



# The Texas Union Herald



Colonel E. E. Ellsworth Camp #18  
Department of Texas  
Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War

Volume ii, Issue 9 October 2017

## Rattling Sabres

by  
Glen E. Zook

I have to apologize for the lateness of this issue. Frankly, I have just been “covered up” with all sorts of things including my “retirement” job of working on amateur radio equipment for others (I have quite a “backlog”), “honey do’s”, and the fact that I just cannot stop myself from hanging out with the “Ritis Brothers”. Arthur is the worst of the lot! Then, I need to get some of my antique / vintage radio collection ready for competition at the annual Vintage Radio and Phonograph Society convention that has been moved from its long time venue in Irving, Texas, to Plano. The convention will be held on 17, 18, and 19 November at the Comfort Inn & Suites Plano East located east of Central Expressway on Central Parkway East.

This “Society” is celebrating its 43<sup>rd</sup> year having been founded in 1974. I was one of the “charter members” of the Society although I have not been really active for a while. However, I do plan on being at the convention this year and entering a fair amount of items in the various competition categories. At previous conventions, a while back, I have done pretty well and have a number of trophies on my shelves to prove it!

By the way, the Vintage Radio and Phonograph Society has grown from a group of Dallas, Texas, area collectors into an international organization.

The frenzy to take down monuments, statues, rename schools and streets, and so forth, is still growing. Now Columbus is being attacked as are Founding Fathers like George Washington and Thomas Jefferson because they owned slaves. In Texas, even Sam Houston has been attacked and there was a letter to the editor in the Dallas Morning News wanting the Texas flag replaced because it flew over Texas when Texas was a slave holding state.

Based on that premises, then the “Stars and Stripes” / “Old Glory” needs to be replaced as well because that flag flew over 14 slave holding states plus the fact that slavery happened in a fair number of northern states in the period just after the Revolution.

Columbus is being attacked because his explorations resulted in the Spanish enslaving and / or displacing quite a number of the indigenous population. Yes, this was wrong. However, those who are demanding the tearing down of his statues are, primarily, those who have absolutely no heritage of the American Indian or, to use the politically correct term, “Native Americans”. As such, if it had not been for the explorations of a number of individuals, many NOT Spanish, those persons would not even be living in the United States.

There are certain historical individuals who definitely deserve criticism including Andrew Jackson who displaced quite a number of the Indian population with the “Trail of Tears” that the Cherokee, Seminole, and certain other eastern American Indians suffered when they were forced to relocate to what is now Oklahoma. But, such happened 200-years ago and slavery was eliminated in this country over 150-years ago.

Things were different and things have definitely changed over time. Yes, many of those persons now being declared a “persona non grata” had faults, especially when compared with modern ideals. However, during their time period most were not doing things that were not perfectly acceptable and, fortunately for this country, those persons did things that allowed the United States to become the great nation that it is today.

Yes, there are things that happen today that are not in the best interest of the general population. But, by and large, things are definitely better here than in any other country in the world. Frankly, if things are so bad here, why are so many people wanting to get into this country and so very few really wanting to leave?

Getting back to the Camp #18: I had thought that the October meeting was going to be a Saturday dinner with wives, sweethearts, family members, and so forth, were going to be invited. However, that is not going to happen! Now, if it is decided to have the November meeting as such, I definitely will not vote for the 18<sup>th</sup> because of the awards dinner for the antique / vintage radio convention. I would be in favor of having the December meeting as a dinner meeting.

Of course, I am still begging for articles, photographs, news items, and so forth, for publication in this newsletter. With a few very notable individuals, my pleas have fallen on deaf ears. As I keep pointing out, this newsletter is for all Camp #18 members and to keep it interesting I need material. Again, one does not have to be an accomplished author to submit material. Just get the ideas on paper, in an E-Mail, etc., and I can massage the information into an article, giving you full credit for the article, and not even mentioning that the information required any help from me.

For those who can write, even better because I don’t have to do any work to get the article included in an issue of this newsletter.

Remember, I am a firm believer in the principles of the conservation of my finances and labor. You can say “cheap and lazy” if you want to! I prefer to have to do as little work as possible!

Until next month . . . .

