave it to one John Henry Brown of Belton, Texas.

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John Henry Brown's name does  
appear in this book. All said is correct.  
J.H.S.

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#### JOHN HENRY BROWN:

WAR CAREER: 1860-1865:

<sup>home</sup>  
Brown's ~~house~~ was in Belton, Bell County, Texas, in the years stated. He owned a little printing press and published a little paper which was called the Belton News, or some such name. In 1860 and 1861 Brown discovered more Abolitionists, Yankees and their incendiaries than was ever before known in Texas. They were in the guise of Gospel Ministers and other things, they worked among negroes, burned houses, homes and did many other things. Brown so disgusted Governor Houston with the publication of discoveries that Houston said he ought to be known as "Crazy John Henry." Brown was an expert to get himself on committees of conventions and <sup>reptiles</sup>. After Texas seceded and war raging Brown was going here and there and whooping up the corners of the war affairs with his tongue and little paper at Belton, until he conceived the belief that he could do greater service by taking his little press and going to Arkansas to General Ben McCulloch ~~and~~ command so he went. Soon after he flooded the country there with his paper praising the valor of the Confederate officer and men. Thousands of copies were sent back to Texas. Ten days later a battle between opposing armies took place. The fighting was sharp and hard, resulting in favor of the Unionists. General McCulloch and other important officers were killed, the Confederate forces gave way and the Union forces swept over the battle field in victory. John Henry Brown left his little press to the blasted Yankees and never stopped running until he reached Austin, Texas. Brown never got near enough to Indians to shoot at one, nor be shot at, in his long career in Texas, in Indian times when he, with others, followed them, but he would report same in glowing colors. His war record of 1861-65, was the same, he never shot at a Yankee nor they him, he was exceedingly careful, or a first class coward. Brown was made happy when the Governor gave him a commission as Major of Texas Frontier forces. He wanted a commission for his



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work with his little newspaper and wise councils, as he pretended to, backed up by the K. G. C. and Soldiers Friend associations, he was in a position to show his courage by murdering good men that were hiding from Conscript officers in shunning war. There were nine men in Blanco County that were in hiding. Major Brown sent scouts of soldiers at different times who killed eight of them. They were Democrats and Unionists that did not want to fight against the U. S. Government nor Confederate Government. I was personally acquainted with six of these men, the ninth man I recruited. He went with me to the Union lines and joined the Army. He was a good soldier. Brown's soldiers arrested three brothers, William, Gid, and Frank, Wilises in Travis County, aided by the Sheriff there, and took them to the State Capitol, and hung them in open daylight to a Live-Oak tree in sight of the Governor's Mansion. They had wives and a mother in that County. William was a Master Mason of the Blue Lodge; all good citizens and Democrats. The only charge against them was that they refused to be conscripted and put into the army, Many other men were killed by his orders and command. When they killed young Watson in Blanco, he killed two of them and wounded a third man who later died. I was in that county during part of the awful times, recruiting men who wanted to get away from there and serve as soldiers in Texas U. S. Cavalry. I was acquainted with a number of Brown's officers and men *some men*

In January my father and I went from New Orleans to Brazos Island, then Bagdad, Mexico, and to Matamoras, Laredo, ten miles above Laredo and crossed the Rio Grande into Texas, then to San Antonio, Boerne and Cury's Creek. The trip was along one, rough and dangerous. At Bagdad when crossing the Rio Grande from Texas to Mexico, we were attacked by two Confederate soldiers on the Texas side. I had hired some mexicans with their skiff to take us to the mexican side with our horses and baggage. The river was wide. We were near the Mexican shore when two Confederates on the Texas side appeared and ordered us to come back. We answered: "No, No", and they



then opened fire on us, their bullets striking the water in front of us. Father and I returned the shots from the boats and killed their horse which they got behind for protection. They ran and got behind sand mounds from us ~~but~~ <sup>as they ran</sup> we did not shoot at them. <sup>▲</sup> The mexicans cheered us and the Mexican Collector of customs there saw the affair. He gave us a pass to Matamoras and letter to the Alcalde there. At Matamoras we were joined by G. W. Saunders and Henry Swethelm and they went with us to Curry Creek, our home.

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PENDLETON MURRAH'S ADMINISTRATION

1864-1865.

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Governor Murrah was not very well known to the public when he took his chair as Governor of Texas. Ex-Governor Lubbock's reign had been so harsh to Unionists that they hoped for a better time under Murrah. The good people in Kendall and adjacent counties asked the Governor to appoint James M. Hunter as major of a military force then stationed at Fredericksburg, to aid the Civil authorities in said county to check the disloyal acts of the secret association known as "Friends of the South", which he did. That caused the K. G. C. friends of the South orders and their sympathizers to cry aloud against Hunter. The Governor then commissioned John Henry Brown. Major Hunter was not asked to resign his commission but the Governor put Brown in command of Hunter's command without a word between them. The K. G. C. friends of the South and their secret order and friends complained to the Governor of Hunter's work. They said Hunter was shooting down loyal men of the Confederate government and protecting its enemies, where he was only giving the guilty a dose of law.

Major Brown, now in the saddle of authority, soon after his appointment began hunting men who were evading the conscript law and not wanting to become a soldier and fight for the Confederate government. He had a considerable number of good citizens killed with whom I was well acquainted. There were three men of Travis County and all were brothers. William, the eldest, was a master Mason and in good standing in the Lodge and had a wife and four children. Gid, next, had a wife and three children. Frank, 17 years of age, was single and his home was with his mother. All had been Democrats, southerners by birth and owners of slaves, Frank was born in Travis County. The three Willis men were captured by militia men, some of whom were of Major Brown's command, and the Sheriff of Travis County. They were taken to Austin and publicly executed in the presence of the Governor's Mansion. They pleaded for trial by the courts, they asked through



friends that Governor Murrah cause them trial, which he failed to do. Judge George W. Paschal, an able lawyer and jurist of Austin, Texas, showed me the tree on which the three brothers were hung in front of his door in broad daylight and in the presence of many people and he had reason to believe at the instance of Governor Murrah. They ~~were allowed to hang where~~ executed until night and then removed by their wives and others.



HISTORY OF TEXAS  
 From  
 1615----- to-----1892.  
 In Two Volumes  
 By  
 John Henry Brown.

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The Texas History, known by the above title, in two volumes, was given to the public in 1892, most of which was taken from other histories, which I suppose are true so far as will ever be fully known, but all of that part from 1861 to 1892, inclusive, is a story told of one side by its author, who was an active participant in the Civil War struggle between the States, 1861-1865, a Knight of the Golden Circle, Major of military battalion of cavalry on the Texas border, the last half of 1864 to close of hostilities 1865, when and where many good citizens were killed by his command and orders, because they did not go into the Confederate Army and fight against the flags of the American Union. I knew Mr. Brown when he was a young man and all the way of time to his death. I don't believe that Major Brown wished to be a murderer, but desired to be a hero, a great leader of men and things, but that he could nor did not help taking advantage of his official position to appear heroic, and thereby became so criminal that he left Texas and was gone some four years after General Lee stacked his war guns.

Brown's History of Texas was not intended to give a lasting and true account of things that did take place in the years mentioned, but to garble facts to some interested persons named in the book, or some of them for present and future generations.

The picture of the men shown in the book is a plain index of the true author of the work. They, in the main, furnished the means for writing, printing and other expenses. Major Brown



was a willing and suitable person for the editorial labors for which he received distinction as an author, also money on the side for living purposes when he returned from Mexico, financially broken.

There are many things that Mr. Brown failed to give to the public in his history, some of which was the Battle and Massacre of good men at the Nueces River on August 10th 1862, the massacre of eight men in Bandera County, twelve in Kerr County, as many in Gillespie County, eight in Blanco County, the same number in Llano, Mason, Burnett and other counties from Red River to Mexico. The monument at Comfort in honor of the massacred Unionists. I have served the State as a Captain of Rangers before and after the Civil War, serving under Governor Pease, Runnels, Davis and others, fighting hostile Indians and at times hand to hand. No man has commanded more Indian campaigning in Texas than myself. I organized the Union Loyal League in the Counties of Kendall, Comal, Blanco and other counties right under his blink, blind self. Some of his command were members of the Order. Of course the plan of the history was to garble. He naturally left me out in all things before and after the life of his book, because I caught up with him and twisted his ear in 1865 may be some the cause.

Brown is dead long since; I will be soon. He sought for my liberty and life; I preserved his. Were I to advise persons who wish to know correctly the Texas History in the times of war between the States in 1861-5, not to count Brown's History as a fair account of same. It is not in the main, *only by any means*

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Blind  
Copy this on  
Paper & cover in book case

JOHN HENRY BROWN

:1864-1865:

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Brown's war record I knew quite well ~~and~~ I also knew him in civil life before and after the war between the states. He did all he could to bring on the war; he owned and operated a newspaper press. I believe it was known as the Belton News. When Confederate forces invaded Arkansas and Missouri from Texas, led by General Ben McCulloch, Brown went along with his press to report the battles and make heroes. He sat his press and went to work, soon the Union soldiers showed up in force and a severe battle quickly followed. General McCulloch and some other prominent officers were killed and the Union forces swept along over the battle ground in victory. They captured Brown's little Belton News press but not Brown; he made good his run to Austin and reported same to the Governor, and then went on to Belton to where his family was. Brown lost his gun (the press) and never saw it again; the blasted Yankees got it. John Henry Brown kept quiet for a time until Governor Murrah appointed him Major of a battalion of State troops with headquarters at Fredericksburg, Texas, where he held forth till the war ended and where he and his command killed many good men who did not care to enter the Confederate Army and fight for the Confederate Government ~~xxx~~ many of whom I knew well.

