



THE



Newsletter of the Texas Lonestar Greys (*The Biggest Little Camp in Texas!*)
Sons of Confederate Veterans, Camp 1953, San Antonio and Schertz, Texas
Our Brothers in the Sul Ross Chapter of the Military Order of the Stars and Bars
Serving our members in; Parts of the Hill Country, East Bexar County, Western Guadalupe County, and Eastern Wilson County, Texas.



REVISED Again in 2015 July and August dedicated to The Texas Lone Star Greys and named for the Cry that chilled the Hearts of the Intruders, brought Joy to the True Believers, and Echoes still heard in the Hollowed Valleys, Plains, Forests, Swamps, Bayous, Rivers, Shores, and Upland Reaches (Hills and Hollers) of the BELOVED SOUTH LAND!

VOLUME VIII (*YES, THIS IS THE TENTH YEAR of the REVISED PUBLICATION*),

Number 3; Vol. 7 (more or less ok; likely 10 now), MARCH 2025

Rules for Contributions: This newsletter will post meeting information past, present, and future meetings and activities; announcements from other camps in our area; articles (please use sources); editorials or comments will be accepted but they must be acceptable **ABSOLUTELY: no bigotry or racial prejudice will be accepted** this is an organization for **HERITAGE NOT HATE**; if you are interested in buying or selling items of organizational interest your announcement is encouraged; finally if you want to include historical trivia related to southern heritage feel free to submit (include your source); **CAMP STAFF**

MEETING: The meeting was called to order by **Camp Commander Juan Ramirez** at 6:32 PM. Invocation was offered by **Camp Chaplin Mike Reynolds**, **Roy Taubert** led the pledge to the US flag followed by **Trans Mississippi Commander John McCammon** leading the pledge to the Texas flag and the salute to the Confederate flag. *The Charge* was read by **Juan Ramirez**. A special thank you to **Katy Reynolds**, **Darrah McCammon**, **Irene Ramirez**, **Christian Lee (Alamo City Guards Camp) Commander**, **Cody Crislip LT CDR (Alamo City Guards Camp)** and **Airen Burke**. A very special thanks to **Mr. Allen Kosub from the La Vernia and Wilson County Historical Societies**. Thank you for your fellowship it is greatly appreciated.

Financial Report from our last statement was \$3012.32.

Old Business: included the Texas Reunion in Mineral Wells, Texas 6-8 June 2025. National Reunion in Houston, Texas July 17-20, 2025.

Confederate Heroes Day Dinner reported by **Alamo City Guards Camp Commander Christian Lee** was a successful event, the location was a huge hit and will be the same location for next year's dinner.

Texas Lonestar Greys Camp annual Christmas toy drive was carried by the Wilson County News always supportive of our and historical preservation events and causes.

Alamo Historical Society Symposium March 7, 2025. SEE ANNOUNCEMENTS SECTION.

New Business: *"21st Century Confederate Heroes"* Texas Lonestar Greys voted during the January meeting to participate in the fundraiser four members pledged \$100. Each, the balance will be paid by the camp. It was also decided that the "paver" would be in memory of our past **Adjutant Don Lawrence**.

The Program: *Reconstruction*. Dealing with the role Wilson County and eastern Bexar County played before, during and after the Civil War. **Mr. Allen Kosub** is an excellent speaker, and I hope he will return soon. Mr. Kosub fits right in, he is most knowledgeable on area history, a fellow Veteran-Thank You for Your Service, and we were happy to have had him as a guest. The Camp presented Mr. Kosub with a Texas Lonestar Greys Camp coin.



Allen Kosub local historian gave an excellent presentation.

Benediction prayer was offered by Mike Reynolds then we all sang *Dixie* before calling it a night.

Juan Ramirez

Juan Ramirez
Commander,
Texas LONESTAR Greys



NEXT MEETING: at [Casa Jalisco, 6846 US Highway 87 E, China Grove, Texas](#). We commence gathering at 6:00pm to order our food, drinks, and to socialize. [Thursday, 20, MARCH 2025](#) the meeting starts at 6:30 PM (more or less). **Please bring a guest, friends, and family members and a potential new member.** PLEASE attend, bring family and friends. We are unsure about the program, watch your email, cell and landline for updates on the meeting.



ANNOUNCEMENTS:

ALAMO SYMPOSIUM UPDATE

This is a final reminder that the 2025 Alamo Historical Society Symposium is coming soon on March 7 in San Antonio. You do not have to be a member to attend.

Craig Covner, without doubt the world expert on the physical structures and layout of the Alamo, will be giving a presentation of his best conclusions on how the Alamo compound and its defensive features appeared in March of 1836. Renowned Texas historian Dr. Stephen Hardin will be discussing his new book about the Runaway Scrape—the destructive and chaotic retreat that so devastated Texas following the fall of the Alamo. And Mexican Army authority Gregg Dimmick will give a presentation finally revealing the true number of casualties suffered by the Mexican forces at the Battle of the Alamo—a verifiable number that most will find quite surprising. For anyone with an interest in the Alamo, this outstanding program is one that you do not want to miss.

For the schedule containing all the details, please visit www.savethealamo.us.

Please support the Alamo. Take the initiative. Please attend this monumental program and be a part of this grand gathering of Alamo Patriots. We look forward to seeing all of you there.

Remember the Alamo!

Rick Range
President

Save The Alamo Committee

PS If anybody would like a copy of our new book, [David Crockett Went Down Fighting: How We Know it](#), I will be there signing copies.

P.P.S.—Please forward this message to all our SCV compatriots and ask them to also forward it to everybody else that they can. Thank you very much. Deo Vindice.

 Congratulations to Jim Silvers and Rusty Harris on your tenth consecutive year as a member of the Texas Lonestar Greys and the Sons of Confederate Veterans. **Happy Anniversary Compatriots.**



SOUTHERN CUISINE: JEFFERSON DAVIS PIE



The Jefferson Davis Pie, sometimes called the KENTUCKY PIE, is a custard pie, like a chess pie. Its origins are obscure, to say the least, with some claiming that it was a recipe created by a slave woman with the name of Jefferson Davis added much later, others that the slave woman named it the Jeff Davis Pie herself, and others still claim that it found its origins in the Davis household being a family recipe. With many different versions of the pie, it is hard to tell if the references to the pies across history are the same pie, or different pies by the same name. *OK folks your "Staff" has heard of chess pie and consumed one or two but never heard of a Jefferson Davis Pie, just thought since we like to eat all the so-called "bad stuff" we would add this one. Git-r-dun! Y'all.*

THE RECIPE:

PIE INGREDIENTS

1 deep-dish pie shell, unbaked
1 cup white granulated sugar
1 cup of brown sugar
1 Tbs. flour
1/4 tsp. nutmeg
1/4 tsp. cinnamon
1 cup heavy cream
4 eggs, slightly beaten
1/2 cup of butter (1 stick), melted
1 Tbs. lemon juice
1 tsp. lemon zest
pinch of salt
1 tsp. vanilla

WHIPPED CREAM INGREDIENTS

1 cup heavy whipping cream
3 Tbs. white sugar
1 Tbs. good Kentucky Bourbon

INSTRUCTIONS

Preheat oven to 400 degrees.

Mix the sugars, flour, nutmeg, and cinnamon. Add cream and mix.



Add eggs and mix.



Add butter, lemon juice, lemon zest, salt, and vanilla and mix



Place the pie shell on a cookie sheet. This helps the pie cook evenly and it catches any spill overs. Pour the mixture into the shell and carefully place it in the oven. Bake at 400 for 10 minutes. Reduce heat to 350 and bake for approximately 40 -45 minutes. It will puff up some but will fall back down when it cools. Cool and serve with whipped cream... bourbon whipped cream is especially good!



Whip cream and sugar until peaks form and then fold in bourbon. Serve immediately.

SOURCE: www.virginiagentrymagazine.com/p/the-jefferson-davis-pie

GO YE FORTH AND EDUCATE THE IGNORANT AND NON-BELIEVERS.



***CHAPLAIN'S MESSAGE: Originally Contributed or Inspired by Sanford Reed; 6th (South Texas) Brigade and past Texas Division Chaplain (National SCV Genealogist) and our Camp Chaplain the late Tom Guion. This issue Compatriot Sanford Reed inspires us spiritually by touching our hearts and souls with a patriotic inspired prayer. Thank you, Chaplains Reed, and our departed Brother; Tom

Guion. Our Current Camp Chaplain: Mike Reynolds gives us spiritual inspiration and his efforts are always welcome and deeply appreciated. ***

Empty Spaces

“What shall...we use...to fill...the empty...spaces?”

A songwriter wrote this line almost half a century ago. Forty-eight years later, folks are still asking that same question.

Imagine you have a mason jar, and you need to fill it to the brim. If you take a bunch of stones and fill it to the top there is still empty space left in the jar, in between the rocks. To fill it further you can add some pebbles but there will still be empty spaces. Only when you add fine sand to the jar will you fill in all the empty space in the jar and truly fill it to the brim.

Where am I going with this you ask?

Every day there is a new jar to fill. You get a new one every day and the old one is sealed.

The day-to-day tasks needed to get by, family, job etc. are the stones. You must put them in your daily jar just to exist but there is still room for much more.

The pebbles represent our hobbies, likes and other things that we spend our free time doing. They fill in some of the gaps in our daily jar but there is still room.

Eventually everyone will feel the need to find a way to fill those small voids.

Relying on the physical world and its ways will only go so far. The physical world is only concerned with itself not the individual.