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Articles, news items, features, and the like are welcomed for publication in **The Texas Union Herald**. Deadline is normally the 1st of the month of the cover date of publication. Submissions may be handwritten, typewritten, or submitted in any of the popular computer formats (Microsoft Word, Open Office, Word Perfect, and ASCII). Please contact the editor for details.

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## Articles Needed!

If the members of the **Colonel E.E. Ellsworth Camp #18** do not want to be inundated with articles that were chosen by the editor (what he wants to see in the newsletter) then they need to start inputting items for inclusion in **The Texas Union Herald**. Tidbits about the Civil War, stories, articles, current news items, photographs, even commentaries are most welcome.

Don't worry if you are not an accomplished author. Get the idea onto paper (computer, etc.) and get it to the editor. He really can edit (rewrite, etc.) and you'll be surprised at just how well you can write!

If you have E-Mail capabilities, you can either include the information in the body of the message or put it in either Word format or ACSII ("txt") format. If, for some reason, you cannot do either, contact the editor to see if your particular word processor format can be handled.

If "hard" copy, make sure the copy is legible (can be read by someone else!). Typewritten, computer printed, even in Crayon on "Big Chief" tablet is acceptable. Just get the information in!

Even small (1 or 2 paragraphs) material, or photographs, can be used. That makes editing and publishing the newsletter easier since "fill" material is available for those little areas that seem to happen whenever an article is included in the publication.

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# Being the incident, adventure and wayside exploit of the Bivouac and Battle Field As related by Veteran Soldiers Themselves

by  
Washington, Davis

A. B. Gehman & Co.  
1888

We arrived in the vicinity of the prisoners' camp on the 15th of April, having marched about 125 miles in seven days. The camp was situated about three miles east of Tyler, in Smith county, Texas, and called Camp Ford. It was inclosed by a stockade made of heavy timbers split in halves and firmly set in the ground on end. Originally it contained only three acres, but had been enlarged recently to about seven, in order to accommodate the new arrival. We remained where we camped for the night, until the afternoon of the next day, when we were moved inside the stockade. We had not expected a paradise, but we felt that after such accommodations as we had on the march – no shelter or blankets, except such as we bought or traded for – it would be a relief to get some place in which to lie down in shelter at night. Imagine our surprise when we came in sight of the camp. Inside the pen there were a few log-cabins and dug-outs, crowded together promiscuously in one corner. On the tops of these, and on the highest points, were gathered a motley crew of about six hundred, in very ragged clothing, to get a glimpse of the new-comers, about whom big tales had been told them. The remainder of the inclosure was a newly cleared piece of woodland, with nothing on it but stumps, a few brush heaps, and some old logs. Our hearts almost sank within us. But into the stockade we went, and on the unoccupied part were drawn up in parallel lines about twenty feet apart. Here we were counted and delivered to the commandant of the prison, one Colonel Allen, who addressed us in a few words, telling what he expected us to do, and closing with: "Now, gentlemen, these are your quarters – make yourself as comfortable as possible." With nothing but the blue heavens for a covering and the naked earth for a bed, and nothing within reach but a few brush heaps, to be told to make ourselves comfortable, we thought was decidedly cool.

The old prisoners gathered around us, anxious to hear the news from the outside world, and the remainder of the evening was spent in chatting and partaking of what the older inhabitants could spare from their scanty fare. The officers of our party were taken into the cabins of the officers already there, who shared with us their limited quarters; but the privates could only set fire to some of the brush heaps and logs, and huddle around them as best they could for the night. Many following nights were passed in the same way before shelter of any kind could be had. The officers were first permitted to go out to the woods under guard, and cut and carry in timbers to build themselves quarters, which was accomplished in a few days. Then the

men were allowed to go out in small parties, but the process was so slow that the best that could be done was to get poles and brush with leaves to make arbors for the shelter from the sun by day and the dews by night. Some of the more energetic and persistent ones succeeded in getting a clapboard roof, but a great many spent most of the summer with nothing but brush roofs. Some made dug-outs, and covered with earth a place just large enough for two or three to sleep in. As winter approached we were allowed to go out in greater numbers, under a strong guard, and carry timbers for more than half a mile. By Christmas most of the inmates had pretty fair quarters, and the camp assumed a better appearance.