I believe that Governor Murrah and Major Brown became to be much alike in their likes and dislikes in what to do with men who failed to go into the Confederate Army and other things pertaining thereto. General Lee was being hard pressed by Union forces in February and March and it was said that Major Brown would be called with his command to go to Lee's assistance. Brown, in order to avoid the call, took three companies of favorite men and went out to the buffalo range on the Concho where he could not be reached if called for by any one. He never got back to



his headquarters until May 27th, nearly a month after General Lee had surrendered himself and army to General Grant. One of his captains, John Tom, told me they went there to avoid going to Lee. What a specter from Brown and his man-killers to desert his cause and General at the last perill. I never knew or heard of Major Brown getting in gun-shot of any one when his soul was in danger of being hurt. When Brown and men got back to his camp and learned conditions they scattered like wild turkeys for their homes. Brown and a few men rushed to Austin to see what was being done. They found that Governor Murrah had gone to Mexico like a wild bull into the brush, also Generals Bee, Chilton and others who had taken part in the murder of good, loyal citizens. Soon Brown saw and learned enough. He then took two government mules and an ambulance and plunged for Mexico, going by his brother's home to get his help. His brother, Rufus Brown, a good man, with good sense. He and I fought Indians together more than once. His home and mine was twenty miles apart. I was watching Rufus Brown's home for the coming there of his brother, Major Brown. After their return from the long hiding I just wanted to know where he was. I had three good men with me and he had but one. I talked nicely to Brown but right to the spot. He had done his best to apprehend me, which, if he had, would have meant death to me at once. I took him by the ear and twisted it and then told him to go to Mexico. His brother plead, don't, don't. I answered that it was over with me. We then mounted our horses and left them. Rufus went to Eagle Pass with his brother where they parted. ~~The~~ Major there went across the Rio Grande into Mexico and Rufus back to his home.

Major Brown remained in Mexico four years and returned to Texas. I met him in Austin in 1871.



~~GOVERNOR RICHARD COKE~~

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Coke was elected Governor of Texas in 1874 and entered upon the duties of same in same year which gave full control of all state affairs to the new democracy of Texas. Those who were slain in the war he caused a history to be written for the purpose of justifying certain men in bringing about Civil War and taking an active part in prosecuting same. Little meetings were held by them to advise, scope, form, name and other things needed for a two-volume history of Texas. That settled, a person to edit the work and finance same. John Henry Brown was selected to edit and men whose names appear most conspicuous in the book of Civil War, 1861-1865, to finance same. Brown was financially broke but with sufficient tact to accept so good an offer to support himself, make heroes of his friends and self, with full access to the State records, men to help in what was needed, he began the work with a light heart. To give importance to his book he took a long range; other histories were copied and changes made to suit him until he reached the time of 1861, secession, at which date he began and told one side of the cruel war story in which he was an active participant in many cruel acts. Much that he stated I knew to be false and rot. The history was not gotten up for truth and to enlighten the public but for the opposite side. He does not mention the Nueces Battle and Massacre on August 10th, 1862<sup>1862</sup>, and of men being hung in Kerr and Gillespie Counties and many other murders done by State and Confederate soldiers under Governor Lubbock and General H. P. Bee, by Captain James M. Duff and command, nor does he tell of the murders in Blanco County and other places committed by himself and command under Governor Murrah in 1864-5, Oh Oh' no. Major Brown shares the distinction and honor of that awful book to be known as The History of Texas, by John Henry Brown.

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## REBELLION

1861---1865.

The Civil War in Texas was horrible to all persons who were opposed to disunion of the States. Our great fears <sup>a</sup> *murders* began under the administration of Governor Frank R. Lubbock and continued until the close of the war in 1865. A price was put on my head if <sup>g</sup> *apprehended*, dead or alive, by both the Confederate and State Officials; the reward to be promotion in either of the governments. I was frequently at home a few minutes at night, the same was true of many other men. Of the latter, some were caught and executed. Still hunters for Unionists in some localities were put out and killed men who did not wish to join the Confederate State Military forces. There seemed to be nothing too cruel for some men to do; not all soldiers were so cruel but enough to spread terror through the country. In some instances men were taken from their homes <sup>s</sup> *coming* to some jail and locked up, then taken out by the vicious and executed. One case was an old man by the name of Lundy, who was an honorable man, a blacksmith and farmer of Blanco County, ~~who~~ was taken to San Antonio by some K. G. C. and was <sup>Turnbull</sup> taken out at night by one Mr. ~~Turnbull~~ and possie, and hung to a china-tree, in a Catholic church yard. The Priest of the church took Mr. Lundy down the next morning. He had the tree cut down and burned. Young <sup>h</sup> *Turkett*, 15 years of age, was whipped to death by Hardy Stockman and Jim Harris to make him <sup>bather</sup> tell where his ~~brother~~ was who had been killed by still hunters of Kerr County. Colvin Pruitt of Blanco County was ~~killed by hanging~~ to make him tell where his father was who was killed by secret hunters and thrown into a cave. I mention some of the horrible acts and give names, but will not give more now of many others. Most of the murders were never known to the public and none through the newspapers, hence it is, or, was never generally known. I have not as yet been able to fully eradicate from my mind the horrors of the Texas war that I was in the midst of. Only people who have experienced the hell of such acts can



ever know a secret organization. By same members of the K. G. C. was formed in Burnett County known as friends of the South. They claimed to be strong. One Mr. Gibson was known as their captain and leader of all of them. They belonged to military organizations of State troops, also to that of K. G. C. friends of the south. The only things ~~and duties they were known~~ to perform, was to murder and rob men who wore the brand of sympathy of the Union. They would gather in small bands, go to some man's who was known to have money, take him prisoner on some pretext and then to the woods nearby and punish him until he gave them his money, then they would kill him and brand him with something that would appear as disloyal to the Confederate Government. By that time, 1864, Governor Lubbock's term was up and Pendelton Murrah ~~was~~ governor.

The people of the western counties petitioned Governor Murrah to appoint James M. Hunter, a capable and conservative man, to the rank of Major with headquarters at Fredericksburg, Gillespie County, to restore order to a distracted people and instructed him to restore order at any price under the laws of the State, and that he, Murrah, would stand behind him. Major Hunter was equal to the task he was expected to do. In a few days he had Captain Bontie and several other state troops in jail, ~~and~~ Captain Gibson and twelve of his followers in jail in Mexico, at Pedras Negras. I was in Pedras Negras at that time and stopped with the American Consul. We learned of the arrest of the Americans and went to where they were. I knew most of the Gibson men but not him. Our presence caused much fear among them. Captain Gibson asked the Sargeant of the guard to take him out and show him about the city, which he did. When they were on the bank at a ford in the Rio Grande, Gibson broke for liberty to cross to Eagle Pass. The guard was on horseback and followed a struggle between them. The mexican shot Gibson with a pistol and killed him and took him from the water, dead. I saw him on the bank of the river. Captain Gibson was a Master Mason and a bright man. He wanted to reach the Confederate officers and men stationed at Eagle Pass ~~and then~~ gain his ~~life and~~ liberty. The killing of Gibson caused quite a stir among the people on both sides of the



river, which resulted in the Americans being turned over to the officers at Eagle Pass, which gave them pardon. Major Hunter broke up the rest of the friends of the south and other Secret clans by giving them several doses of the law. A great hue and cry went forth to the Governor that Major Hunter was doing more harm than good; the friends of the South Order K. G. C. and some others caused the government to commission John Henry Brown as major, who took Major Hunter's place. That done, Brown soon began hunting up Unionists who would not join the Texas war nor Confederate Army which he followed up successfully to close of war. I knew Brown when he was a youngster but never knew him to do any good for his country.

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## C O N F E R E N C E

At the time of the Texas Secession Convention in February, 1861, <sup>which declared</sup> ~~declared~~ Texas no longer a State of the Federal Government. A meeting of Union Loyal men assembled at Austin, Texas, in George <sup>Hancock</sup> ~~Hancock~~'s store, up stairs, to discuss the acts of the secession convention. There were forty one men at the meeting ~~and results to follow same.~~ The meeting was secret from the public; all were slave owners, mostly old men. Judge William E. Jones of Blanco County was called to preside over the meeting and Judge John Hancock ~~to act as~~ Secretary. The president explained the purposes of the meeting fully and then in a five minutes talk gave his views in part and asked others to give theirs and several did so in talks of from two to five minutes along the same line. Much feeling was shown by all. All speakers declared that the acts of the Secession Convention was that of rebellion that would cause war between the states of a most grievous kind <sup>war</sup> ~~with~~ the certainty, <sup>and</sup> ~~(Sam declared)~~ with the abolition of slavery. All speakers gave praise to Governor Sam Houston for his heroical stand in favor of the state and general government. They <sup>were</sup> ~~were~~ of the K. G. C. organization, that the secededers were well organized and was active and that Unionists were not, and they would ~~not~~ follow the lead of Governor Houston. They did not think he would favor war between Texas as a starter of blood spilling. The President and Secretary reported in person to Governor Houston of the meeting and what was said and done by them/ The Governor was pleased with what they did ~~and they were in most part~~ representative men of Texas. At their adjournment they bade each other good bye with sorrowful expressions on their faces ~~and~~ it was a sad affair.