True fulfillment can be found in a personal spiritual relationship. No two people are the same and no two of those relationships will be the same either. I am not going to say that my way is the only way just as I am not going to say that it is not. I know what I believe, and we will leave that there.

If there are times when you are feeling your jar is still empty at the end of the day, take a little time and cultivate that spiritual relationship. You will eventually find that the empty spaces are being filled. (And many times you will find that is where the blessings are.)

As for that songwriter? He relied on the world to fill his daily jar and never put anything but large stones in it and is a very miserable lonely person today.

Mike Reynolds

Mike Reynolds,
Texas Lone Star Greys,
Camp Chaplain

***NOTE: the insignia for the Confederate Christian Chaplains used by the Confederate army we also included a symbol of all our Old Testament predecessors and used the U.S. Army Jewish Chaplain branch insignia the Confederate army included thousands of Jewish soldiers they had no official chaplain corps rather local Rabbis filled in when possible and soldiers who took it upon themselves to hold services. Since we have a number of Jewish Compatriots in the SCV we could not overlook their faith.



SOUTHERN CULTURE, HUMOR, PRIDE and PRINT

FAMOUS CONFEDERATE CONNECTIONS, just a few, we will do some of these periodically but not every issue.

JERRY LEE LEWIS (“The Killer”)



“The Killer’s” great-grandfather; John G. W. Lewis: Confederate Soldier 28th Regiment, Louisiana Infantry (Gray's) Company C M378 ROLL 17 BIRTH 1828 Georgia-DEATH 18 Feb 1893 (aged 64–65) Lincoln Parish, Louisiana, BURIAL Greenwood Cemetery Ruston, Lincoln Parish, Louisiana, PLOT 2-Sec 11-Lot 8,



(“The Killer’s”) great-uncle or his great-grandfather’s brother; Captain William Andrew Jackson Lewis, Company C, 28th Regiment, Louisiana Infantry. BIRTH 10 Dec 1833 Georgia-DEATH 20 Aug 1916 (aged 82) Ruston, Lincoln Parish, Louisiana, BURIAL Greenwood Cemetery, Ruston, Lincoln Parish, Louisiana, PLOT 2, section 2 CSA



JIMMY LEE SWAGGART: Noted TV evangelist for decades and cousin of Jerry Lee Lewis and Mickey Gilly.



Jimmy Swaggart who is a first cousin of Jerry Lee Lewis both men's Rebel ancestor is the same man: **Great-grandfather; John G. W. Lewis:** BIRTH 1828 Georgia-DEATH 18 Feb 1893 (aged 64-65) Lincoln Parish, Louisiana, BURIAL Greenwood Cemetery Ruston, Lincoln Parish, Louisiana, PLOT 2-Sec 11-Lot 8, Confederate Soldier 28th Regiment, Louisiana Infantry (Gray's) Company C M378 ROLL 17 as is: **great-uncle or his great-grandfather's brother; Captain William Andrew Jackson Lewis** BIRTH 10 Dec 1833 Georgia-DEATH 20 Aug 1916 (aged 82) Ruston, Lincoln Parish, Louisiana, BURIAL Greenwood Cemetery, Ruston, Lincoln Parish, Louisiana, PLOT 2, section 2 CSA **Company C, 28th Regiment, Louisiana Infantry.**



BILLY GRAHAM: internationally known evangelist for many decades, spiritual advisor to U.S. Presidents, who led hundreds of Christian Crusades in the U.S. and around the world.



Grandfather and great-grandfather of REV Franklin Graham

William Crook Graham: BIRTH 28 Sep 1841 York County, South Carolina-DEATH 17 Nov 1914 (aged 73) Mecklenburg County, North Carolina, BURIAL Sharon Presbyterian Church Cemetery, Charlotte, Mecklenburg County, North Carolina,

Mr. Robert Graham, a well-known Confederate veteran, Mr. Charles Graham of the county, and Messrs. Archibald and Hamilton Graham of Mississippi are the surviving brothers. There is one sister, Mrs. M. L. Merritt, of Dallas, Texas. At the first outbreak of the Civil War Mr. Graham entered the Confederate forces as a member of **Company B, sixth South Carolina Regiment, and fought until the last gun was fired. He was wounded at the Battle of the Wilderness.**



The older gentleman in rear is grandfather

Brother of Grandfather Robert Gamewell Graham BIRTH Aug 1845 York County, South Carolina-DEATH 10 Oct 1921 (aged 76) Rutherford County, North Carolina, BURIAL Sharon Presbyterian Church Cemetery, Charlotte, Mecklenburg County, North Carolina. **COL. "PEG LEG" GRAHAM DIES AT RUTHERFORDTON, Oct. 10.** --Col. Robert Gamewell Graham, age 76, Confederate soldier, died here today at the home of his son after an illness of several months. He was widely known as "Peg Leg" Graham because of his wooden leg, which he carried in place of the one left at the battle of Cold Harbor in June 1863. CO. B., 6th S.C. INF., C.S.A.,



Grandfather of Billy Graham on his mother's side John Albert McCall

BIRTH 13 Dec 1828 Mecklenburg County, North Carolina-DEATH 16 Feb 1894 (aged 65) Mecklenburg County, North Carolina, BURIAL Sharon Presbyterian Church Cemetery, Charlotte, Mecklenburg County, North Carolina, **Mexican American War Veteran: Served with Company A, 3rd NC Regiment. Confederate Veteran: Served with Company F, 5th NC Cavalry, later with Company C, 1st NC Cavalry, and later in Company I, 48th NC Infantry. wounded at Cold Harbor in June 1864.**

Uncle of Billy Graham's mother; Josiah Franklin McCall

BIRTH 7 Apr 1822 Mecklenburg County, North Carolina, DEATH 25 Sep 1864 (aged 42) Charlotte, Mecklenburg County, North Carolina, BURIAL Philadelphia Presbyterian Church Cemetery, Mint Hill, Mecklenburg County, North Carolina, **Co. H; 35th Regt, NC Inf, C S A, Josiah Franklin McCall enlisted in Co. H 35th NC of Ranson's Brigade. He was mortally wounded at Petersburg, hospitalized 21 August 1864 through 7 September 1864 when he was given thirty days leave to return home. He died in Charlotte, NC 25 September 1864, eighteen days later. He is listed as killed in the Confederate records.**



TEXAS and CONFEDERATE HISTORY BLACK CONFEDERATES

Staff

Sadly, for the sake of history one of the most overlooked ethnic groups that served, as soldiers in the Confederate army were blacks who actively and honorably served nonetheless. It is hard to imagine especially in today's rigidly almost fanatically politically correct presentists society that blacks served in the Confederate army. The 37th Texas Cavalry Regiment had at least one black non-commissioned officer in its ranks, a man named James Washington was a third sergeant today's equivalent rank is sergeant or as is commonly referred by military careerists as "buck sergeant" which is the initial grade of sergeant. Companies A; C; and D; of the regiment contained enlisted black troopers that fought several actions in neighboring Louisiana. Moreover, this regiment also known as the 34th Texas contained not only black enlisted men, but also Indians, and Hispanic members. The regiment was truly a diverse organization that fought gallantly in the Battle of Mansfield, Louisiana.¹ There have been numerous attempts to place a number as to how many Blacks actively fought for the Confederacy, and yes, they did fight as infantry, cavalry, and artillery and served as sharpshooters; for the moment; we can keep digging up stories told by those who were in the fight and list them accordingly. Eventually combined research from many historians professional and hobbyists a reasonable estimate may be determined. Academia has approached this subject over recent decades with both skepticism and determination to document the truth. Political correctness and "wokeism" have put a severe damper on the subject but academians and journalists such as the late Dr. Walter Williams made a tremendous amount of progress in stimulating research and sounding the tocsin for honoring Black Confederates. It took a Black academians well respected and known like Dr. Williams to get the proverbial ball rolling. Since his passing other historians both professional and the amateur, historic researchers, have made substantial progress in the area of Confederate studies. In observance of Black History Month, we can at least publish some of the information thus far revealed and pass it on.

Confederate guerrilla Captain William C. Quantrill surprisingly had at least three free blacks actively serving in his command, the men were noted and trusted scouts one man, John Noland infiltrated Lawrence, Kansas gathering key information that Quantrill needed to conduct his devastating raid on that town.² Noland a scout and combatant was the inspiration for one of the lead characters in the movie "Ride with the Devil." Aside from Noland, there was John Lobb and Henry Wilson both post-war members of the United Confederate Veterans attending numerous reunions of Quantrill's Raiders. Interestingly, Noland and Wilson were amongst the five remaining guerrillas at the last reunion held in 1929.³ Other members of Quantrill's command are quoted as saying that Noland was "a man among men."⁴



John Noland

Accounts of blacks actively serving as combatants and in combat service and combat support roles are numerous and not terribly hard to encounter in research. Several sources, including recent publications place the number of blacks that actively served in the Confederate army at around sixty thousand and perhaps as many as 13000 of that number functioned in an actual combat role.⁵ In September of 1861, the *Fort Smith Arkansas Times* wrote that two companies of black volunteers joined the Confederate army organized in Fort Smith. The Arkansas men were mostly slaves but stepped forward to serve although freedom for service was no guarantee. Throughout the war, Confederate, officers utilized black troops either officially or via irregular means as cavalry or as partisans. Virginia, for example, enlisted some four hundred black volunteers, many of whom comprised the 18th Virginia Infantry Regiment.⁶