Our rations were delivered in bulk to persons designated by ourselves to receive and distribute them, and consisted of corn meal, fresh beef and salt. A pint of corn meal and a pound of beef was our daily allowance per man, with sufficient salt to season them. Occasionally during the earlier part of our stay, rye was issued for coffee. Twice the corn meal failed for several days at a time, and whole corn shelled was issued instead. Some amusement was created during its delivery. When the wagon would make its appearance, the boys would start from different parts of the camp toward the delivery place, calling "Whoo-e-e! Whoo-e-e!" as though calling hogs to their feed. The corn, however, answered a good purpose, as it was a change, the boys making it into hominy. Our beef during the summer was passable, but late in the fall it got so poor that it scarcely tasted like beef. A detail of our men butchered the beeves and quartered them, then the rebel guard picked out the best of the hind quarters, and the remainder was brought into the stockade. When the beef got so poor the guard complained to their officer, but no attention was paid to them. Finally, one day after drawing their portions, they carried it in procession to the woods, dug a hole, put it in, fired three rounds of musketry over it, then buried it. After that they got bacon, and in two weeks afterward bacon was issued to us regularly, a quarter of a pound being the allowance per man for a day, and we were rejoiced at the change.

No clothing was issued to us by the Confederate authorities during our imprisonment, except a few very coarse hats and shoes. I saw men go for months without a shirt to their back, and no covering but a pair of ragged pants or drawers. Lieut.-Colonel Leake, of Iowa, with about four hundred men, had spent the previous winter in the stockade, and were forwarded for exchange in July. When they arrived at Shreveport the authorities became ashamed of their naked appearance, and offered to issue them clothing, but the brave Colonel promptly refused the offer, saying:

"We will go into our lines in the same condition that we have been prisoners."



# After Pea Ridge

Wilson's Creek: Both the North and the South wanted the border state of Missouri, strategically located on the Mississippi and Missouri rivers, and rich in manpower and natural resources. Most Missourians wanted the state to stay neutral, but there was a strong pro-Confederacy element led by the governor, Claiborne F. Jackson. The issue came to a head and was decided at the Battle of Wilson's Creek, which was called the Battle of Oak Hills by the Confederates. It kept Missouri in the Union, but the fighting would go on for the rest of the war, which nearly tore the state apart.

When President Lincoln called for troops to put down the rebellion, Missouri was asked to supply four regiments. Governor Jackson refused, ordering state militia to muster at Camp Jackson, outside St. Louis, in preparation for seizing the U.S. Arsenal there.

Captain Nathaniel Lyon, the commander of the arsenal, was loyal to the Union and secretly moved most of the weapons to Illinois. He then marched his forces, about 7,000 men, to Camp Jackson on 10 May 1861, forcing its surrender. He tried unsuccessfully to come to terms with the governor, then led an army up the Missouri River and captured the state capital, Jefferson City. After an unsuccessful stand at nearby Booneville, the governor retreated to the southwest part of the state along with the militia.

Promoted general, Lyon installed a pro-Union state government, picked up reinforcements, and moved southwest. By 13 July, he was camped at Springfield with about 6,000 troops, including the First, Second, Third, and Fifth Missouri Infantry; the First Iowa Infantry; the First and Second Kansas Infantry; several companies of regular army troops; and three batteries of artillery.

General Sterling Price, commander of the Missouri State Guard, was training 5,000 troops seventy-five miles southwest of Springfield. Troops commanded by Generals Ben McCulloch and N. Bart Pearce joined Price in July, bringing the total Confederate strength to about 12,000.

On 31 July the Confederates marched northeast to attack Lyon's Union forces. Hoping to surprise the Confederates, Lyon marched from Springfield on 1 August. The next day he mauled the vanguard of the Confederates at Dug Springs. Realizing that he was outnumbered, Lyon withdrew to Springfield. The Confederates followed. By 6 August they were encamped near Wilson's Creek.

Though still outnumbered, Lyon moved to attack the Confederate encampment. He led about 5,400 troops out of Springfield the night of 9 August. He ordered Colonel Franz Sigel to take 1,200 troops on a wide swing to the south the flank the Confederate right. Lyon planned to strike from the north with the main body of troops. Surprise was critical.