CAPTAIN JAMES H. CALLAHAN:

In 1855 the Lipan Indian of Mexico with some Mexicans made raids into Texas, killed citizens and drove away much live stock. One Jessie Lawhon, neighbor, on Curry's Creek, Kendall County, was killed by them and his home ~~was~~ taken in May of that year. Mr. Lawhon was managing the farm and ranch of William E. Jones. Twelve citizens of the neighborhood assembled at the body of Lawhon, they named James M. Patton to lead them in pursuit of the marauders. Captain Patton and men started with meal, bacon, coffee and salt to last them ten days and were gone 18 days, most of the time living on wild game. At 160 miles the Pecos River and Indians. We saw more than we were willing to encounter that far from home, so left them without a fight and on our way met four of some tribe, fought and killed two of them. Captain Patton's report was made to the people of our home. We were gone longer than was expected by our folks and they feared we had been killed ~~they~~ organized a company to learn about us. William Sansom was named their Captain and when mounting their horses to hunt for us, we arrived safely.

Judge W. E. Jones was favorably known to Governor E. M. Pease. He took Captain Patton's report, went to the State Capitol and caused the Governor to order out a company of State troops under command of James H. Callahan. We took the field in July, fought Indians three times, captured horses from them and returned them to the owners. One party who killed a little girl and scalped her on the Medina river, Medina County, was followed by Dave Walton, Charlie Falier, Ben Hines, Doctor F. M. Martin and I, five of us and ten indians. They had some forty five horses and mules, all gentle and belonged to farmers and stage companies near San Antonio. We came onto them suddenly. Young Chief Castro of the party and I opened the fight, his arrow sticking my gun barrel that saved me. My bullet struck his breast and killed him. We charged and fought with our pistols as they ran. Doctor Martin killed one and we wounded others. Soon the fight was over. We took the Indian trophies consisting of Bows and quiver, shield with little girls scalp and fine beaded slippers, head dress of beads and feathers

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and butcher knife.

With 45 head of horses and at some miles back we met Captain Montell with fifteen of his neighbors coming like mad. They were after some Indians and didn't know we were. They heard our story of the fight and rushed on, saying they wanted to see the dead Indian who killed the little girl and scalped her. They found both Indians and scalped them. The scalp of the little Miss was in a little tobacco sack and tied to the Indian's shield ~~and it~~ was not seen until the next day. The child's father got the scalp a few days later.

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Captain Callahan and men in October were in Mexico and marched out to Little River, twenty-five miles West and met General Lamburg and his command. They were hid from us under the bank of the river, four Indians attacked us to draw us under fire of men concealed but we did not follow them into their trap. General Lamburg then ran his forces out in a military way, which proved to us that we were confronted by 500 or 700 men under an officer who was skilled in military tactics. There were only 111 of us and we realized that we were up against a hard proposition. Captains Callahan, Benton and Henry held a short conference, Callahan called aloud to his command, saying we must whip them or all of us will be lost. We will attack their right wing and sweep them off their position to where their left wing is, then sweep it away ~~and~~ when your guns are empty use them as clubs. We can and will whip them if all of us stay together and fight for life. I will lead you. Remember the Alamo, Goliad and our murdered neighbors. Now we go to victory, follow me, charge, fight my brave men to death or victory. We did follow and fought, part the time fought hand to hand winning victory and in a few minutes we had their place and they another. For four hours we were shooting at each other, long range, doing but little harm to either side. At sundown General Lamburg with his soldiers left the battle field, a little later we drew off to Pedras Negras, taking our wounded with us. Ben Patton and ~~Henry Patton~~ <sup>HUSTUS BENTON</sup> were tied to their horses and men riding behind their saddles to support them. Captain Benton, Gregory, Burleson and other men traveled without help. Our dead; Willis Jones, W. H. Clopton, August Smith and Holaway were taken charge of by Lieutenant Charles Reid, carried to Fort Duncan, Texas, and buried in a military cemetery. I am forced to say that two of our men did not join us in the fight but ran the other way as fast as their horses could take them. Hustus, Benton and I were to ourselves some two hundred yards from the other when Hustus was shot in the front part of his head, his front brain filling the bullet hole. I left him there and joined our main force. Just as I did, his father, Captain Benton, called to me and said: John, have you seen my boy up this way. Yes, I left him a few minutes back, dead, shot in his head, some two hundred



yards up the river from here. The Captain said get some men and bring him here to me. I said if I can get help; that is a hot place up there, call for volunteers. Ben Patton, in hearing of us, said I will go; Aaron Burleson, I will go, and Bill Tom, I will go. The four of us went to Hustus, picked him up by his arms and legs and took him to his father and our surgeon, Doctor Barbee. Hustus got well, went through the Confederate War on the staff of his Uncles, Ben and Henry McCulloch, married at Pine Bluff, Arkansas, lived until January 1915, when he died. Hustus sent me his picture a year back.

We reached Pedras Negras at four O'clock in the morning and camped right close to the Alcalde who had given us away. Our Captain bought supplies for men and horses from him and at the same time assured him that we would not disturb the peace of the town. At that time we could have taken possession of the ferry boat and crossed the Rio Grande at will, but, <sup>not</sup> fearing danger did not do so. Mr. Culen McRea and I were detailed as our rear guard. The third day we reported that General Lamburg was coming with a thousand men. Alcalde gave orders that the ferry boat be cut from its moorings which was done; the Rio Grande on a rampage of water, Callahan seized two pieces of artillery at that place and fixed to fight, went under the bank of the river, fortified, by that time it was 4 O'clock, and Lamburg was on us. His left wing of force extending to the river above us, his right to the river below, his center a half mile in front we were then completely surrounded with the river to the east of us. We opened fire on them with cannon and small arms and they with small arms. The U. S. Army officers at Fort Duncan were Captain <sup>Lieut.</sup> ~~Lee~~ Wallace, later Major General U. S. Army; Lieutenant Burbank, later Major General of Confederate Army. They ran out four cannons, manned. Lamburg was about to charge us. Callahan ordered the town burned. Imagine our desperate stand, the town burning and the four cannons at Fort Duncan manned and pointed at us caused General Lamburg to stop firing. We then stopped. We got two skiffs from the Texas side of the river, crossed it at night, dug rifle pit on Texas side, got in it and crossed our horses the next morning. All of us were then back in Texas and I was glad we were. 'Tis true we followed Mexico Indians to reprimand them and protect our people. 'Tis also true, that in doing so we violated International law, which has since cost the U. S. Government a million dollars, but saved some of our people from the scalping knife.



I will give names of some of the soldier boys I remember best, to wit: William Huse, <sup>and</sup> Simp Tom, Zach Bugg, John Bond, Brint Shuler, Hustus Benton, Eugene Millett, Bill Campbell, Aaron Burleson, Lieut. Bill Kile, Charley Reid, Adolph Norman; William Sansom, my father, and others. All the men of above names were wheel horses in that campaign. There were others of Captain Calhoun's, Benton's and Henry's companies who were their equal in courage. Doctor F. M. Martin and Sol Tinner were the latter and they were my mess mates. Martin and Tinner lost their horses in battle and a rattle snake killed mine.

I know of but five men of the three companies who are now living and I am one of them.



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:INDIAN WARS:

In the years from 1865 to 1871, inclusive, the Indians of several tribes did more murder, scalped more people, took more livestock from the people of Texas than ever before or since. All the army posts on the Texas border were broken up by the Confederate Government in 1861, and had not been re-established by the government or but partially so. Some of the Indian tribes had been taking part with the Confederates, some with the Federal and some were mutual. None had learned to love the pale faces or their conduct to them more than previous. The Kickapo Tribe had been on the Confederate side in war, got tired of it and were on their way to Mexico sometime in March, when they were followed by one Major Totto of Texas State Militia and attacked on Dove Creek in Texas. The Indians whipped Major Totto and men and then went on into Mexico, settled on water of Sabinas River and made war and pilage on Texas settlers. The Kickapoos and other Indians waged war and the settlers were forced to protect themselves or give up the country. My home then was in Kendall County. I did much service in protecting its citizens. There was no money in the State Treasury and but little to be had from any source. The State did not put out soldiers as needed. The general government was busy in re-establishing the old military posts and creating others.



## :CLINT AND JEFF SMITH:

Clinton and Jefferson Smith were two little boys who were taken prisoners by the Comanchie Indians, eight and six years of age, respectively, sons of Captain Henry M. Smith and Fannie Smith, were seized and taken from their homes at Dripping Springs on <sup>Feb. 26<sup>th</sup></sup> March 1st 1871.