Granted many blacks were likely personal servants but a surprisingly large number was freemen who voluntarily wore gray, and many bondsmen were active participants in combat. Blacks were formally enlisted as teamsters, musicians, medical orderlies, and cooks but they were enrolled and paid on an equal basis as white soldiers. Still, enough actively fought in the ranks as combatants and were enlisted in all-black organizations or served side by side with white soldiers. Unlike in the segregated Federal units many southern black combatants fought along-side white, American Indian, and Hispanic soldiers. Officially, the Confederate government did not authorize the active recruitment of blacks both free and slave until the waning months of the war when manpower needs were desperate. Several political and military leaders had advocated the recruitment of blacks from the earliest days of secession. Despite a lack of authorization, the Confederate government, however, turned a blind eye to individual state and unit enrollment of blacks both free and slave. Tennessee in June 1861 became the first in the South to legislate the use of free black soldiers' other states followed suit. Governor Isham Harris of Tennessee was authorized to enroll those who volunteered between the ages of fifteen and fifty, to be paid \$18 a month and the same pay, rations, and clothing as white soldiers; the black men appeared in two distinct and separate black regiments by September of 1861.⁷

Free blacks early in the war were enlisted in militia units and black Confederate units were reported by the press as being on duty at Charleston, South Carolina; Mobile, Alabama; Nashville, Tennessee; New Orleans, Louisiana; Bowling Green, Kentucky; and Lynchburg, Virginia. Some volunteered to defend their homes, property, and family, others that were free felt they had a great deal to lose either in real property and or economically. Perhaps some of the inclinations to enlist was to prove that they were just as good as any other southerner. It must be noted that often

southern militia, state troops, and home guards were called to duty many seeing combat depending on the threat and tactical situation.⁸ Slaves were enlisted as cooks, teamsters, musicians, and personal servants and were placed on unit roles and paid the same amount as white soldiers in the same positions. Furthermore, many free blacks were also enlisted for these positions whether slave, free, or white soldiers all received the same rights, pay, and privileges and subject to the same disciplinary standards as line troops. Moreover, when it came down to it these same men were expected to fight should that be required which did occur however, some took up a musket when it was not necessary.⁹ Despite being bondsmen and serving in non-combat roles, blacks often voluntarily became involved in direct combat.

During the late summer and fall of 1862 Confederate Kentucky Offensive, Kentuckians must have been surprised to view the 13th Louisiana Infantry Regiment on the march. No doubt equally curious was the Union forces that engaged the Louisiana troops at the Battle of Perryville. Led by Kentucky-born Colonel (later general) Randall L. Gibson the regiment contained five companies of the original 'Avegro Zouaves' still wearing ragged remains of their brightly colored if not gaudy French style Zouave uniforms. The Zouaves not only contained Irish, Dutch, Spaniards, Mexicans, and Italians, but Blacks as well and not just a few nor were they serving as cooks, musicians, or teamsters the men were legitimate gun toting soldiers in the ranks.¹⁰

One English immigrant serving in the Confederate army wrote that one "might as well endeavor to keep ducks from water as to attempt to hold in the cooks of our company, when firing or fighting is on hand." Although one cook was ordered to the rear during the Battle of First Bull Run (First Manassas), the Englishman found the black cook on the line having obtained a musket and ammunition firing at the Yankees. The Englishman said the cook was shouting, "go in, Massa! Give it to 'm, boys! Now you've got 'm and give 'em Hell!" This and other incidents of slaves directly engaging the northerners must have come as a surprise to the Englishman who wrote "if the Negro is really so unhappy as Northern orators proclaim, why do our servants go to battle with? -how comes it that officers cannot keep them from the front?" In one such instance, the slave was immediately given his freedom for his act of bravery and loyalty on the battlefield, the man stayed with the army through the bitter end.¹¹

Loyal Servants and Good Soldiers

Ike Campbell, a valet for an officer in the 5th Kentucky Cavalry Regiment (Confederate) carried on the roll as a member of the organization that was captured by Federal troops in 1862. Campbell refused to take the loyalty oath try as they might the black man adamantly rebuffed all Federal efforts at taking the oath. When the opportunity was presented, Ike Campbell lit out for his unit remaining with his regiment through war's end. William Johnson servant of Colonel D. Howard Smith commander of the 5th Kentucky Cavalry Regiment (Confederate) also carried on the roll captured during General John Hunt Morgan's Great Ohio-Indiana Raid but not given his freedom, instead he was retained as a servant for a Union officer. Fortunately, for Johnson he met D. Howard Smith Jr. while in Cincinnati and arranged to escape back to the Confederacy. Johnson escaped, fleeing back to the remnants of Morgan's command remaining with the residual elements of the 5th Kentucky through the end of the war. These men had the chance to leave servitude but made conscious decisions to escape back to their units enduring the war and all the hardships of their white comrades.¹²

Today and quite possibly in northern circles at the time, people likely find the loyalty on and off the battlefield of slaves hard to conceive but often as not the blacks were raised with their white masters and there was an emotional bond between parties despite human bondage. In other cases, the blacks felt part of the unit generally remaining through the bitter end of the war. The fact that Campbell and Johnson elected to return to what was essentially their unit is something our hyper-politically correct society finds incomprehensible. First off given the period they knew the Federal government was prevailing and that they were in Ohio and could have remained there and free but due to their emotional and personal attachment to their regiment motivated them to return.¹³

Many Confederate regiments had blacks, most were servants, but it is certain all that contained blacks have a variety of stories about them. Many of these accounts are relatively easy to encounter, others of course are probably lost to history but those available are interesting, nonetheless. Many of the accounts attest to wartime comradeship, loyalty, and courage and should be told. The following accounts are about blacks that served in Kentucky Confederate units, but such cases appear in historical works of varying types from an array of organizations.

The 10th Kentucky Cavalry (Confederate) whose sobriquet was "*The Yankee Chasers*" had blacks in its ranks specifically Company D; "*Celtic Highlanders*" had five black slaves who were an intricate part of the organization they were listed as "*black slaves*" but voluntarily stayed with the regiment. These men did not have to serve they were carried on the rolls as full-fledged members of the regiment and could have seized many opportunities to desert but did not. Lieutenant John McFaul an Irish immigrant to the mountains of eastern Kentucky said that the five black troopers were "*rebels to the core.*"¹⁴ George W. Honaker and Fleming Ratliff both of Pike County, Kentucky; Woody and William Davidson from Floyd County and Ephraim Hatcher also of Floyd County according to McFaul "*the negroes suffered all deprivations and fought in every fight alongside their tattered comrades.*"¹⁵ George Honaker was the thirteen-year-old servant of Captain James Honaker of Pike County, Kentucky entered Confederate service in 1862, remaining with the regiment until it disbanded in 1865. When Captain Honaker was wounded and captured, George evaded capture, remaining with regiment and was paroled at the end of hostilities.¹⁶ William Davidson entered the service at twenty years of age as the servant of the Davidson family members in Company B; 10th Kentucky Cavalry Regiment made up of rugged mountaineers from eastern Kentucky. Davidson was from Floyd County, Kentucky and fought with the regiment he was taken captive at one of the fights at Saltville, Virginia and held captive at Camp Chase, Ohio until he was formally exchanged in February 1865.¹⁷ Davidson's younger brother Woodrow or "*Woody*" eighteen years of age also entered the service at the same time he too was captured and held prisoner until May 1865 also at Camp Chase, he was paroled and forced to take a loyalty oath.¹⁸ Ephraim Hatcher servant of the Hatcher family also of Floyd County, Kentucky entered Confederate service with Hatcher family members who joined Company D; of the 10th Kentucky "*Yankee Chasers*" fought along-side the whites. Hatcher participated in General John Hunt Morgan's last Kentucky raid in June 1864 during the days of chaotic fighting at Cynthiana, Kentucky the thirty-three or so year-old sable Rebel was captured. Ephraim Hatcher was never seen or heard from again and may have been executed or died in prison.¹⁹ Fleming Ratliff was forty-eight years of age when he was enrolled in the 10th Kentucky Cavalry Regiment "*The Yankee Chasers*" some sources place the elderly man as having either deserted or captured in skirmishing around Louisa, Kentucky in December 1863. Most sources contend he was captured and due to his age was released because he took the oath of allegiance either way returned to his "*family*" in Pike County continuing to aid local Confederates until hostilities ceased.²⁰

The famed 1st Kentucky "*Orphan*" Brigade had at least two Black Confederates in its ranks, although there were probably others. Reverend Peter Vertrees born Peter Skaggs in Edmondson County, Kentucky was a mulatto who became apprenticed to Dr. John L. Vertrees under whose tutelage he learned medical techniques of the period. Skaggs adopted the name Vertrees for Dr. Vertrees who as it turned out was Peter's paternal grandfather. When the country was ripped apart by Constitutional and sectional differences Dr. Vertrees was followed into the Confederate army by Peter. The two men served as the surgeon and assistant surgeon for the 6th Kentucky Infantry Regiment a component of the famed 1st Kentucky "*Orphan*" Brigade. Peter Vertrees served in three capacities in the 6th Kentucky; as a medic, bodyguard to Dr. Vertrees, and as a cook when needed. Peter Vertrees served honorably and drew a Confederate pension from the state of Tennessee where he settled and worked following the war. Vertrees served in all the campaigns and actions of the "*Orphan Brigade*" until the very end. After the war, Vertrees settled in Gallatin, Tennessee where he became an ordained minister and an ardent proponent of education. Peter Vertrees died in January 1926 and is buried in the

Gallatin City Cemetery in Sumner County, Tennessee he has a Confederate grave marker on his burial site. The state of Tennessee also erected a historical marker at Gallatin in Sumner County to honor Vetrees legacy.²¹