General McCulloch, now commanding the Confederate forces, also was planning a surprise attack, but called it off because of rain. On the morning of 10 August, Lyon caught McCulloch flatfooted. The Union troops overran several Confederate camps and advanced to the crest of a hill, now known as Bloody Hill. Lyon was stopped there by fire from the Pulaski Arkansas Battery, giving the Confederate infantry time to form a line on the south slope of the hill.

The battle for Bloody Hill ranged for more than five

hours. Meanwhile, artillery fire halted Sigel's flanking maneuver at the Sharp farm. Confederate infantry counter-attacked, and Sigel and his men fled.

On Bloody Hill, General Lyon, already wounded twice, was killed leading a charge. Major Samuel Sturgis assumed command, but by 11 AM, his ammunition nearly exhausted, he ordered the Union troops to fall back to Springfield.

The Confederates did not pursue. General Lyon had lost the battle and his life, but achieved his ultimate goal: Missouri remained under Union control. The Union lost 1,317 men at Wilson's Creek; the Confederates 1,222.

Wilson's Creek did not end the fighting in Missouri. The Confederates made two large-scale attempts to control the state, both directed by General Price. He led the Missouri State Guard north shortly after the battle at Wilson's Creek, and captured the garrison at Lexington. He remained in Missouri until early 1862, when a Union army drove him into Arkansas. Another attempt was halted in northwest Arkansas at the Battle of Pea Ridge.

General Price returned to Missouri in September 1864 with 12,000 troops. Before his campaign ended in disaster, he marched some 1,500 miles, fought forty-three battles or skirmishes, and destroyed \$10 million worth of property. At Westport on 23 October 1864, Price was defeated in the largest battle fought west of the Mississippi. He retreated southward, ending organized Confederate military operations in Missouri.

Pulaski Arkansas Battery: From the wooded ridge to the northwest, the cannon of the Pulaski Arkansas Battery opened fire on Bloody Hill, halting the Union advance and giving the Confederate infantry time to form into a line of battle and attack Lyons forces. This battery from Little Rock fired on Lyon's forces on Bloody Hill throughout the battle.

Bloody Hill: Throughout the battle, General Lyon's 4,000 man command held this high ground against repeated attacks. At the peak of the fighting, the entire south slope was covered with battle smoke. When the fighting ended, more than 1,700 Union and Confederate soldiers had been killed or wounded here, including General Lyon.

Gibson's Mill: The northern end of the Confederate camps, where Missouri State Guard General James S. Rains established the headquarters of his 2,500-man division near the mill. General Nathaniel Lyon's dawn attack quickly drove Rain's division down the creek to the south.

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## From Abraham Lincoln

by  
Carl Sandburg

At sundown the train pulled into Gettysburg and Lincoln was driven to the Wills residence. A sleepy little country town of 3,500 was overflowing with human pulses again. Private homes were filled with notables and nondescripts. Hundreds slept on the floors of hotels. Military bands blared till late in the night serenading whomsoever. The weather was mild and the moon up for those who chose to go a-roaming. Serenaders called on the President and heard him: "In my position it is sometimes important that I should not say foolish things. (A

voice: "if you can help it.") It very often happens that the only way to help it is to say nothing at all. Believing that is my present condition this evening, I must beg of you to excuse me from addressing you further."

At dinner in the Wills home that evening Lincoln met Edward Everett, Governor Curtin and others. About 11 o'clock, he gathered his sheets of paper and went next door for a half-hour with his Secretary of State. Whether Seward made slight or material alterations in the text was known only to Lincoln and Seward. It was midnight or later that Lincoln went to sleep. He slept better for having a telegram from Stanton reporting there was no real war news and "On inquiry Mrs. Lincoln informs me that your son is better this evening."