Clinton was well treated by his <sup>captor</sup> ~~Captain~~ as long as he was with him. Jeff was sold by his ~~Captain~~ to Indians of Kicapoo tribe who lived in Mexico, and both little boys experienced a sad time and rough treatment at first taking. On one occasion the Indians roped a buffalo, put Jeff on his back, turned the beast loose and Jeff rode the animal some miles before he turned loose, the warriors following on horseback in great glee. Jeff clung to the long wool of the brute and came off without much hurt. I give this account to show the experience of frontier life in part. I have before stated that we got the boys back, and both of them now have nice families and are good citizens. It seems to me that the State of Texas or general government ought to by right compensate them. Surely they are entitled to consideration from some source for such treatment at the hands of the Government Indians.

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HAMILTON'S ADMINISTRATION

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A. J. Hamilton was appointed provisional governor of Texas by President Andrew Johnson, and assumed the duties of same in July 1865, which he held to August 1866. Hamilton was a large man in body and mind, a grand jurist, and possibly the best orator Texas ever had up to and in his time. Hamilton spoke for President Lincoln's re-election 186<sup>4</sup>. His administration was able and satisfactory to all reasonable men and women. A constitution formed by members of a convention was approved by him. An election of State officers was held and J. W. Throckmorton elected Governor and Wash Jones Lieutenant Governor. They took office in 1866 and held same one year and were removed by General Phil Sheridan, owing to much said and done by late Confederates. Throckmorton was a capable and fair man in the administration of his high office. Hamilton was a member of Congress when Texas seceded. He returned to Texas in July and left the same month by way of Mexico to Washington. He was born in the State of Alabama in 1815 and came to Texas in 1846. I knew him well from that last date until the great father called him away. Hamilton was endeared by people who knew him best.

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TEXAS STATE TROOPS OR RANGERS

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The first effort of the Texas Legislature to protect the frontier against the ravages of Indians was under Governor J. W. Throckmorton's administration, 1866-1867. The Governor commissioned ten captains to organize and take the field against Indians as per his orders. I was one of his appointees. I organized my company and reported same to the Governor in ten days time after receiving my commission, but we never did service in the field for the reason that the Governor was removed by an order of General Phil Sheridan. Texas was by Congress held under military law. Sheridan in dismissing Throckmorton said his office was an impediment to good order, so the Governor was out and my labors and company went to the "Bow-wows."

It was not Throckmorton's fault that he was dismissed then, but false friends of his.

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E. M. PEASE'S ADMINISTRATION:

....1867----1869...

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Governor Pease was so favorably known by the people of Texas for his official acts and general courage that I will only say here as follows: Pease was governor of Texas two terms, 1856<sup>6</sup> his last. He was a Union man and opposed secession, hence his appointment by General Sheridan as provisional Governor. Governor Throckmorton removed, Governor Pease resigns for the reason he was unable to serve as military and civil governor at same time in a satisfactory way to himself and other. However, his administration was impartial and approved of by the citizens. He died in 1885; his place of birth was in a free state North of Mason's & Dickson's line.

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DAVIS' ADMINISTRATION

1870-1874.

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Governor Edmund J. Davis' administration as governor was eventful, because it was the reconstructing of the State and people back to the Federal Union of States after the Civil War of 1861-5. Three other governments <sup>and</sup> previously named, had done their official acts in regulating the affairs of State government that only partly succeeded. So difficult was the task, not a dollar in the State Treasury was left after Governor Murrah left the State Capitol and went to Mexico, which was a hinderance to speedy reforms.

The predjudice and non-rest of the many people produced from the war caused much delay in reconstruction.

Davis stood by his colors and that of the American Union, Texas Unionists, honor and fair dealing with all as he saw it. In struggling for supremacy of control of Texas affairs among Republicans, they became divided which was unfortunate and harmful to them, but most gratifying to the other side. Davis' election as governor was the cause of the break that was never healed between them.

In February and March the State Legislature did much under the new constitution. On February the thirteenth, fourteenth and fifteenth the amendment to the U. S. Constitution was adopted and the United States Congressmen elected. March 30th 1870, Congress re-admitted Texas to the Union, military government ended and the disabilities of Confederates were removed.

LEGISLATIVE ACTS:

A bill was passed to protect the frontier, a homestead <sup>and</sup> law enacted <sup>of land</sup> to give actual settlers 160 acres, which was protected against seizure for debt, ~~and~~ cities and town were given proper rights. The governor was given the right to suspend the writ of Habeas Corpus. Public school laws were of the best Texas ever had. Immigration and railroads were of the best, Texas was filled

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settlers as never before and have not fully stopped foreigners more than Americans. Railroads built as never before, and the entire State took a new lease of business life- more than was ever known before in the State. Texas laws had been created by the Legislature which were good and taxes were being collected. All State laws were now fairly good and moving along smoothly. In 1872 the Democrats were in control of both branches of the Legislature and elected members to Congress. In December 1873, Ricjard Coke was elected Governor and R. H. Hubbard Lieutenant Governor. Governor Davis was a candidate for re-election. A question arose as to the legality of the election law which was decided by the State Supreme Court as illegal and unconstitutional, wherein Governor Davis issued a proclamation to that effect and forbade the convening of the 14th Legislature. The Thirteenth Legislature convened. The newly elected Legislature hurried to the State Capitol, took possession of the upper floor, organized and went to work. Davis did not recognize their acts as legal. governor Davis and staff occupied the lower floor of the Capitol, ~~and both parties~~ were armed and seemed determined. January 13th 1874 was a beautiful day, and late that night Coke was declared Governor by the Legislature. Governor Davis yielded to the inevitable and left the Capitol, saying I do not want myself stained with the blood of my fellow creatures but will follow the example of the great Governor, Sam Houston, in 1861, when he was forced to yield his office to the secession convention that the, occupied the Capitol and City of Austin, and who were much the same men in both instances. Yes I am proud of my leaving, the country will be here after all of us are dead.

Davis was a native of Florida and came to Texas in 1848, by profession a lawyer, held a number of offices in Texas before 1861, failed to take the oath of allegiance to the Confederacy ~~and~~ was Colonel of a Texas U. S. Cavalry, Union Refugee

I served in his regiment two years. He was manly. Davis married Miss Britton, a daughter of Captain Britton at ~~Comanche~~ Texas. Britton was a Captain in the Mexican War? U. S. Infantry. Davis and wife had two sons, Britton and Walter. Their homes are



at El Paso, Texas, and Mexico, then Mother Washington, D. C.. Davis was of a fair complexion, six feet, four inches high and weighed 170 pounds, and was said to be good looking. After Davis was mustered out of the U. S. Army he entered into Texas politics under the administration of Governor A. J. Hamilton, and did all he could in again restoring Civil Government in Texas, and <sup>To</sup> the people.

Reconstruction was a knotty problem, much patience and energy was used in the work. Davis was elected to two constitutional conventions and President of the second one, <sup>was</sup> ~~was~~ commissioned to go to Washington and secure Texas' admission through Congress back into the sisterhood of States. Davis and Montgomery were kidnaped in Mexico by Confederate officers and soldiers.

In March 1863, Colonel Davis with some thirty members of his regiment went in U. S. Transport ~~boat~~ from New Orleans to the mouth of the Rio Grande and Mexico, Davis to get his wife and two little boys then at Matamoras, Mexico. William Montgomery went with Davis as company and I as a recruiting officer. The three of us left the Transport together in a small boat. I stopped at the shore and recruited some men there and took them to our Transport. During that time Davis and Montgomery went on to Matamoras for Davis' family, returning the second day with them and stopped for the night with the Mexican Revenue Collector. I was stopping with one Mr. O'Hare, some two hundred yards away from them. I did not know when they arrived, at daylight the next morning. I was informed and told that Davis and Montgomery were captured by Confederates. I saw Mrs. Davis leaving the house in a hack. She was on her way to Matamoras to the American Consul there and Mexican Governor to do for her husband and Montgomery what she could. Colonel Davis told me that there were twenty-six men in the party, Colonels Chilton, Hebear and Duff. The leaders all were of General H. P. Bee's command at Brownsville. Davis was dressed in a Colonel's uniform according to army regulations, which no doubt helped to save his life; his wife's influence helped some and his quiet, calm manner was of good to him. He and Montgomery were jerryed some,



which he calmly submitted to, but that Montgomery showed resentment. They were separated near Brownsville. Davis was taken to Brownsville and then on up the river, put in a good, comfortable tent right near to which was a skiff with paddles in the river which was losely guarded, which he said was no doubt intended for him to attempt his escape and to be shot by a secreted guard if he did. Five days later he was turned over to the Mexican authorities at Matamoras and on the twelfth sent to transport where we were safe from our enemy. Montgomery, poor man, was hung the same day. Months later our regiment went to Texas and at Brownsville we took Montgomery from a shallow grave not deep enough to cover him, and buried him in a Military Cemetery with honors of war. The army and navy of that county were arroused to a fighting point by that act of General H. P. Bee and men.