Peter Vertrees

6th Kentucky Infantry Regiment “Orphan” Brigade

Another black Kentuckian was Sam Johnson of Company E; 4th Kentucky Infantry Regiment also an “Orphan” Brigade component. Johnson was a servant to James G. Crockett and William L. Jett but stayed with the Brigade. According to the Kentucky Adjutant General Report “*he remained loyal to the end.*”²² Finally, there was Rafe Leavell was one-hundred fifteen years of age when he died in 1912 and lived to see the nation through four wars: War of 1812, War with Mexico, the Civil War, and the Spanish American War. Only one of those wars in which he saw service, the Civil War and as such he was a direct participant. When the war commenced Leavell, a slave accompanied his master; Marshall Leavell of Christian County, Kentucky into the Confederate army serving in a Kentucky cavalry organization. During a raid back into Kentucky one of many vicious small fights occurred near a place near Hopkinsville called Camp Coleman. Marshall Leavell was involved in a hand-to-hand encounter and was bayoneted to death by a Union infantryman, so incensed was Rafe Leavell that he wrestled the rifle away from the Yankee bayoneting and killing the Federal. Sometime later Rafe Leavell was captured by an Illinois regiment and forced to act as its teamster for the remaining months of the war. Until Rafe Leavell died, he proudly contended that “*the Yankee win, but I will be a rebel until I die.*” Uncle Rafe was also known to occasionally attend reunions of Confederate veterans in his native *Bluegrass State*. When the old “*Rebel*” died several Kentucky newspapers carried a notice of his death, and his funeral was well attended by both black and white.²³

Early in the war, George Baylor, a Virginian, organized a cavalry known as *The Baylor Light Horse*, which became Company B, 12th Virginia Cavalry Regiment. When the company was organized, it was common in the early days of the war for officers and some enlisted men to bring from home their slaves usually trusted personal servants. In most cases, these men had been raised together from childhood and positive bonds were made that endured for a lifetime. Loyalty was reciprocal something difficult for today’s hyper-politically correct society to comprehend. Early in the war, blacks were enlisted on the roles of individual units although the central Confederate government at this point did not authorize black enlistments, states and units however, had their own policies that conflicted from official policies. The Confederate government chose to turn a blind eye to state and unit enlistment policies for blacks both free and those in bondage. Such was the case with Baylor’s company as his unit took five black men with them into Confederate service. John Sorrell referred to by the men as “*Uncle John*” was an elderly man and became the *de facto* squad leader of the four younger servants; Carter Robinson, Phil Williams, and Tom Langford. Sorrell was the lead teamster, and the four younger men functioned as cooks, equine groomsmen and saddlers in addition to other duties. The five blacks carried on the unit roll authorized the same pay and rations as whites and allowed them to earn extra money by performing tasks for other troopers in the company. Another young man of color the fifth member of the *ad hoc* squad was Overton Timberlake also a family servant came with his household members that volunteered for the army. Overton not only cooked but also appears to have been musically inclined organizing the three younger black men into a choir entertaining their company and regiment in camp for the duration of the war.

The five men of color endured the war with their company and likely could have taken advantage of numerous situations to escape to Union lines but did not remaining loyal members of the unit despite deprivations incurred by the army although the cavalry often fared somewhat better than did the infantry. The four younger blacks participated in unit sporting events and all five joined in horse races with the white troopers although horseracing was supposed to be a prohibited activity for cavalry. “*Uncle John*” taunted the Federals along the Potomac River and on occasion collected tolls from them when they crossed over the river. On more than several occasions after collecting tolls and pocketing the proceeds “*Uncle John*” lured smaller elements of Union troop formations into a trap where they were taken prisoner by his unit. Mr. Sorrell seems amused by taunting the very Federals he lured into capture. During the opening phases of General Thomas J. “*Stonewall*” Jackson’s famous “*Valley Campaign*” in 1862, the 12th Virginia Cavalry was part of Brigadier General Turner Ashby’s cavalry brigade, which had been surprised near Winchester, Virginia. At the outset of the Union assault “*Uncle John*” had his wagon loaded up horses or mules hitched and moved out of the area to avoid captivity although he briefly became disoriented but soon corrected his course and saved the company supply wagon from capture.

During operations in the Valley Campaign elements of Jackson’s cavalry, engaged Federal forces around Brandy Station two of Sorrell’s “*squad*” Tom Langford and Overton Timberlake armed and equipped themselves from the retreating Yankees. The two young men of color joined in the pursuit of the fleeing Federals capturing several Yankees including the black servant of a Union officer. From that point onward Tom and Overton soldiered with their white counterparts according to Baylor who said that the two men were “*good soldiers.*”²⁴ As far as the captive servant Tom and Overton had in their custody, they put the poor fellow to work compelling the unfortunate fellow to perform all the laborious menial tasks in camp. Over the next several weeks, the white soldiers began to have sympathy for the poor man but left Tom and Overton to keep charge of their prisoner. After several months of forced labor at the behest of his captors, the black servant made his escape back to Federal lines. During the war both sides engaged in foraging which was supposed to be collecting food for the troops and equines but it was essentially authorized thieving. When it came to foraging the Confederate, cavalry had no equals; in the practice of foraging for their unit Tom and Overton were the true masters. In fact, Baylor said that the two young men were “*excellent foragers.*”²⁵ Baylor in describing Overton and Tom’s foraging ability recalled they “*scoured the country adjacent to our camps and supplied their respective messes with the best the neighborhood could afford. The mode and manner of their acquisitions was not always strictly ethical, but as few inquiries were made of them, their consciences were as well satisfied as our stomachs.*”²⁶ On one occasion, Overton aiming to make life better for himself and his fellow Rebels went a little too far and pilfered from the farm of a family that had been exceedingly cooperative to the 12th Virginia and was reprimanded for his indiscretions, but the regiment kept the secret and afterward all had good laugh years later.

The loyalty of the blacks with the *Baylor Light Horse* or Company B, 12th Virginia Cavalry Regiment is best illustrated in an incident transpiring late in the war. Phil Williams was no different than any other man with the unit; he knew the war was going badly for the Confederacy with the end being near. Late in 1864 Phil was sent up the Shenandoah Valley (in a southerly direction when speaking of a direction of movement in the valley; down the valley means going north regarding the Shenandoah Valley) with the company wagon and extra horses to a point of

concealment and relative safety. Phil hid out and waited following orders to the letter in fact, the man remained at his post for months in the meantime, and the war in Virginia ended beginning with General Robert E. Lee's surrender at Appomattox in April 1865. Following the surrender and his parole, Baylor returned to Phil's hideout informing the poor fellow of the surrender the end of the war and the fact that he was no longer in bondage. All the blacks that started the war with the regiment finished with their unit returning home with their former masters. "Uncle John" remained with the Baylor family until he died of old age and was buried on the family farm. Phil too remained on the home place dying in 1899 and is also buried on the family farm. Overton returned with the Timberlake family until his death due to an accident some years after the war. Tom also returned home but some years afterward married and moved westward to find his fortune following the marriage. Finally, Carter remained with the Baylor family later finding employment near the family home and married but his wife died, and he attempted to marry a second time with Baylor serving as a witness but due to an administrative error the marriage never took place. Carter, who had little money, felt he had been cheated by civil officials and asked Baylor to represent him in a legal action. The threat of legal action was enough, and Carter recovered most of his financial losses. In the cases of the five former black Rebels, they proved to be reliable members of their unit and returned home with the former masters, remaining loyal friends and veterans even after the end of slavery, becoming productive members of a post-war southern society.²⁷

When General Robert E. Lee led the Army of Northern Virginia into Pennsylvania in the summer of 1863 the epic three-day Battle of Gettysburg from July 1-3; was fought. Many acts of bravery were reported on both sides. One such act involved the 14th Tennessee Infantry Regiment; Color Corporal George B. Powell, an obvious target during any action was shot. Boney Smith a Black man who was attached to the Tennesseans picked up the regimental standard advancing with the regiment. Boney too was shot as the man fell, he stuck the staff in the soil exhorting his comrades forward the momentum of the Tennesseans slowed due to heavy fire from Federal forces. The Tennesseans dropped to the ground to avoid the Federal hail of lead, but the sight of the Black volunteer's courage must have been indelibly etched on the survivors' memories.²⁸

NORTHERN NEWSPAPERS & OFFICIAL RECORDS on BLACK CONFEDERATES

It has been fashionable for educators, historians, and sadly to say Civil War enthusiasts to be in a state of denial when it comes to Black Confederate soldiers. Such accounts as previously mentioned elsewhere in this work are not too difficult to encounter. Unit histories, newspaper articles, personal recollections of the war both sides, and official U.S. Government records included; contain reports or descriptions of encounters with Black Confederates. The following are articles, reports, and personal accounts of Union troops that encountered black Confederates, there are many more than can be presented in this document.