Fifteen thousand, some said 30,000 or 50,000, people were on Cemetery Hill for the exercises next day when the procession from Gettysburg arrived afoot and horseback - members of the U.S. Government, the Army and Navy, governors of states, mayors of cities, a regiment of troops, hospital corps, telegraph company representatives, Knights Templar, Masonic Fraternity, Odd Fellows and other benevolent associations, the press, fire departments, citizens of Pennsylvania and other states. At ten o'clock Lincoln in a black suit, high silk hat and white gloves came out of the Wills residence, mounted a horse, and held a reception on horseback. At 11 the parade began to move. Clark E. Carr, just behind the President, believed he noticed that the President sat erect and looked majestic to begin with and then got to thinking so that his body leaned forward, his arms hung limp, his head bent far down.

A long telegram from Stanton at ten o'clock had been handed him. Burnside seemed safe though threatened at Knoxville, Grant was starting a big battle at Chattanooga, and "Mrs. Lincoln reports your son's health as a great deal better and he will be out today."

The march began. "Mr. Lincoln was mounted upon a young and beautiful chestnut horse, the largest in the Cumberland Valley," wrote Lieutenant Cochrane. This seemed the first occasion that anyone had looked at the President mounted with a feeling that just the right horse had been picked to match his physical length.

The march was over in 15 minutes. But Mr. Everett, the orator of the day, had not arrived. Bands played till noon. Mr. Everett arrived. On the platform sat Governors Curtin of Pennsylvania, Bradford of Maryland, Morton of Indiana, Seymour of New York, Parker of New Jersey, Dennison of Ohio, with ex-Governor Tod and Governor-elect Brough of Ohio, Edward Everett and his daughter, Major Generals Schenck, Stahel, Doubleday and Couch, Brigadier General Gibbon and Provost Marshal General Fry, foreign Ministers, members of Congress, Colonel Ward Hill Lamon, Secretary Usher, and the President of the United States with Secretary Seward and Postmaster General Blair immediately at his left.

The U.S. House chaplain, the Reverend Thomas H. Stockton, offered a prayer while the thousands stood with uncovered heads. Benjamin B. French, officer in charge of building in Washington, introduced the Honorable Edward Everett who rose, bowed low to Lincoln, saying, "Mr. President." Lincoln responded, "Mr. Everett."

The orator of the day then stood in silence before a crowd that stretched to limits that would test his voice. Beyond and around were the wheat fields, the meadows, the peach orchards, long slopes of land, and five and seven miles further the contemplative blue ridge of a low mountain

range. His eyes could sweep all this as he faced the audience. He had taken note of it in his prepared address.

He gave an outline of how the war began, traversed decisive features of the three days' battles at Gettysburg, discussed the doctrine of state sovereignty, and denounced it, drew parallels from European history, and came to his peroration quoting Pericles on dead patriots: "The whole earth is the sepulchre of illustrious men." He had spoken for one hour and 57 minutes, some said a trifle over two hours, repeating almost word for word an address that occupied nearly two newspaper pages.

Everett came to his closing sentence without a faltering voice. It was the effort of his life and embodied the perfections of the school of oratory in which he had spent his career. His poise, and chiefly some quality of inside goodheartedness, held most of his audience to him.

The Baltimore Glee Club sang an ode written for the occasion by Benjamin B. French. Having read Everett's address, Lincoln knew when the moment drew near for him to speak. He took out his own manuscript from a coat pocket, put on his steel-bowed glasses, stirred in his chair, looked over the manuscript, and put it back in his pocket. The Baltimore Glee Club finished. Ward Hill Lamon rose and spoke the words "The President of the United States," who rose, and holding in one hand the two sheets of paper at which he occasionally glanced, delivered the address in his high-pitched and clear-carrying voice. The Cincinnati Commercial reporter wrote: "The president rises slowly, draws from his pocket a paper, and, when commotion subsides, in a sharp, unmusical treble voice, reads the brief and pithy remarks." Hay wrote in his diary, "The President in a firm, free way, with more grace than in his wont, said his half dozen words of consecration." Charles Hale of the Boston Advertiser, also officially representing Governor Andrew of Massachusetts, had notebook and pencil in hand, took down the slow-spoken words of the President.

Fourscore and seven years ago our fathers brought forth on this continent a new nation, conceived in liberty and dedicated to the proposition that all men are created equal.