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INDIAN WAR

In 1870, the Legislature passed a bill for frontier protection. The Governor commissioned twelve men as Captains to form companies on the border and report same for duty to him. I was made captain of Company "C". I organized my company and ~~resumed~~ <sup>took</sup> service on August 25th, 1870, and served until May 30th 1871. I was personally acquainted with almost every man of my company. They were good citizens and as deeply interested in protecting homes as men could be. The Indians were coming at every light moon. My men would ride their horses down and get fresh ones. We had many runs after <sup>Indians</sup> them and some fights, captured horses and returned them to their owners. One scout I made in December to the head-waters of the Nueces River. I struck the trail of some forty <sup>were</sup> indians that ~~was~~ some five days old, making for the settlement. I took it in a rush which lead us to the Nueces Battle ground where ~~others~~ and I fought State and Confederate soldiers on August 10th 1862. Said Indians found the grave of Confederate soldiers buried there and dug up some of them. They were all in one grave. Mr. Men and I gathered the bones of the dead men and reburied them. I resumed my way, as I knew they were too far ahead of me to be overtaken. I turned North of the North fork of the river, caught their trail but did not follow it. The Indians had met with a squad of Captain Richard's company, commanded by their Doctor, who was not much of an Indian fighter. The Indians killed some of the Doctor's men and he some some of them. Had Lieut. Kwartz <sup>wants</sup> been there more Indians would have been killed, I guess than were. I then went to camp, rested my horses some, and when in camp, during the month of February, I received a commission <sup>of Brevet</sup> Brenett, Major of four companies, Swisher, Baker and Cdx were added to "C". All the company were stationed North of my Station, so I was advised by the Adjutant General to move my Company "C" to near Fort Griffin in Shackelford County. Right then a courier came to me from the ranch of Captain Henry M. Smith, which is situated 23 miles North of San Antonio, known as Dripping Springs, that twenty or more Indians had captured two sons

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of his in the presence of his family and carried them away.

The children were my first cousins; their mother and my mother were sisters. I divided my company into three squads, one under Sargent Nelson, <sup>another under</sup> Sargent Jones and third myself. Both s<sup>ar</sup>gents saw Indians and chased them. They were on the upper waters of the Guadalupe River. With eighteen men I went Northeast forty miles that night, camped and slept one hour. Two miles further on I reached a small ranch. The Indians who had the Smith boys had taken some saddle horses from the living yard. Two men and women were in the house but made no resistance to the taking by twenty ~~four~~ <sup>war</sup>riors. My sheperd dog with me, known as General Grant, was trained to traveling. He was smart. I told the General to take the trail. ~~We also came near going~~ <sup>He traveled</sup> at a speed that suited me. At four miles the Indians killed and scalped a man who was cutting poles for fences, and a half mile further attacked some men who were milking cows in the morning. This was known as the Waldroup Settlement. There were about six families settled close around a large stock pen; all arranged for protection against Indians. Only six Indians showed up who made the attack. The women who were at the house preparing breakfast saw the Indians before the men did, and with guns rushed to the men and saved them except that ~~they~~ <sup>two</sup> were wounded. The Indians dashed away horse back when the men got their guns. Stuned by the sudden attack of Indians the men did not shoot. Some one called out, hold your fire. He had got a glimpse of the other Indians. I stopped there but a few minutes to see and hear those brave women tell their story of the attack and then I rushed on with my dog, Grant, showing his anxiety to go. I will risk to say here that he knew the game was important and did all he could to help us<sup>g</sup> working in the lead. At twenty miles we were near them. We struck sand-~~bars~~ <sup>burs</sup> and that was more than Grant could make much headway over. The Indians spied us and scattered. Grant had to be carried on horse back over the ~~bars~~ <sup>burs</sup>. At twenty miles further, night overtook us. We camped and the next morning again took the trail. That day we traveled some fity miles, gaining ground on the Indians but a few



miles in our lead when a wind and rainstorm met us. So great was the storm that we were forced to stop to save ourselves and horses from drowning. The water in the creeks and drains was a raging torrent; we were hoping to overtake the enemy by night and recover the little boys. Clinton, ~~then~~ <sup>eight</sup> ~~seven~~ years ~~old~~, knew they were hard pressed by something; Jeff Davis, the second boy, was too young to know much about the run. We were wet as could be, cold and shivering, horses tired and without food. I said to my men we will not follow the Indians further now, but return to our camp, rest up and renew our efforts. All of us were loath to give up the chase but could do no better then. When we reached our camp and rested up I took four men and went to Captain Cox's Company in Comanchie County and sent Lieut. Patton with Company to Fort Griffin, in Shackelford County, on Clear Fork, Brazos River. Captain Cox reported to me that he had been to Chief <sup>Bearfoot</sup> ~~Beaufoot~~ camp at Old Camp Colorado, where they had stayed some two months each winter for three years.

<sup>M</sup>Beaufoot showed Captain Cox a pass the Indian Agent at Fort Sill had given him some three months back to go as far south as that point when the buffalo went down there in November and back in April.

The Texas Rangers had orders from the Adjutant General not to molest the Government Indians. Captain Cox did not know that warriors of <sup>M</sup>Beaufoot were depredating on the settlers a hundred miles South of their Camp, but when we got together and compared things as they were we knew it was Government Indians who were doing most of the murder and robbery.

Fort Griffin, from Captain Cox's camp I went on to Captain Swisher and Captain Bakers headquarters, advised with them; they had been doing good service, <sup>I</sup> ~~and~~ <sup>went</sup> then to Fort Griffin where my Company "C" came to me.



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Chief Beaufort  
 Commanchie killed  
 by  
~~Captain Jackson~~ ~~Rogers~~ ~~Campbell~~  
 Chief of Tonkwa Indians

Chief Casteel and his tribe of some five hundred souls lived at Fort Griffin. His warriors were hired to the U. S. Government for guides and spies, or most of them. I had known Chief Casteel several years before he became a chief, when Placito was chief. We soon renewed our acquaintance. I told him my business; the kidnapping of the Smith boys, my following the Indians, Captain Cox's report of Beaufort and pass he had from Agent at said Fort. *Sill.*

Chief Casteel then informed me that he knew Beaufort well, that he had fought some of his tribe and that he was heap bad Indian, that he, Casteel, had men watching him all winter and that Beaufort was now at Prairie Dog River on the Washatau River with his tribe of some four hundred in all, and he at once volunteered his service to go with me, to fight them and recover the little boys if we could. I accepted his good offer; my men and their horses rested, I bought a months ration for my men of George Bennett, the settler for that fort. About the first of May we made a start for Beaufort's camp; went up Clear Fork of the Brazos river some fifty miles to near Chief Beaufort's trail from Camp Colorado to Wichita, from that point we traveled North at some seventy five miles to ~~Cretout~~ <sup>Cretout</sup> Creek. There some of my men drank of the water that looked clear and good. Our surgical doctor, J. C. Nowlin, called to the men not to drink that water which they obeyed. Soon it proved to be bad water. There was a spring of good water near by. We stayed there that night and I was forced to leave ten of my men there for nursing and guards for the sick. I was now seventy five miles South of my objective point. There I planned in part my further move and attack. Casteel and his men were good scouts and guides; none could be better. He placed his men as guards and spies outside of mine in front, rear and both flanks at day and night. I at all times knew the enemy had not seen me which was important.

To me



Thirty five miles each day and then attack at night of the second day. My first day was without unusual incident. The second day I struck an Indian trail that came out from my front and turned West, which bothered me. I called on Casteel to learn what he would do if in my place. He quickly said they are a hunting party from the big camp and will return soon, if they are. There were many mulberries at that point, and the Indians had been eating them. I stopped a little time for my men and Indians to eat some. I there received a sign from Casteel that the Indians were returning. In less than a minute the guard hobbled our pack animals. My men were in files for action at all times. I ordered Lieutenant Charles A. Patton to open the fight with the Indians near us. They did not know we were there. Then Sargent Caston to his support ordered Sargent Ben Coopwood to remain with the pack train. The running, shooting and yelling by the fighters was more than Coopwood's men could bear, hence they bolted for the fight. I was then alone and watching some Indians coming on in rear of those then fighting. No doubt they heard the guns and yelling, but must have thought it their party shooting buffalo. They *then* saw me and my pack animal ~~and~~ then ran. I wanted to get to my men who were running in a circle and fighting a mile from where I was. My horse was a good animal and I thought could get to the front of my men. I succeeded to a finish, and when I did I met Chief Beaufoot, ~~friend and foe~~. The country was so brushy we were seventy five or more yards apart when we saw each other. His face was painted red and black. He had a big shield in front of him, *his* ~~which~~ quivered on his back and a six shooter in his hand. He came at me shooting and yelling. I dismounted, turned my horse loose and shot him in the thigh below the shield. He was making straight for his home some miles away. My shot caused him to turn to his right. My horse some yards from me, he was gentle and a grand charger, I mounted and ~~then~~ went for Beaufoot, then more than ~~2~~ hundred yards away. We kept up a continuous