Wartime:

During the first year of the war while the southern states were building up their forces as fast as possible northern newspapers reported the recruitment of Blacks into southern forces. Such a possibility would no doubt have alarmed northerners especially in the Western Theater and Trans-Mississippi Departments where people tended to be more independent, more tolerant of secession, and intolerant of fanatic northerners who was generally blamed for creating the national divide. **The Chicago Tribune** (originally cited via the *Leavenworth [Kansas] Daily Conservative*), September 13, 1861, edition: "*Negroes are employed by the thousands in the rebel armies to fight against the Union...*" Less than a month later another article was run by the *Daily The Leavenworth Conservative*, (Kansas), October 6, 1861: "*It is well known that negroes and Indians serve in the rebel army...*" Whether the papers exaggerated the use of armed Blacks in the Confederate army is conjecture the key issue here was that there must have been enough armed Blacks seen amongst Rebel formations to warrant concern. Meanwhile, there was absolutely no doubt about Indians being recruited into the Confederate army. It should be remembered that Arkansas, Missouri, and The Indian Territory (Present-day Oklahoma) are neighbor states, and travel was not too restricted at this early point in the war. There is little doubt that journalists and Union agents easily slipped in and out of these states observing local recruitment and training camps and report on Confederate activity. There is little doubt such reports are essentially correct though numbers likely exaggerated given the early war hype on both sides of the rebellion.²⁹

For the incredulous politically correct naysayer, throughout the war first-hand accounts by either Union soldiers and officers or correspondents concerning Black Confederates appeared in numerous articles in northern newspapers. In some random samplings, the *Indianapolis Daily Evening Gazette* 12, March 1863 issue referred to a fight on 5, March 1863, in the vicinity of Thompson's Station, Tennessee not far from Franklin site of the bloody and futile battle that occurred in December 1864. The 85th Indiana Volunteer Infantry Regiment reported that: "*NEGRO REGIMENTS IN THE REBEL ARMY - During the fight, the battery in charge of the 85th Indiana was attacked by 'two rebel negro regiments.'* Our artillerymen double shotted their guns and cut the black regiments to pieces, and brought their battery safely off. . . . It has been stated, repeatedly, for two weeks past, that a large number, perhaps one-fourth, of Van Dorn's force were 'negro soldiers and the statement is fully confirmed by this unfortunate engagement.'" Another Indiana newspaper also wrote of Black Confederates the 01, May 1863 issue of the *Winchester (Indiana) Journal*: James G. Bates of the 13th Indiana Volunteer Infantry Regiment operating in and around Suffolk, Virginia in the spring of 1863 wrote his father concerning Black Confederate soldiers. Bates wrote, "*I can assure you (Father), of a certainty, that the rebels have negro soldiers in their army. One of their best sharp shooters, and the boldest of them all here is a negro. He dug himself a rifle pit last night (16, April 1863) just across the river and has been annoying our pickets opposite him very much today. You can see him plain enough with the naked eye, occasionally, to make sure that he is a 'wooly-head,' and with a spyglass there is no mistaking him.*" In yet another journalistic expose' a war correspondent reported more Black Confederate prisoners of war this time captured at Gettysburg. Following the Battle of Gettysburg, northern newspapers caught up in the frenzied aftermath of the battle ran thousands of articles relating to the great battle in the farmlands of the *Keystone State*. Some of the articles mentioned Black Confederate prisoners for example this passage from the *New York Herald*, July 11, 1863, edition; says: "*And after the battle of Gettysburg in July 1863, reported among the rebel prisoners were seven blacks in Confederate uniforms fully armed as soldiers...*"³⁰

OFFICIAL RECORDS and Personal Accounts:

In June 1880 the United States Congress authorized the publishing of the history of the Great Rebellion entitled: *WAR OF THE REBELLION, A Compilation of the Official Records of The UNION and CONFEDERATE ARMIES*, it is the official government accounting of the war involving correspondence official and some personal, reports, telegraph messages, orders, maps, and other pertinent documents and resulted in a huge multi-volume collection. Some of the succeeding stories were taken directly from the Official Records. Some of the combat accounting is not from the Official Records but is included, nonetheless.

Early in the war Federal commanders were convinced that Blacks were serving in the Confederate army in a variety of capacities one Union colonel from New England expressed those concerns. The following is an excerpt from Colonel John W. Phelps, First Vermont Infantry Regiment from Camp Butler at Newport News, Virginia. Wrote headquarters on August 11, 1861, saying that; "*SIR: Scouts from this post represent the enemy as having retired. they came to New Market Bridge on Wednesday, and left the next day. They-the enemy-talked of having 9,000 men. They were recalled by dispatches from Richmond. They had twenty pieces of artillery, among which was the Richmond Howitzer Battery, manned*

by negroes...Their numbers are probably overrated; but with regard to their artillery, and its being manned in part by negroes, I think the report is probably correct." ³¹

Numerous first-hand and official accounts tell of Union soldiers engaging black Confederates in combat, the following is one such account: Alfred Bellard, a white soldier of the 5th New Jersey Infantry Regiment, was an early witness of southern Blacks engaging white northerners in combat. Bellard later wrote of the situation in his memoirs the shooting of two black Confederate snipers by members of the highly vaunted Union Berdan's Sharpshooters in April of 1862. Bellard recorded in his memoirs; "One of the Negro Confederates was only wounded, but the other was killed one afternoon after leaving the security of a hollow tree (probably to relieve himself). Two Confederates tried to get to his body but were driven away by the Union gunfire" ³²

In yet another report written by a Union commander he specifically mentioned a Black Confederate who was captured conducting a reconnaissance of Union troop dispositions. The Union wrote in his report; "Pickets were thrown out that night, and Captain Hennessy, Company E, of the Ninth Connecticut, having been sent out with his company, captured a colored rebel scout, well mounted, who had been sent out to watch our movements," ³³

Late in the war just before General Robert E. Lee surrendered the Army of Northern Virginia at Appomattox, Virginia one Union officer in the Western Theater was so concerned about the recruitment of Blacks for the Confederate army that he wrote his superior officer and headquarters. The Yankee officer complained on April 6, 1865, that; "The rebels (Forrest) are recruiting negro troops at Enterprise, Miss., and the negroes are all enrolled in the State." Moreover, Forrest was known to have armed Blacks in his command including as part of his escort today's equivalent to a Personal Security Detachment or Detail (PSD). Escort companies were generally used by Confederate generals, especially in the west where they not only provided protection for a general but also performed reconnaissance operations and functioned as couriers. Forrest's Escort was known to contain armed Blacks in the ranks often engaging in up close and vicious combat. ³⁴

Black Soldiers and Enlistments

Virginia and Georgia also permitted blacks to enlist in the army a full three years before the Confederate government authorized the raising of black regiments. In one example of many regarding *The Old Dominion's* free utilization of black soldiers, seventy or so men were enlisted for the Confederate army in 1861 at Lynchburg on an equal footing with fellow white volunteers. Georgia recruited sixteen companies of black volunteers in 1861 they marched through Augusta, Georgia en route to Virginia and participated in combat operations.³⁵ Every southern state, whether it officially seceded or not that furnished men to the Confederacy, carried blacks on its rolls as full-fledged members of a respective unit. During the war, every state maintained some sort of militia or home guard organization this goes for both sections. In many instances, serving in the militia or home guard was a method used by those on both sides to avoid active military service and was often a reserve force only on paper, particularly in the north. Home guards and militia in the north often were social organizations at best although some militia and home guard organizations did see combat. Union home guards in the non-seceding southern states engendered harsh feelings amongst the populace and in the cases of Kentucky, Missouri, and West Virginia drove men into the Confederate army that may have otherwise remained loyal or least adopted a neutral stance. In the seceded states, home guards and militia saw much more active service than their northern counterparts did. However, in some areas the home guard was a detriment to the war effort. As with any internal struggle such as our Civil War, there were individuals that took advantage of the turmoil and used the home guard for personal gain or settled old grudges. It was not uncommon for Confederate home guard and state militia units to have free blacks in the ranks or slaves that served as combatants. One example was the 2d Louisiana Reserve Corps particularly Company I; of the organization. Company I; was from St. Landry's Parish (County) which contained many free blacks in the ranks. These men generally were sympathetic to the Confederacy nearly all were property owners some of whom had large tracts of land and others were slave owners as well. The 2d Louisiana Reserve was organized in 1864 to combat Union occupation of the southern and central regions of the state and deprecations that included forced impressments of blacks both free and slave. The men Federals impressed were used for construction labor and other menial physical details; moreover, they were kept in abominable compounds tantamount to the worst of the prisoner of war camps. Faced with the alternative it is little wonder these black men volunteered for Confederate service and actively fought a vicious guerrilla war against Union forces.³⁶

Furthermore, in post war decades blacks were freely allowed to join the United Confederate Veterans, and many were granted Confederate veteran pensions by their respective states receiving the same amount as white, Hispanic, and Indian veterans. What is even less realized is the fact that black veterans resided in Confederate veteran homes and attended Confederate veteran reunions bivouacking with fellow white veterans.³⁷

While thousands of blacks were active participants as Confederate soldiers and served honorably, slavery was a fact of life, and the institution was legally abolished after the war via the United States Constitution rather than by the Emancipation Proclamation. The Civil War was a war full of ironies, from the beginning of black enlistments in the Confederate army at least on the state and individual unit level blacks received equal pay. When the Union organized black units, the men received less pay than did their white counterparts a fact that angered many black volunteers. When the Confederacy officially authorized the recruitment of black troops in February 1865 it was too little too late even though states and individual units had been doing so since the secession crisis began. By late February and into March 1865, recruiting and training camps were established in and around Richmond, Virginia and several battalions were mustered into service. The new troops were paraded through Richmond where they generally were well received and cheered although some instances of poor conduct were demonstrated by malcontents who splattered mud on the same men who were supposed to be defending them. The men proved themselves at Amelia, Virginia in April 1865 as the Army of Northern Virginia retreated southward after Richmond had fallen. A wagon train known as a supply train driven by black teamsters and guarded by at least a battalion of black troops was threatened by Union cavalry. The Black troops made a stand on some high ground protecting the supply train and the army's rear. The Federal cavalry charged but was driven back by intensely accurate fire from the black Rebels, the Yankees charged a second time again they were driven back but on the third and final assault the black troops were pushed back. Some of the black Rebels surrendered, others retreated with the main body and surrendered with the Army of Northern Virginia at Appomattox a few days later.³⁸