Now we are engaged in a great civil war, testing whether that nation or any nation so conceived and so dedicated can long endure. We are met on a great battlefield of that war. We have come to dedicate a portion of that field as a final resting-place for those who here gave their lives that that nation might live.

It is altogether fitting and proper that we should do this. But in a larger sense, we cannot dedicate, we cannot consecrate, we cannot hallow this ground. The brave men, living and dead who struggled here have consecrated it far above our poor power to add or detract.

The world will little note nor long remember what we say here, but it can never forget what they did here. It is for us the living rather to be dedicated here to the unfinished work which they who fought here have thus far so nobly advanced. It is rather for us to be here dedicated to the great task remaining before us.

That from these honored dead we take increased devotion to that cause for which they gave the last full measure of devotion.

That we here highly resolve that these dead shall not have died in vain, that this nation under God shall have a new birth of freedom, and that government of the people, by the people, for the people shall not perish from the earth."

## October Birthdays



Jeremiah C. Sullivan  
1 October 1830



Robert C. Schenck  
4 October 1809



Robert Gould Shaw  
10 October 1837



Irvin McDowell  
15 October 1818



Edward O. C. Ord  
18 October 1818



Daniel Sickles  
20 October 1819

## October Meeting

The October 2017 meeting of the  
Colonel E. E. Ellsworth Camp #18  
SUVCW

Will be held on

Tuesday 17 October 2017

At the

Heritage Farmstead Museum, Plano, TX.

## The Emancipation Proclamation

By the President of the United States of  
America:

### A Proclamation

Whereas on the 22nd day of September, A.D. 1862, a proclamation was issued by the President of the United States, containing, among other things, the following, to wit:

"That on the 1st day of January, A.D. 1863, all persons held as slaves within any State or designated part of a State the people whereof shall then be in rebellion against the United States shall be then, thenceforward, and forever free; and the executive government of the United States, including the military and naval authority thereof, will recognize and maintain the freedom of such persons and will do no act or acts to repress such persons, or any of them, in any efforts they may make for their actual freedom.

"That the executive will on the 1st day of January aforesaid, by proclamation, designate the States and parts of States, if any, in which the people thereof, respectively, shall then be in rebellion against the United States; and the fact that any State or the people thereof shall on that day be in good faith represented in the Congress of the United States by members chosen thereto at elections wherein a majority of the qualified voters of such States shall have participated shall, in the absence of strong countervailing testimony, be deemed conclusive evidence that such State and the people thereof are not then in rebellion against the United States."

Now, therefore, I, Abraham Lincoln, President of the United States, by virtue of the power in me vested as Commander-in-Chief of the Army and Navy of the United States in time of actual armed rebellion against the authority and government of the United States, and as a fit and necessary war measure for suppressing said rebellion, do, on this 1st day of January, A.D. 1863, and in accordance with my purpose so to do, publicly proclaimed for the full period of one hundred days from the first day above mentioned, order and designate as the States and parts of States wherein the people thereof, respectively, are this day in rebellion against the United States the following, to wit:

Arkansas, Texas, Louisiana (except the parishes of St. Bernard, Palquemines, Jefferson, St. John, St. Charles, St. James, Ascension, Assumption, Terrebone, Lafourche, St. Mary, St. Martin, and Orleans, including the city of New Orleans), Mississippi, Alabama, Florida, Georgia, South Carolina, North Carolina, and Virginia (except the forty-eight

counties designated as West Virginia, and also the counties of Berkeley, Accomac, Morthampton, Elizabeth City, York, Princess Anne, and Norfolk, including the cities of Norfolk and Portsmouth), and which excepted parts are for the present left precisely as if this proclamation were not issued.

And by virtue of the power and for the purpose aforesaid, I do order and declare that all persons held as slaves within said designated States and parts of States are, and henceforward shall be, free; and that the Executive Government of the United States, including the military and naval authorities thereof, will recognize and maintain the freedom of said persons.

And I hereby enjoin upon the people so declared to be free to abstain from all violence, unless in necessary self-defence; and I recommend to them that, in all case when allowed, they labor faithfully for reasonable wages.

And I further declare and make known that such persons of suitable condition will be received into the armed service of the United States to garrison forts, positions, stations, and other places, and to man vessels of all sorts in said service.