shooting at each other to no advantage ~~and to no advantage to~~  
either of us, I <sup>going</sup> ~~going~~ on him and was hoping for some of my  
men to come to my relief when a voice called. It was my brother,  
Jeff; I am with you John. Sam Patton called; so am I, Uncle.  
Sargent Caston was third. He said give him hell Captain. I  
called to Sam Patton to dismount and kill his <sup>Redfoot</sup> horse which he  
did, breaking the neck of the horse. I was then on the ground  
as the Chief came to his feet and I shot, which closed the  
running fight of some three miles or more. Beaufoot yelled and  
fought until he was killed. By that time and soon after the  
most of my men were on the ground with me. I saw a Tankua warrior  
scalp ~~on~~ Chief Beaufoot. Chief Casteel was there and he told  
us it was Beaufoot. On his shield were scalps of a woman and  
a little girl and three men, the latter we took to be U. S.  
soldiers from paintings on the scalps and his tent cloth. We  
left that place and rushed back to our pack train, then to water  
two miles away, where we <sup>ate</sup> ~~had~~ some dinner. I never knew the number  
of Indians killed in that engagement. The Tankua Indians had  
fine scalps; they may have scalped all that were killed and  
may have missed some. Our only damage in the battle was that  
W. W. Worcester's horse fell with him and broke a bone of one  
leg. My men behaved well in action. I made a practice to lecture  
them at morning roll-call on Indian warfare, that I was exper-  
ienced in. I also told them that I would command them in battles  
which we were most sure to have, but that I would do no fighting  
unless I was forced to do it, but if I went in I would lead if  
I could. After the battle I heard some of the men say: The  
Captain was forced into the scrap but made good. They enjoyed  
the incident

The three Indians I saw make their escape <sup>and</sup> Worcester  
crippled ~~them I knew, but~~ I believed it best for me to draw off  
for a time. I knew that the Smith boys would be put out of our  
reach if there and ~~the~~ the Indians would all be scattered or  
gone from there.

After two hours rest and the surgeon had dressed



Worcester's wound, we returned to our ten men left at Crotent Creek, got them and then went on to Fort Griffin. We camped at night on the South bank of Salt Fork of the Brazos River. It rained so much that night that it kept the men from sleeping but not from eating. The greater portion of two buffaloes were consumed. The next day, May 10th, we met some forty buffaloes feeding toward us. I halted my men and called out for all men who had not killed a buffalo to give their Winchester rifles to the men who had, and with six shooters to satisfy themselves ~~on that complaint~~. They did as told and in a few minutes seventeen buffaloes were killed. I then asked Sargent Coopwood, (known as Major in the Confederate Army) and a California forty-niner to jerk and half cook five hundred pounds of the buffalo meat, which he did, and three hours later we were on march to Fort Griffin. When in twenty miles of the Fort, Chief Casteel sent up a smoke to the clouds, another and a third, which told his tribe that we would be there that evening and that we had fought the Indians with success. He then told me that we would be met by four maiden girls four miles from his camp which they did. They sobed, wept and cried when they saw the Commanche scalps dangling at the end of the Indians poles. Casteel said the weeping was for their people, killed by Beaufoot and tribe. When we were in two miles of the Fort, Chief Casteel wanted to make a sham fight as was their custom on similar occasions; they to run back and forth around my men as we were marching ~~and~~ their horses painted. Their fight was good horsemanship and the shooting superb. I never saw the devil that I know, but sure they were scarry.

Mr. George Bennett the post settler and another man were out killing quail right on the other side of the river and hearing the war whoop and guns came close to the river to see what was there. They first saw the painted, fighting Indians ~~and~~ they turned their big horse and gig, heading for the Fort as if mad, but soon cillided with a stiff brush and turned upside down. When they got to the Fort the horse was there with



the shafts of the gig.

The soldiers saw the <sup>shown</sup> ~~seen~~ fighting, ran out cannon and fixed to fight. They also took us for Indians. I had a field glass and saw the maneuver at the Fort. I then wheeled my company in line, facing them, and put up a white blanket for a flag of truce.

The buffalo of Texas and Kansas were for many years the principal commissary for the Commanchie, Kiowa and some other tribes of Indians. The buffaloes were a migrating animal, they came South in the autumn and went North in the Spring. Many bands of Indians followed them both ways. When they came South the Indians depredated on our settlers most just before returning North. Chief Beaufoot and tribe did that often. <sup>X</sup> Company "C", State Troops followed him four hundred miles, killed him and some of his warriors who captured Clint and Jeff Smith. We did not recover the boys then but two years later recovered Clint and two and one-half years later recovered Jeff, who had been sold to the Kicapoo Indians in Mexico by the Commanchies.



LIEUTENANT GENERAL SHERMAN

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General Sherman had passed the Fort twenty days previous to my return there on an inspection tour of the Government officers, men and forts. Sixty officers and men went with the General as an escort to Fort Sill from Fort Griffin, and when 85 miles on their way they saw Mr. warriors wagon train burning that had been robbed and set on fire and some of the teamsters killed. Sherman hurried on to the Indian Reservation getting there soon after the Indians did. He ordered the two chiefs, Satanta and Big-Tree arrested that were with the party burning the train. The mules and other property taken by them was taken charge of, and ~~they~~ turned Santanto and Big-Tree over to the Sheriff of Jack County. They were tried in said County, convicted and given a long sentence in the penitentiary. They were later pardoned on condition that they be good and aid in pacifying the other Indians who had left the Reservation and to secure white captives among Indians, all of which they promised to do. Big-Tree became stubborn and was killed by soldiers. <sup>in</sup> Satanta acted in good faith in pacifying bad Indians and bringing some white captives. He brought in Clinton Smith, son of Captain Smith of Dripping Springs, Comal County, Texas.

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General Sherman:

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Sherman's inspection of Government affairs in Texas in 1871 was fortunate for the people. His personal experience told him of the bad Indians and General Stanley was told to clean out and put the Indians on their Reservations and keep them there. General Stanley put General McKinzey to do the work which was done. Indians in the North part of the State were kept there and they never did much more mischief. Indians, Mexicans and some Seminole negroes did quite a bit of mischief in South Texas. They killed Mr. Tom McLarren on the Frio River in 1881. McKinzey followed them into Mexico and killed some <sup>of</sup> ~~from~~ that bunch which ended further Indian wars.

I may here say that the United States Government has been neglectful of her citizens who have lost some member of their family at the hands of marauding bands of Indians, some of whom were fed and armed by the government at the time of the killing, scalping and taking of their property. Why has not Congress provided some relief <sup>for</sup> ~~for~~ such persons? Why has the Texas Legislature failed to help such sufferers as well as other states do their people?

I have known several women who lost their men, killed and scalped leaving children to be cared for by hard labor. Ought not the pioneers of a country be cared for and protected by their government, which has been grossly neglected in and by our General and State governments..

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## NEW MEXICO

I went from Texas to New Mexico in 1880 and my friend, Judge John Hancock of Texas, who had served in Congress with Lionel A. Sheldon, then Governor of that territory, wrote to the Governor that I was there and resided in Lincoln County, and if he could interest me in the affairs of that territory it would be gratifying to him and that he believed me competent to do good service in a frontier County like that.

Governor Sheldon wrote me a letter stating that he had received one from Judge Hancock and that if I was sufficiently interested in the affairs of that County to give help in securing better order than was there then, that it would please him. I wrote him that I would help him. The Governor, on receipt of my letter, commissioned me Captain of Lincoln County Militia, sent me forty rifles and fixed ammunition for same. I accepted and at once organized a company of militia. Peter Corn, of Seven Rivers, was elected as First Lieutenant and John Stone Second Lieutenant. Stone lived at Roswell, N. M.. Almost every man in the Pecos Valley for 125 miles belonged to the company. There were many outlaws there then. I aided the Sheriff, Pat Garnett, several times in the discharge of his official duties, also guarded the citizens against the depredation of White Mountain Appache Indians who took horses, cattle and sometime sheep. One Major, Lue Allen, was agent of said Indian Reservation. He and I got along smoothly.

After a few months service I resigned and returned to Texas and quit running Indians. ~~Thereafter~~ my soldiering, when I was engaged in it, was interesting to me. I believed it to be right in every particular ~~and~~ I had been taught to think so from early childhood. Now my mind is changed and I know if I know anything that war is wrong. It is murder in disguise, brought about by our Statesmen and people in general who come before us. All the affairs of men that arise between them <sup>unpleasant</sup> should be adjusted in a fair and reasonable manner and in no other way and do as you wish



to be done by. We should be kind to domestic animals and think how they love you when you treat them well, which they do tell you in their language, then how shy they are of you if you fail to be good to them.

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## UNION LOYAL LEAGUE

And

MAJOR GENERAL E. R. S. CANBY.....