During the post-war decades, particularly in the late 1880s through the early decades of the 1900s reunions of Confederate veterans was popular and certainly newsworthy events often every detailed in many local newspapers. The *Miami Weekly News* in Miami, Missouri, September 01, 1905 issue/edition - in an account of the Eighth Annual Reunion of Quantrill's Raiders at Independence on August 25-26, 1905: "Among those registered Friday morning were Captain Ben Morrow of Lake City, Lieutenant Lee Miller of Knobnoster, Hi George of Grain Valley, Sylvester Akers of Levasy, William Greer of Lexington, John A. Workman of Wellington, George (Jim) Noland of Kansas City (this the Negro spy Quantrill sent to Lawrence)..." Actually, Noland's name was printed in errata as his name as mentioned was John but what is important was the credit the man was given for attending the reunion and his accomplishment during the war.³⁹

In Trigg County, Kentucky; the death of a former slave who served with his master in the Confederate army was reported. **THE RECORD** (also known as The Cadiz Record) Cadiz, Kentucky, December 12, 1912, "Death AT 115, Former Trigg County Negro Dies in Louisville Journey to City Causes Death of Rafe Leavell." Rafe Leavell was one-hundred fifteen years of age when he died in 1912 and lived to see the nation

through four wars: War of 1812, War with Mexico, the Civil War, and the Spanish American War. Only one of those wars in which he saw service, the Civil War and as such he was a direct participant. When the war commenced Leavell, a slave accompanied his master; Marshall Leavell of Christian County, Kentucky into the Confederate army serving in a Kentucky cavalry organization. During a raid back into Kentucky one of many vicious small fights ensued this skirmish occurred near Hopkinsville in Christian County at a place called Camp Coleman. Marshall Leavell was involved in a hand-to-hand encounter and was bayoneted to death by a Union infantryman, so incensed was Rafe Leavell that he wrestled the rifle away from the Yankee bayoneting and killing the Federal. Leavell remained with his regiment or organization until he was captured toward the end of the war. Rafe Leavell was captured by an Illinois regiment and forced to act as its teamster for the remaining months of the war. Until his death; Leavell died he proudly contended that *"the Yankee win, but I will be a rebel until I die."* When the old *"Rebel"* died several Kentucky newspapers carried a notice of his death, and his funeral was well attended by both black and white including several surviving Confederate veterans.⁴⁰

In Texas, on June 15, 1900, a New York Times headline read; *"Negro Veteran Killed, Ex-Confederate Soldier and His Son Shot from Ambush."* The article concerned two Black men a father and his son had been shot and killed while working their field. Henson Williams and his son William were the victims, and the atrocious deed angered the community Black and white. Henson was a Confederate Veteran well-respected in Brazos County, Texas. Williams, the elder had served through the War Between the States, garnered an honorable record in the Confederate army. He was a full-fledged member of the United Confederate Veterans Camp at Milliken, Texas. The aged Confederate Veterans in the area were so infuriated over the senseless murder vowed to lynch the perpetrators when they were caught.⁴¹

In 1948, the local newspaper in Elgin, Illinois printed an obituary concerning a Black Confederate veteran. In part the obituary read; *"Robert (Uncle Bob) Wilson, Negro veteran of the Confederate army who observed his 112th birthday last January 13, died early yesterday morning in the veterans' hospital at the Elgin State hospital...He enlisted as a private in Company H; of the 16th regiment of Virginia Infantry on Oct. 9, 1862, and discharged May 31, 1863."* Wilson seems to have served for about six months in the Confederate army, but he nonetheless served and judging from the obituary was the old veteran was proud of his Confederate service, or his fellow townsmen would likely never have known of his martial background.⁴²

All too often educators, members of the press, and sadly to say many historians and students of history stereotype southerners as slave-owning Caucasians that rebelled to protect the institution of slavery. Statistically, from 5 to 6 percent of the free population in the south practiced slavery this includes the non-seceding southern states.⁴³

While it is true that most slave owners were white; Indians, Hispanics, and even free blacks also owned slaves. Although there was diversity amongst the slave-owning population, it was nonetheless an evil institution, which unfortunately is still openly practiced in some regions of the world today. According to the late Dr. Walter E. Williams, one of the nation's pre-eminent economists and historians, who incidentally is black, contends that slavery was not the central cause of the Civil War although its abolition was the obvious outcome. Furthermore, Dr. Williams was a tireless proponent of ensuring the role of black Confederate soldiers is not just a sideline to Civil War history.⁴⁴ One example of northern antagonism toward north-eastern New England abolitionists was in Union general William T. Sherman's Union Army of the Tennessee. The troops in Sherman's army were comprised almost entirely of men from the rural lower and upper Mid-West known as *"westerners"* at the time had an unofficial motto saying that they would *"rather shoot an abolitionist than a Rebel."*⁴⁵

Dr. Williams was not alone in his historical contentions fortunately increasing numbers of educators and historians are coming forth highlighting diversity in the Confederate army as it was composed of a variety of nationalities, colors, ethnicities, and religious faiths where English was not the only language spoken. Opposition to the war or internal dissent occurred in both sections there was rioting, subversion and sabotage, espionage, draft evasion, desertion including out and out guerrilla warfare. Few people, even students of the Great Rebellion, realize the scope of internal as well as sectional strife, particularly in the northern states. Finally, not every southern state seceded, and many southerners wore blue while many northerners donned gray and opposed Washington's policies either in the open or clandestinely. Moreover, in the seceded southern states disunity and dissent was an ever-present factor during the war what unified all the southern states more than any other factor was the harshness of Reconstruction policies imposed by congress. Reconstruction policies were applied to the non-seceding southern states or the upper south to varying degrees of severity creating outrage toward the north even amongst those that served in the Union army. This was especially so in Kentucky and Missouri and to lesser extents in Maryland and West Virginia. These post-war governments imposed vindictive policies doing much to foster political and social discontent that exist in some forms to this day. The great national rift was not only amongst the sections, but it was also within the sections, dividing families, transcending ethnicities and religions. Hopefully in these days of societal diversification or rather the intolerance of political correctness people will look at those that fought for the Confederacy in a different and more objective light. Those ragged men in gray all of them, regardless of religion, ethnicity, national origin, rank, and social status comprise a large part of our nation's history they are America, as much the political correctness movement may try their service and valor cannot be erased.

Some of the BLACK CONFEDERATES BURIED in TEXAS (This is an ongoing project)

It is quite unfortunate that for the sake of history one of the most overlooked ethnic groups that served, as soldiers in the Confederate army were blacks who actively and honorably served nonetheless. It is hard to imagine especially in today's rigidly almost fanatically politically correct, woke, and or presentists society that blacks served in the Confederate army The 37th Texas Cavalry Regiment had at least one black non-commissioned officer in its ranks, a man named James Washington was a third sergeant today's equivalent rank is sergeant or as is commonly referred by military careerists as *"buck sergeant"* which is the initial grade of sergeant. Companies A; C; and D; of the regiment contained enlisted black troopers that fought several actions in neighboring Louisiana. Moreover, this regiment also known as the 34th Texas contained not only black enlisted men, but also Indians, and Hispanic members. The regiment was truly a diverse organization that fought gallantly in the Battle of Mansfield, Louisiana.⁴⁶

BUSBY, Henry: PVT, Reserve Company, Beat Number 9; Kaufman County, 13th Texas Brigade, Texas State Troops, CSA.



BIRTH-1818 Kentucky-**DEATH**-20 Jul 1879 (aged 60–61) Brazos County, Texas, **BURIAL** -Schultze Cemetery Bryan, Brazos County, Texas, **PLOT**-Center Section. Narrative via Findagrave; “1870 Census - aged 48; black, male; occupation - farmer; born in Kentucky; living in Bryan, Brazos County, TX. Texas Muster Card - Private; Reserve Company, Beat No 9, Kaufman County, 13th Brigade, Texas State Troops, CSA; Enlisted 1861; list of citizens of Precinct 9 under 45 and over 18 yrs subject to military duty. 1 Muster Roll.” **SOURCE: FINDAGRAVE.**

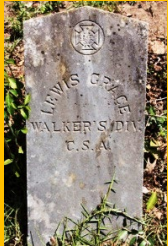
CARTWRIGHT, Ocie (CARTWRIGHT, Osey C.): BIRTH-9 Jul 1846 Georgia-**DEATH**-15 Apr 1941 (aged 94) Shelby County, Texas, **BURIAL**-Bennett Chapel Cemetery Shelbyville, Shelby County, Texas. Servant in the 4th Texas Infantry for Americus Peyroux Cartwright in Captain D.M. Short’s company. He was denied a Confederate pension, reason unknown, this occurred with many Confederate veterans of ALL ethnicities usually due to poor record-keeping and insufficient data. **SOURCES: FINDAGRAVE** and **Rodriguez, Ricardo, J., Black Confederates in the U.S. Civil War, A Concise List of African Americans Who Served the Confederacy**, JAR Press, CreateSpace, 2010, **pg. 175.**

COOPER, George E. “Old Confed”:



PVT in General Joseph E. Johnston’s Headquarters, and apparently served in General John Bell Hood’s Headquarters. BIRTH-1821-**DEATH**-12 Jun 1915 (aged 93–94) Dallas, Dallas County, Texas, **BURIAL**-Confederate Cemetery Dallas, Dallas County, Texas, **SOURCE: FINDAGRAVE** Narrative via Findagrave (Dallas News): “George E. Cooper, 94 years old, negro Confederate Veteran, died Friday night at the City Hospital. The veterans of Camp Sterling Price had supported him for a number of years, and the funeral yesterday afternoon was under the auspices of the camp. The burial was in the Confederate lot in Oakland Cemetery. Until the infirmities of age overtook him, Cooper was known about town as “Old Confed.” He always wore the Confederate uniform. During the war he was in Joseph E. Johnston’s command. Old soldiers said he was in the thick of the fighting at the battle of Franklin, Tenn. He had no family. Dallas News 06-13-1915 Born about 1821. (Note: Contributed by Sanford Reed)

GRACE, Lewis: PVT/Teamster, Walker’s Texas Division, CSA,

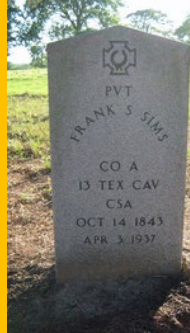


Mr. Grace was awarded a Texas Confederate Veteran’s Pension his pension# 39585 (Shelby County, Texas), **BIRTH**-unknown-**DEATH**-31 May 1927 **BURIAL**-Mount Gillion Cemetery Shelby County, Texas. **SOURCE: FINDAGRAVE** and **Texas Confederate Veteran Pension List.**

HAMPTON, George, H.: Company C; 4th Texas Cavalry Regiment, CSA, A Black Confederate Soldier, was awarded a Texas Confederate Veteran Pension, his pension# 39149 (Cherokee County, Texas, **BIRTH**-1848 Texas-**DEATH**-25 Jan 1932 (aged 83–84) **BURIAL**-Rockhill Cemetery Reese, Cherokee County, Texas **SOURCES: Texas Confederate Veteran Pension List** and **Rodriguez, Ricardo, J., Black Confederates in the U.S. Civil War, A Concise List of African Americans Who Served the Confederacy**, JAR Press, CreateSpace, 2010, **pg. 176, and FINDAGRAVE.** (NOTES: Via Findagrave: “Private, Texas Cavalry, CSA, War for Southern Independence. Sources: “Confederate Graves Registry,” Sons of Confederate Veterans, www.scv.org and U.S. Federal Censuses.”)

HOOD, Bill: BIRTH-unknown-**DEATH**-unknown, Harris County, Texas, **BURIAL**-Golden Gate Cemetery Houston, Harris County, Texas. **SOURCES: Texas Confederate Veteran Pension List** and **Rodriguez, Ricardo, J., Black Confederates in the U.S. Civil War, A Concise List of African Americans Who Served the Confederacy**, JAR Press, CreateSpace, 2010, **pg. 176 (attended the UCV Reunion in Arkansas in 1928), and FINDAGRAVE.** (NOTES: Via Findagrave: “A Negro who had been a slave and serve throughout Civil War as a personal servant to General John B. Hood (FAG #4418). He Marched in parades, attended reunions of Confederate Veterans, and held attentive audiences with his accounts of the War. He died at age 103 and buried in Oak Park with expenses paid for by Sons and Daughters of the Confederacy.” http://htown.aahgs.org/files/htown_projects_cemeteries.pdf)

SIMS, Frank S.: PVT, Company A; 13th Texas Cavalry Regiment, CSA



Aged Darkey of Bryan A Soldier Of Confederacy

Frank S. Sims, negro, aged 93, who lives in North Bryan, is a soldier of the Confederacy, Co. A, Texas Cavalry, assigned to the 13th Regiment, in command of 2nd-rate Black Captain. He was born on October 14, 1843, in Sumpter county, Alabama, and belonged, as a slave, to old Jesse Sims, a cousin of Col. Milton Sims, late of this county. He came to Texas with his master in 1852, settling in Leon county, where the master died in 1865, leaving the following ones: William, Jim, Jesse, Leroy, Sydney and Axon. The darkey has a "barn ring" that Axon gave him many years ago. Axon had bought a bride that had many brass rings on it, and Sims, the negro, had asked him for a ring when the bride wore one, and he got it. The negro was living in Leon county when the war broke out. He worked around home until called into service in 1862. He went first to Galveston and took first and breastworks and was then called back home and Master Sydney took him back to the army with him. There he waited on his master, doing the washing and other things about camp and worked for others of the soldiers, filling the places of a peasant Red Cross worker, tending the wounded and burying the dead. The negro was in the battle of Mansfield, Louisiana, near that place. He was not wounded during the war and following the conflict he returned to the scenes of his early days and resumed life, following his freedom from slavery. Sims was taken into service at Little Rock, Arkansas, together with a few other negroes, and they served in a white company. Sims now draws a pension, and bears papers from Lon A. Smith, head of the veterans in Texas. Sims came into The Eagle office on Wednesday and said that he had read in The Eagle about the old Confederate veterans meeting in Bryan and that he wanted to get in touch with some of them and talk over old times. He met some of them in The Eagle office on Wednesday afternoon, and on Thursday morning went down to Carnegie Library to see some more of them.

BIRTH-14 Oct 1843 Alabama-**DEATH**-3 Apr 1937 (aged 93) Edge, Brazos County, Texas, **BURIAL**-House Cemetery Brazos County, Texas, **PLOT**-South Side Narrative; Son of Sampson and Milby Sims (Alabama), widowed husband of Lucinda Sims. Mr. Sims was a farmer. (Texas Death Certificate) and inscription Co A; 13 Texas Cav, CSA. **SOURCE**: FINDAGRAVE (Note: contributed by Sanford Reed)

WILLIAMS, Henson: PVT, Texas Confederate Organization, (see Findagrave narrative), **BIRTH**-1840 Louisiana-**DEATH**-12 Jun 1900 (aged 59-60) Millican, Brazos County, Texas, **BURIAL**-Wheat Cemetery (Note: exact burial location is unknown in the cemetery) Millican, Brazos County, Texas. **SOURCES**: FINDAGRAVE and Rodriguez, Ricardo, Black Confederates in the U.S. Civil War, A Concise List of African Americans Who Served the Confederacy, JAR Press, CreateSpace, 2010, pg. 177. Narrative via; Findagrave; "Dallas, Tex. - June 14. Two negroes, Henson Williams and his son William, were shot dead from ambush in Brazos County, while they were plowing in a field. Officers are searching for a white man who is believed to have shot them. The elder Williams fought through the Civil War as a Confederate soldier and made such a good record that he was made a full member of the Confederate Veteran's camp at Milliken. The old white Confederate soldiers are enraged at the assassination and threaten vengeance on the assassin when captured. New York Times issue dated June 15, 1900."

Unknown Black Confederate Soldiers: **BIRTH**-unknown **DEATH**-unknown **BURIAL**-Black Confederate Soldiers Waskom, Harrison County, Texas, "Death occurred around the Spring or Summer of 1864. Two soldiers injured in the Battle of Mansfield retreated to rest and attempt to heal their wounds. They stopped at this point near a pond and a creek. They were later found by the landowner, where they had succumbed to their wounds." **SOURCE**: FINDAGRAVE.

NOTE: Terrell's Texas Cavalry Regiment known initially as the 34th Texas Cavalry and later re-designated and re-organized as the 37th Texas Cavalry Regiment included Black Confederate soldiers who actively fought at the Battles of Mansfield and Pleasant Hill in Louisiana. **COMMENT**: It would be a great credit to the Texas Division of the SCV and other historical heritage and preservation organizations an excellent contribution to Confederate, Texas, and American military history to identify these men that fought at Mansfield. While we can identify names of many Black Confederates that served during the war this project may be an eternal enigma as Troops were collected from many points in Texas to meet the Union threat posed by General Nathaniel P. Banks' Union army and Federal naval forces during the Red River Campaign. Due to the threat to Texas; troops, volunteers, militia were collected, and many casualties and names of participants may not be known as record keeping was poor especially at this point in the war in the Trans-Mississippi Confederacy. The emergency or threat negated accurate record keeping as there was a maximum effort to give General Richard Taylor all the troop resources that could be gathered. Nonetheless, would it not be a real information triumph to get an identification on these men.

With the recent turn of events politically we can only hope that some of the vitriolic South-bashing may be somewhat arrested, and we can return to the preservation of our history in a more peaceful environment, but the verdict is still

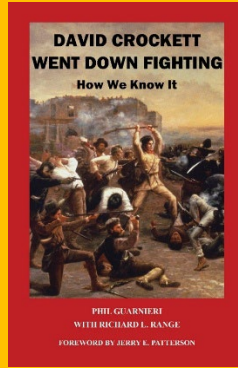


OPEDS: the pen is mightier than the sword; Therefore, keep your inkwells full and your swords sharpened!



(Views expressed DO NOT NECESSARILY reflect those of the Texas Lonestar Greys Camp)

On 23, February in 1836, the siege of the Alamo commenced and on March 6, the army commanded by General Miguel Lopez de Santa Ana stormed the converted mission in the pre-dawn hours. After vicious resistance and fierce fighting on both sides the Alamo fell within ninety minutes, but the defenders went down in history for their gallant defense against a vastly numerically superior force. Names like Travis, Bowie, Crocket, and every man have been etched into American, Southern, and most emphatically Texas history. It is rare that your friendly and diligent STAFF will perform a book review. However, the book we review here should be dear to the hearts of every Texan and Southerner and should be mandatory reading in schools and colleges across the nation. (Note: next month we will be featuring an article about sons of Alamo defenders and the children survivors who later served in Confederate forces.)