And upon this act, sincerely believed to be an act of justice, warranted by the Constitution upon military necessity, I invoke the considerate judgment of mankind and the gracious favor of Almighty God.

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## Camp Ford

### Tyler, Texas

Camp Ford began in the early stages of the war as a training camp for Confederate recruits. In time, it became a POW camp, and received prisoners from battles at Brashear City and Marganzie, Louisiana. Later, when Dick Dowling defeated the Union Naval attack at Sabine Pass, the prisoners taken at that conflict were ultimately brought up to Camp Ford and remained there for the duration of the war. After that, prisoners taken during the Mansfield Campaign were added along with others, until thousands of POWs were in the East Texas prison. By the war's end, soldiers and sailors from about 20 states of the Union had been incarcerated at Camp Ford.

After the war the prison area was abandoned, was covered up, and was largely forgotten. The prisoners, though, remembered their involuntary quarters, wrote articles for newspapers and even drew pictures of the prison with its stockade and temporary huts from at least two different views. These materials provided eyewitness accounts of the prison. During the last several decades several books and articles on the subject have been published on Camp Ford by local historians, Dr. Bob Glover, Lee Lawrence and Randy Gilbert. Ultimately, this interest led to an increased interest in the site, the formation of the Camp Ford Preservation Committee, and the securing of a Federal grant to purchase the property and arrange for its archaeological excavation.

We are now in the process of developing Camp Ford as a place that visitors from all over the country can come to see where Confederate guards and Union prisoners lived on the site for the years of the greatest conflict our country ever experienced on our own soil.

## The Siege of Port Hudson

### 22 May - 9 July, 1863

(From American Battlefields by Hubbard Cobb)

Port Hudson, on the east side of the Mississippi River about 13 miles north of Baton Rouge, Louisiana, was a Confederate bastion almost as formidable as Vicksburg. It rose on a steep bluff high above the river and was well surrounded by deep, steep-sided ravines that were dense with trees and vines. Gun batteries protected the fort on all sides. In March 1863, when Union Rear Admiral David Farragut tried to take a fleet of seven ships north to shut off the flow of supplies reaching the fort from the Red River country in Louisiana, only two safely survived the batteries. So, it was clear to the Union command that, if the Mississippi was to become a Union waterway, they had to remove this obstacle in addition to conquering Vicksburg. No real effort to achieve this goal was made, however, until May 22, 1863, when Port Hudson was surrounded by Federal troops under Major General Nathaniel Banks, and a fleet under Farragut moved in to provide cannon support. In all, not counting navy men, about 30,000 Federals faced a garrison of 7,500.

Five days after taking positions around Port Hudson, Banks set in motion a grand assault against all points of the Confederate line. But because the attack was made sporadically, the defenders were able to reposition themselves for each onslaught. About 2,000 Union soldiers were killed or wounded.

Another great assault was made by the Federals on June 14, following a day of extremely heavy cannon fire. This assault was centered at the Priest Cap, on the east side of the fortifications, but once again, the attackers were repulsed with 1,800 casualties.

Realizing that he was not going to overcome Port Hudson by direct assault, Banks settled in for a siege, during which his men dug approach trenches and inched their cannon forward. The Confederates were totally cut off and were reduced to eating their mules and even rats.

Finally, on July 7, Major General Franklin Gardner, who commanded the Confederates, received word that Vicksburg had fallen. Without Vicksburg, Port Hudson was of little strategic value to the South, and on July 9, Gardner surrendered. The siege, which lasted 46 days, was the longest in American military history. Federal losses totaled almost 10,000 men. The Confederates lost 1,000. About half of the Federal casualties and a fourth of the Confederates were attributable to disease and heat stroke.

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## Bragg In Tennessee

Following his unsuccessful invasion of Kentucky (ending with the battle of Perryville on October 8), General Braxton Bragg withdrew his Confederate army to Tennessee. With 35,000 men he established a line on both sides of Stones River, Tennessee, northwest of his supply depot at Murfreesboro.

Pressed by Washington to pursue and attack Bragg's army, Major General William Rosecrans, with some 45,000 men, moved out of Nashville and headed south. Though harassed by Brigadier Joseph Wheeler's

Confederate cavalry, he reached Stones River on December 30 and deployed his force in a line facing Bragg.