Commanding the Army of the Gulf Corps, commissioned me in 1864 to go to Texas and to take my father with me for company and to aid in my mission if needed. My mission was to learn and report to Captain S. M. Eaton, Chief of Signal Corps, to that Army department all I learned of the Confederate forces; their number, plans and stations, also the wishes, sympathy and number of Unionists, and to organize the Unionists to keep them encouraged and out of the Confederate army. Father and I reached Curry's Creek on February 5th 1865. My first labor was to confer with representative men and with them acquaint them with conditions of affairs inside the Federal lines and to secure their council and aid in my labor. I chose Judge W. E. Jones, who was an able jurist; Judge S. B. Patton, County Judge; James Abbott, an able Baptist Minister, and Doctor Nowlin, a practicing physician, all of whom were southerners by birth and raising, owners of slaves and citizens of Kendall County, near neighbors to each other. My next work was to secure the aid of Dr. F. M. Martin of the neighborhood, a Kentuckyian and a slave owner. Doctor Martin was a Unionist and with twenty-five men was organized to not fight the Federal Government. All had homes in Kendall County and had selected Martin as their leader.

Captain Martin knew of Captain Charles P. Saur and Captain Schuhardt of Comal County, ~~composing~~ <sup>commanding</sup> an organization of union men the same as his, also Captain Robert Mentzdorff of Blanco County, with same kind of organization as his.

There were many Union men serving in the State and Confederate government military service that were known to each other. Most of the men composing said organizations had seen service in the Texas and Confederate Army and had left it.



AMERICAN NATIONAL FLAG

When I began the organization of the Union Loyal League I needed a flag. My mother, wife and sisters, Mrs. Saunders and Dick Martin, made me one- not large but prettily designed for cavalry. My father made a staff for it, ~~which~~ I unfurled *flag* to the public at Curry's Creek in Kendall County, April 15, in the presence of some fifty men of the Union Loyal League, some of whom shed tears freely at seeing the Star Spangled Banner, that had been hushed to them four years. My acts there were to give notice to all personal friends and foes that the flag was our emblem of loyalty to some and what it represented. I was then, as now, thankful and proud of my flag and to those of my family who made and gave it to me. ~~It was the first flag~~ made and hoisted in Texas after General Lee turned in his guns and men to General Grant in Virginia on April 9th, 1865. I then with my flag and company visited officers of the other side and asked their aid in maintaining good order among all the people as far as possible, which they did. *in that county*

The next day, April 16, I went to Boerne, Kendall County, and hoisted our flag on the County Court House, where our presence was much greeted.

May 9th, I went to Comal County court house with three companies of mounted Unionists and hoisted our flag and made appropriate addresses.. Was received by many people, their brass band playing the Star Spangled Banner, with two pieces of artillery belonging to the city fired a salute *that* of thirteen guns to the flag which was heard many miles away ~~and~~ caused many people to visit the city to learn meaning of same. A grand feast had been secretly prepared for us by the ladies who served it at their dance hall. It was certainly a good treat and one that we needed. There were some more than one hundred of then the town people *gave us* a lively time. We fortified the city and put out guards for our safety if needed. The ball was opened in good form by a hundred couple and it



lasted until next day. The hall was decotated with Evergreens from the forest, meaning the late home of the men who lived there.

By that time the whole Confederate government had collapsed and most of the soldiers were returning to their homes. In June I went with a company of men to San Antonio and hoisted a Union Flag on the court house there. In August General Wesley Merritt arrived in San Antonio with some 5000 cavalry abd artillery I then, through his office, made my official report to General Canby which concluded my labors with his office and with the Union Loyal League.

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Up to this date, February 10, 1865, when I had decided to reorganize the Union Loyal League, in the country named, which I made known to my advisors, also my plans of roganization, all of which was approved by them and the greatest caution urged by them.

With Captain Martin I went to the homes of other organizations above mentioned, where I made known to the Captains who I was, what I represented and what I wished to accomplish with their aid. I was fresh from the Federal Army there and was well informēd of military operations going on in states of the Union, and much more I told them that was new and of great interest to them. Said captains were delighted to meet me and join me in the reorganization of the Union Loyal League, and they called their men together that night to meet me and hear what I was doing. Some seventy-five men, all good citizene, well mounted and armed; all with cribs of corn, bacon in their smokehouses and other living supplies. All were anxious to help me. We organized fully and I was named their leader and given by them the rank of Major. I caused them to report to me the progress of recruiting friends to their companies and other matters of <sup>interviews</sup> ~~concession~~ to us every five days and oftener if needed. Captain Charles P. Saur was named as Seigmon Captain of the organization. The organization now complete as far as could be done then, I returned to my headquarters at Captain Martin's camp in a big cedar-brake in Kendall County on the Guadalupe River. Arriving there I learned from my Mother that one Lieutenatn, Wardell, of the Confederate Army, was near there with fifteen soliders hunting for me. Wardell had taught school there. He told my mother that if I was in the country he wished to meet me. Matters were soon arranged for us to get together and Lieutenant Wardell told me that he with his fifteen men were ordered there by General H. P. Bee to arrest or kill me if I could be found and that if successful he, Wardell, should be rewarded by promotion to the rank of Captain. He said his mission was not fully know by the men with him for fear that my name would be used by them indiscretely. He then shoed me the measure of my horses feet taken by a detective at Matamoras, in Mexico, and a few hours later he left me for San Antonio. I then called



on Judge W. E. Jones who was a Captain of a company in Colonel McCord's regiment of State troops, Major John Henry Brown's Battalion. Captain Jones then informed me that Brown had given him notice of my presence in Texas and to arrest me. Jones' residence and mine were one and one-half miles apart, his company consisted of 145 men, most of them Unionists and friends of mine.

Judge G. W. Paschal of Austin informed Captain Jones by letter that his brother at San Antonio had learned from General Bee that I was in Texas. The Paschals' and Jones' were Unionists and my friends. I then informed Captain Jones of Lieutenant Wardell's presence and what I learned from him. Jones then informed me that he, with his company, would make a scout for my arrest three days later in the Big Cedar Brakes on the Guadalupe River in Kendall County. I then informed Captain Jones that I would watch for his starting and follow him on his scout and I did. When the scout would stop to rest, Captain Martin would go to Jones' camp and learn his next move to be. That scout was kept up <sup>two</sup> ~~three~~ days. Captain Jones and Lieutenant J. G. O'Grady came with Captain Martin to my camp. We were together some ~~hours~~ <sup>time</sup> arranging further movements. The scout at an end, I went to Brigadier General John D. McAdoo's headquarters at Fredericksburg, who received me cordially and was my friend. General McAdoo informed me that Major John Henry Brown was gone on a scout over on the Colorado River and that Brown was restless from some cause, possibly fearing that he might be called to go East with his command. I guess that McAdoo was about right for Brown went to the Couch~~o~~River where no white people lived and never returned to his headquarters until the last days of April. The war was over, Brown's command left him and went home, except a few men who rushed to Austin to learn conditions generally of the war. They learned that Governor Pendleton Murrah, had fled for Mexico, together with other things. Then Brown, like the governor, made his exodus to Tucson, Mexico, where he stayed four years in hiding from the friends of men he had caused to be killed. Governor Murrah stopped in Monterey, Mexico, soon after reaching there. ~~He~~ <sup>died</sup> Murrah was not thought to be a vicious man, but broken down in health permitted Major Brown and other flighty, vicious men, to exercise



their desires in the killing of men that did not go into the Confederate Army, who <sup>had</sup> took to the mountains and other places to shun conscript officers when they could.

Captain Charles P. Saur, of the Loyal League, a citizen of Comal County, Texas, was applied to by Governor Murrah for a guard to pilot him West of San Antonio, which guard was furnished and the Governor and party taken <sup>P</sup>ast San Antonio and put on the Eagle Pass Road. The <sup>P</sup>arty passed North of the City. Governor Murrah told Captain Saur that he feared robbery and possibly personal injury <sup>if</sup> he was seen and recognized there. When others and I of Unionists were leaving the country we were hunted and killed if found by Governor Lubbock and Murrah, which surely is quite a difference in treatment. The Union Loyal League were human and did what they could to bring about good will, peace and order. At the breaking up of the Civil War the western Texas inhabitants were greatly blessed by the organization of the Union Loyal League, whose purpose was to give protection to all persons when they could.

I was much concerned watching the maneuvers of General H. P. Bee, Governor Murrah and Major Henry <sup>John</sup> Brown, in the months of February, March and April. They were sending squads of soldiers over much of the country to apprehend and kill me, so I was told by commissioned officers and men that I met at that date, some of whom were Captain William E. Jones of Kendall County; Lieutenant Wardell, and Sargeant Terry O'Neal of Bear County, and Captain Rapp and Lieutenant Ben Thompson of Travis County. All the officers named were my friends except Captain Rapp and Lieutenant Thompson, both of whom I made prisoners at my home in Kendall County in this way: They were sent from Austin by Governor Murrah with twenty-five men to capture me. On March 20th they rode into the yard of my mother, dismounted, tied their horses to gallery posts of the house, trees in the yard and to the fence and called for feed for their horses and breakfast for themselves. Mother pointed to the barn and asked them to help themselves to corn and fodder, which they did, feeding on the ground. Mother, my wife and two sisters hurried to prepare them breakfast. The soldiers occupied rooms, beds, lounge and chairs of the house, robbed the women of all their money, jewelry and some of their clothing and mens clothing. Mother did not know of the



robbery until they weree gone in the afternoon. Captain Martin, Ben Patton, Buck Blevens and I saw the soldiers as they came to the house. We had left Captain Martin's camp to get our mail two miles back from there with fifteen good men in camp, we were careful to keep ourselves concealed from them, believing they were hunting for me and would leave soon. When they were through with their breakfast one man, addressing mother said: We are told that you all ate United State women, damb Yankees or both, now tell us what you are, My sister, Mrs. G. W. Saunders, answered the man. She said: Mr. we are southern citizens of the United States by birth and raising back to Colonial days, some of our men belong to the Union Army, we are here a helpless lot of women and children. The man then cursed out the women and said that the place ought to be burned and the women thrown into the flame. Sister then said your dinner has made you sick I fear. At that Lieut. Ben Thompson said to my wife if you ever see your husband again give him my compliments and he continued to say: This family is one that sticks to their colors and men. The talk of house burning stopped them. Soon Captain Rapp and Lieut. Thompson mounted horses and went to where some of their spy friends lived. I anticipated their purpose and then said to my men: I wish to take them prisoners if we can. They consented, we chose place to arrest and did so in a satisfactory way to us, but most alarming to the men. They put their hands on six shooters, I warned them to make no bad brakes, that they were prisoners, in safe hands if they chose.