**BOOK REVIEW for Phil Guarnieri and Richard L. Range
David Crockett Went Down Fighting: How We Know it,
 By, researchers Phil Guarnieri and Richard L. Range**

Having grown up in a different era when America as a rule admired their heroes and were incensed when someone or something would try to put one down would incur verbal wrath as such heresy offended many, in that era. In the present-day society few are the genuine American heroes that have not faded from memory or are not much maligned. Take David or “Davy” Crockett for example; he died heroically during the final assault by Mexican army forces under General Santa Ana at the besieged mission; turned fortress known in Texas, American, and yes world history known as the Alamo. Generations passed and Crockett’s image is one of a man valiantly fighting off massed soldiers bent on killing the man. Books, newspaper articles, movies, and several accounts of individuals who were at the Alamo who personally knew Davy Crockett have captured the imagination of many Americans for generations. Over recent decades however, there has been a determined effort to diminish the significance of the Alamo and bash the heroic image of Crockett fighting to the tragic end of his high-profile life. Much of the blurred image of Crockett’s alleged surrender and subsequent execution was based on a letter and journal by one of the officers in Santa Ana’s army. Of course, the historical revisionists jumped on bash the Alamo and the trashing of Davy Crockett bandwagon.

Until recently no detailed analysis of the Mexican officer’s account regarding Crockett’s death, and Mexican army accounts, as well as an examination of statements and accounts from the survivors of the epic battle until now. A new book has appeared on the scene and is a must read, for Texas and Alamo history enthusiasts, history students, and the casual reader of history. The authors are Phil Guarnieri and Richard L. Range and have done a magnificent job and quite convincing one at that to prove that Crockett true to traditional accounts went down fighting. The authors conducted lengthy and painstaking research using forensic methodology to arrive at their conclusions about the death of one of America’s genuine heroes. Furthermore, the authors’ case is presented in a readable and logical manner for readers with less than a casual interest in history. References and sourcing are legion, and impeccable all listed in their entirety in the book.

As a former U.S. Army Special Forces operative and intelligence specialist the authors employed techniques used in the intelligence and forensic investigational realms of expertise to arrive at their quite logical conclusions. Moreover, as a resolute student of history by virtue of interest in the field and through a life of collection, analysis, and employment of the finished intelligence product, these men have professionally made their case as to how David Crockett died. Their research and conclusions would make even the best of intelligence analysts green with envy by comparison.

Guarnieri and Range presented the various versions of Crockett’s death using corresponding source material explaining how each was flawed reaching the conclusion that the various alternative versions of his death were severely inconsistent. The authors came to the only logical conclusion based on careful analysis not based on emotion that Crockett went down fighting as the hero that he has been portrayed for generations. Phil Guarnieri and Richard L. Range accomplished something that should put an end to the weak-kneed arguments bashing the Alamo defense and one of our nation’s true heroes.

Russell (“Rusty”) R. Harris III
 U.S. Army Special Forces (retired)

**In DIXIE, We Kneel Before GOD Almighty, and a fallen Veteran, and Stand for the National Anthem
 ALL VETERANS ARE EQUAL!!!! Get It!**



CHARGE

¹ *Black Soldiers in the Confederate Army*, by Murray Montgomery, *Lone Star Diary* October 18, 2005 Column, **TEXAS Escapes Magazine**, www.texasescapes.com. (Note: The author Murray Montgomery wrote that he “was of the opinion that all black soldiers served in the Union army and indeed most did. But after becoming aware of this information about his role in the Confederate army, I have had to sort of rethink my position on this matter.”)

² Leslie, Edward, E., *THE DEVIL KNOWS HOW TO RIDE. The True Story of William Clarke Quantrill and His Confederate Raiders*, Da Capo Press, New York, 1998, **pg 192**.

³ Leslie, Edward, E., *THE DEVIL KNOWS HOW TO RIDE, The True Story of William Clarke Quantrill and His Confederate Raiders*, Da Capo Press, New York, 1998, **pg 426**.

- ⁴ Leslie, Edward, E., *THE DEVIL KNOWS HOW TO RIDE, The True Story of William Clarke Quantrill and His Confederate Raiders*, Da Capo Press, New York, 1998, pg 86.
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- ⁶ Garrison, Webb, *Civil War Curiosities*, Rutledge Hill Press, 1994, pg. 107.
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- ⁹ **BLACK CONFEDERATES IN GRAY**; *The Black Soldiers Who Served in the Confederate Army; are the Real Forgotten Men of the Civil War*, by Charles Rice, America's CIVIL WAR, Volume 8, Number 5, November 1995, Cowles Media Company, Cowles History Group, Leesburg, VA, pg 84.
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- ¹¹ **BLACK CONFEDERATES IN GRAY**; *The Black Soldiers Who Served in the Confederate Army; are the Real Forgotten Men of the Civil War*, by Charles Rice, America's CIVIL WAR, Volume 8, Number 5, November 1995, Cowles Media Company, Cowles History Group, Leesburg, VA, pg 84.
- ¹² Smith, Sydney K. *LIFE, ARMY RECORD, AND PUBLIC SERVICES OF D. HOWARD SMITH, LOUISVILLE, KY., THE BRADLEY & GILBERT COMPANY, 1890*, pp 40-41.
- ¹³ **BLACK CONFEDERATES IN GRAY**; *The Black Soldiers Who Served in the Confederate Army; are the Real Forgotten Men of the Civil War*, by Charles Rice, America's CIVIL WAR, Volume 8, Number 5, November 1995, Cowles Media Company, Cowles History Group, Leesburg, VA, pg 84.
- ¹⁴ Wells, James Britton III and Prichard, James, M., *10th Kentucky Cavalry, C.S.A., May's-Trimble's-Diamond's "Yankee Chasers."* Gateway Press, INC., Baltimore, Maryland, first printing 1996, second printing 2004, pg 11.
- ¹⁵ *ibid*, (These men volunteered to serve with the regiment and appear not to have been coerced in any fashion.) (Source for Wells and Prichard: McFaul, James W., "Recollections," Georgia Department of Archives and History, Atlanta, Georgia.)pg 11.
- ¹⁶ *ibid*, pg 167.
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- ¹⁸ *ibid*, pg 144.
- ¹⁹ *ibid*, pg165.
- ²⁰ *ibid*, pg 201.
- ²¹ <http://www.findagrave.com/cgi-bin/fg.cgi?page=gr&Grid=53422526> (in 1990 the following publication included Vertrees in an article: "Black Soldier of the Confederacy: The Life and Legacy of Peter Vertrees, a Kentucky Orphan," by Scott E. Sallee, was published in the June 1990 (Vol. VIII, No. 5) of the Blue & Gray Magazine.)...also...Geoff Walden author of the book *Remembering Kentucky's Confederates* and numerous articles on the Great Rebellion and a member of the Ben Hardin Helm, Sons of Confederate Veterans Camp at Elizabethtown, Kentucky and the Orphan Brigade Kinfolk Association also furnished information on Vertrees.
- ²² *Report of the Adjutant General of the State of Kentucky, Confederate Kentucky Volunteers, War, 1861-1865*, (Ellis, Jay Tandy) Printed by authority of the Legislature of Kentucky, The State Journal Company, Printers of the Commonwealth, Frankfort, Kentucky, 1915 (authorized and approved by the Kentucky General Assembly [legislature] in 1902), Volume-I., pp 168-169.
- ²³ **CADIZ RECORD**, December 12, 1912, *Death AT 115, Former Trigg County Negro Dies In Louisville Journey To City Causes Death of Rafe Leavell*, via: <http://www.westernkyhistory.org/trigg/biv.html>
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- ²⁵ *Ibid*, SHSP Vol. XXXI, pg 366.
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- ³² Bellard, Alfred, *Gone for a Soldier: The Civil War Memoirs of Private Alfred Bellard*, Boston, 1975, pg 56.
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- ³⁴ **THE WAR OF THE REBELLION**, A Compilation of the Official Records of The UNION and CONFEDERATE ARMIES, Prepared, Under the Direction of the Secretary of War, The HON. Daniel S. Lamont, and Major George W. Davis, U.S. Army, Mr. Leslie J. Perry, Civilian Expert, Mr. Joseph W. Kirkley, Civilian Expert, Board of Publishers, Series I-Volume XLIX-In Two Parts, Part II, Correspondence, ETC., Washington: Government Printing Office, 1897, Correspondence, Orders, and Returns Relating to Operations in Kentucky, Southwestern Virginia, Tennessee, Northern and Central Georgia, Mississippi, Alabama, and West Florida, from March 16 to June 30 1865, Union Correspondence, ETC., pg 253.

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- ⁴⁴ **Jewish World Review**, *The Civil War Wasn't About Slavery*, article by; Dr. Walter Williams, December 2, 1998...and...**Jewish World Review**, *Black Confederates*, article by; Dr. Walter E. Williams, January 26, 2000.
- ⁴⁵ ***Why They Fought*, a book review** by, Winston Groom, **The Weekly Standard**, Volume 18, Number 42, July 22, 2013, A Division of Clarity Media Group, Washington, DC and Palm Coast, Florida, pp 30-32 (Via: a book by: **Fleming, Thomas, *A Disease of the Public Mind. A New Understanding of Why We Fought the Civil War, Da Capo Press, 2013***), pg 31.
- ⁴⁶ ***Black Soldiers in the Confederate Army***, by Murray Montgomery, **Lone Star Diary** October 18, 2005 Column, **TEXAS Escapes Magazine**, www.texasescapes.com. (Note: The author Murray Montgomery wrote that he "was of the opinion that all black soldiers served in the Union army and indeed most did. But after becoming aware of this information about his role in the Confederate army, I have had to sort of rethink my position on this matter.")