Rosecran's plan of attack was to send Major General Thomas Cirttenden's and Major General George Thomas's corps against Bragg's right, held by Major General John Breckinridge positioned on the east side of the river.

Bragg also planned to strike his enemy's right and he hit first.

Early on the Morning of December 31, Major General William J. Hardee, supported by divisions of Lieutenant General Leonidas Polk, attacked Major General Alexander McCook's corps on the Union right.

The attack by 10,000 Confederates came as a total surprise to McCook, who understood that it would be the Union left who would be attacking and his three divisions, around 14,000, were to protect the army's right flank, the nearby Nashville Pike, and the Nashville Chattanooga Railroad – Rosecrans's supply lines and also his only path of retreat.

One of McCook's divisions practically disintegrated under the force of the initial attack and another was only able to put up resistance for a short time before withdrawing.

But Brigadier General Philip Sheridan was a fighter and his 5,000 man division held on, giving better than they took.

Hardee now sent in two fresh divisions of Polk's corps to dislodge him. Sheridan repulsed the first, commanded by Major General Cheatham. Sheridan withdrew to get ammunition and then took a position near the Nashville Pike, alongside one of Thomas's divisions that had also been forced back.

By then the Union right had been driven back about three miles and the center had also given ground.

Sheridan's resistance provided Rosecrans, who had given up his idea of attacking, time to concentrate on saving his army by reinforcing the right and center by drawing men from Cirttenden's corps.

By 10:00 A.M., Bragg thought that final victory would be his in short order and threw a whole series of attacks against the Federals. But by this time Rosecrans had established a strong line, somewhat in the shape of an open door hinge. Much of the fighting to follow was around the pivot of the hinge.

The terrain of the battle area was rather flat and dotted with rocks and clumps of trees. There was no high ground from which troop movements could readily be observed and was therefore unsuited for organized warfare, so the men fought each other as best they could.

Fighting was especially vicious around a cluster of trees called Round Forest. This place was later referred by soldiers of both sides as "Hell's Half Acre," with good reason.

Confederate forces made many attacks on this position that was near the center of the Union line. A Mississippi regiment tried to take it with half its men carrying sticks, for lack of rifles. Another regiment of the same state used their rifles as clubs because the recent rain made their rifles too wet to fire.

Despite the terrible casualties suffered as his men crossed an open field to attack the strong Union position at Round Forest, Bragg believed that with sufficient men he could take it and win the battle.

In the early afternoon he ordered Breckinridge, who

had so far played no important role in the battle, to send his five brigades to join in the attack. But the four brigades that Breckinridge reluctantly delivered were sent in piecemeal and were torn to pieces by Union artillery and rifle fire.

The Union defenders were also suffering from the repeated attack on their position, but their line held and late afternoon the firing stopped and the day's fighting was over.

There was no fighting on January 1, but the following day Bragg ordered Breckinridge to dislodge a Union force under Colonel Samuel Beatty that had crossed the river and occupied a hill threatening Polk's position

Breckinridge's brigades, supported by artillery, attacked Beatty's position, and after fierce fighting drove them from the hilltop. But as the Confederate troops pursued them down the slope, they came under massive artillery fire from 58 of Crittenden's guns. Beatty, then reinforced, retook the hill. The attempt to take and hold the hill resulted in 1,700 Confederate casualties.

Bragg now decided that he should desert the battlefield entirely. The river was rising and could isolate his forces. Furthermore, he had received captured papers showing the Rosecrans had been reinforced. So during the night of January 2, the Confederate army withdrew south to take up winter quarters 20 or so miles away at Tullahoma, Tennessee, leaving 2,000 wounded behind.

The battle had been one of the bloodiest of the war. In three days, Federal casualties were about 12,906 of the 41,400 troops engaged. Bragg lost around 11,700 of his smaller army of about 35,000.

It had been a fight that neither side could claim as a clear victory. But it cost the Confederacy men it could not readily replace and forced Bragg to give up more of Tennessee as he moved south toward Chattanooga, where he would clash again with Rosecrans..