I asked them their names, who they were and their business there. Thompson answered this is Captain Rapp I am with. I am Lieut. Ben Thompson of Auston. We were ordered here by Governor Murrah said Captai n Rapp, to arrest deserters. His words were spoken in a trembling tone. Sure I never had before witnessed two men who were so blank as they appeared to be, confounded and want of speech. There were four of us, well armed with guns and pistols, and they with pistols only. They saw no chance of escape. I soon calmed their fears. I asked in a kindly way: Are you not hunting one notorious John W. Sansom, to which they answered in the affirmative. I am your man. You are Captain Sansom said Thompson,- I once knew you, yes I remember seeing you once.



I asked, ate the men at the house your company. Yes, they said. What are you going to do with me? They answered: Its your say and not ours. What were you promised as a price for me. Money and promotion in army ranks, both men answered. Will you take your men, leave this country with them, never come for me again and never tell you saw me if we will give you a chance to do so. Their answer was: We will surely do so. On honor you will: Yes, they said. I then said. Men I believe this horrid war will come to an end soon. Lincoln has Davis' hog tied but Jeff squeals some yet. Now men you are free to go, be good. Most surely they were a pair of happy men and they appeared to be so. All shook hands and they went away chatting and laughing with each other. They took their men and went away and made good their promise to us. This was now about March 20th, I believe the last scout sent for me.

*John*  
Major, Henry Brown was gone, I knew not where, my Captain's men and self were doing our best to locate him and three companies of his men. I had men to visit his headquarters at Fredericksburg daily to April 27th, when he returned from his month of hiding from a call by the Confederate Government that he feared. Finding that the war had closed its horrid strife and the people thereabout calm and happy the three companies of men, went to their homes while Major Brown with a few men went in a rush to the State Capital to find the Governor gone. Major Brown then loaded an ambulance with food supplies and started to Mexico, going to his brother, Rufus Brown's house on Flatrock Creek in Kendall County, twenty miles West of my home. I, with Captain F. M. Martin, and three other men caught up with the Major near his brother's home and went with him to the house of his brother. I caused him to tell me he was going West. I, of course, knew the rest. I gave Major Brown some plain talk. His brother, a splendid man, plead his case. I took the Major by his left ear and twisted it, then told him to go, that he and I were even on the question of war. Rufus Brown escorted his brother to Mexico.



IN GOD I TRUST

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I, for many years, have looked to God for divine help in all things pertaining to myself. I am at least benefited in feeling that I have performed a duty to where duty belongs.

I am the first born of my mother; I remember her and father's youthfulness; I lived with mother fifty-five years, father ~~sixty-nine~~ <sup>92</sup> years and with my wife more than fifty-four. I was bending over their bodies when they passed to their long homes; I saw the mussels of their precious faces quiver and sink as the breath of life left them; I hurried and gave them tombstones and flowers. I witnessed much the same in the death of ~~four~~ <sup>two</sup> brothers and four sisters. Two other brothers and myself are still here. My dead comrades of the Indian and Civil wars who fell in sight of me, like that of my parents and family, are all in full view of me now.

To me my past life has been full of events. Adding to my experience in wars, I have taken part in chases of many kinds of wild, ferocious animals in Texas, New Mexico and Arizona; the Black, Silver-Tip, Synimon and Frizel bears, the panther, leopard, tiger, wolf, musk-hog, buffalo and many other animals I have seen and slain. The reptile family I shuned most, have had the rattle snake hung by his teeth to my pantaloons. I have slain thousands of them.

I have never been dangerously wounded by men, in war, nor in hunting wild animals.

I have been in ship and railroad recks, earthquakes, hail-storms and rushing streams of water that did me no harm.

Had measles, mumps, fevers, chills, small-pox, cut open twice by surgeons, and am yet here and in fairly good health so far as I know.

The popular generals, Ben McCulloch and dashing General Tom Green led an eventful and strenuous life in the Texas, Indian and Mexican wars, of long years back. Their friends were proud of them and hoped for their further success, but alas both of them met their fatality in the Civil War between the States.



MY PARENTS AND I:

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My parents and I were companions from my birth to their death; mother <sup>seventy</sup> ~~forty~~ four years and father <sup>1192</sup> ~~sixty nine~~. My mother was all loving and serving to me and her other children; ~~of mine~~ she was God-like as a mother could be. Throughout her life she was playful to her family and they to her. I shared largely of her smiles and jokes. Our father was much like mother but could not be her in many things. I have slept with my father more nights than I ever knew a father and son to sleep together other than ourselves. We have been in several battles with Indians and Confederates, together; I have met him on the battle grounds hunting for me after an engagement and I for him. Sure we were pleased to meet again. I can now remember his fond smiles at such meetings. We have been in the chase for wild game from my early boyhood to old manhood; thousands of game such as buffalo, panthers, tigers, leopards, deer, antelope, elk and many other kinds of game have been captured by us. I at times showed timidity at the capture of some of the game which was enjoyed by father very much at the time. He was the safest and best hunter I ever knew, always careful in close places. Father's love for dogs, the hound, his greatest favorite, for seventy years he owned a pack of hunting dogs. I have often seen him and his dogs mixed in the killing of bear, he with his knife, only, also other rough animals. The buffalo was the meat most sought for by Indians, the ~~herg~~ next. I have eaten, cooked in camp, all kinds of meat fit for use. The horse meat is a little bit sweet to me, I have only eaten it at the camps of Indians and when and where I have driven them away from it, when driving them out of our settlements.

When my father first settled on Curry's Creek in Comal County, now Kendall County, with his family in 1850, he was the outside settler west. Then all the upper waters of the Gaudalupe,



Medina, Frio and Nueces River were thousands and thousands of bear, buffalo and other game, including bees and honey. Sure it was a Garden-like-Eden, I guess with many kinds of wild fruit.

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*Laid aside portion*



RISE AND FALL

I have seen the State of Texas when she was an independent Republic, a state of the Federal United States, when she left the Union and joined the Confederate States of America; I saw the rise and fall of the Confederate States; I saw Texas when she returned to the Federal Union; I witnessed the American Mexican war; I saw the several tribes of American Indians driven from the lands of Texas to United States Indian Reservations; I witnessed the Spanish-American War; I saw the war between the States of the United States 1861-1865. I was an active participant in most of said wars and interested in all. I have fought for my life, country and people with all the earnestness of my soul. As if such success on my side depended on my personal effort. I was sincere in all I did for my side. I was then a young man and my side was successful so it was said. There were more of us than of them. They said they were forced to lay down their arms but not conquered nor convinced they were wrong.

My experience of war and some other things have changed. I now believe wars to be wrong, possibly ninety-nine per cent of murder, more or less. Diplomacy should be used judiciously in all matters of settlement where people need help to arrive at fair adjustments of affairs. We, in all matters, should be governed by nature's law as near as possible: To do unto others as you wish to be done by, is a good rule and will win in most cases.

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## :JUDGE WILLIAM E. JONES:

*Jacklow County 1808*

Judge Jones was born in Georgia ~~1808~~ <sup>1804</sup> came to Texas about 1840. He was a participant in the Plum Creek Indian fight in 1844 and taken a prisoner at San Antonio in 1842 by a Mexican general and carried to Mexico, released from prison and was made District Judge in 1845 by Governor Pinchuy Henderson, and later elected to said office twice and to the State Convention in 1865. He settled with his family at the mouth of Curry's Creek in 1850. Later head of said stream in Comal County, now Kendall. He was the leading spirit of that community and County. He caused the County of ~~Bandera~~ *Blanco* to be created and organized in 1857, then later Kendall County in 1861. Judge ~~Jones~~ <sup>Jones</sup> died at Llano in 1870, in his seat when Judge of the District Court. Judge Jones was a great benefactor to the people where he resided, he divided liberally his goods with the needy, was a considerable newspaper man, was the first editor of the San Antonio Express after the war between the States in 1865. Jones married Miss Kesiah Rector. They reared six sons; all good men. Judge Jones was opposed to a cession of the States of the Federal Union and he remained at his home, taking no side with arms.