

“The General’s Aide”

**Gen. Tom Green Camp #1613
Sons of Confederate Veterans**

June 2024

Commander’s Briefing Room

Special Dates of Interest:

June 7-9, 2024 - Texas Division Reunion, San Antonio, Texas.

June 16, 2024 - Father’s Day.

June 20, 2024—Gen. Tom Green Camp 1613 meeting at Ft. Concho LHSC, 7:00 pm.

July 4, 2024 - Independence Day.

July 20-21, 2024—Gun Show in San Angelo.

July 16-21, 2024—SCV National Reunion in North Charleston, S.C.

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I would like to begin this month's issue with good news. The people of a small community in Virginia stood up to be counted by running for positions on the school board and after four years have voted to reverse the knee jerk name-change of 2020 on two schools that were previously named for Stonewall Jackson and Turner Ashbury & Robert E. Lee. Shenandoah County Schools will once again be named Thomas "Stonewall" Jackson High School and Ashby-Lee Elementary School.

On another note, a Riverside County school district in California has settled a lawsuit with a former teacher that was fired for refusing to adhere to policies regarding transgender or gender-nonconforming students. Jessica Tapia sited her religious beliefs and freedom of speech rights were being violated by these policies. The policy would cause her to lie to parents concerning this subject. Jessica's attorney stated the out of court settle-

ment in this case affirms that “religious rights are not second class.” Indeed, our Christian beliefs do not make us second class citizens nor do our ties to our Southern heritage make us or the Southern way of life “Second Class.”

May has brought us some funky weather here in San Angelo and surrounding areas. I hope the damaging hail and wind has missed you. I picked up a hail stone with a 2-3/4" across dimension. It was shaped like a flatten football. I do ask that everyone keep in prayer our fellow Compatriots and fellow Texans in the Temple and Valley View areas as they recover from the recent May tornados.

This month we have the Texas Division Reunion in San Antonio, June 7-9. Our next meeting will be June 20, 2024 at the Ft. Concho LHSC at 7:00 pm. Adjutant Howard Wilson will be presenting the program at the meeting. July 20-21 will be the date for the

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Memorial Day 2024

The Daughters of the American Revolution held their annual Memorial Day event at Ft. Concho Monday, May 27, 2024. Members of the Gen. Tom Green Camp 1613 were present to provide a musket salute to honor all of the

men and women that have given the ultimate sacrifice serving America.



Pictured are Rod Smith, Steve Melton, Howard Wilson and Charles Westbrook (L-R). Camp member David Johnson was serving on the Ft. Concho cannon for the event.



Benjamin Franklin Williams



Pvt. Benjamin Franklin Williams, Co. I, 3rd Georgia State Troops, was the youngest of either side to serve throughout the War Between the States. He desperately wanted to be a part of his father's military home guard organization at-

tached to Georgia's 780th Military District, which recruited boys age 9-13 with a few older men, but his parents refused. The boy persisted until they finally compromised to allow him to participate as mascot status. Presumably, he started training in mid-August of 1861, and was admitted into the unit in mid-September at the age of 7 years, 6 months, and 10 days. Officially his age was recorded as 9 years.

These boys served as mail carrier, forager, messenger, hostler, water boy, spy, lookout, produce gatherer, and wagoner. Knowing the terrain, roads, trails, waterholes, and natives made him ideal for becom-

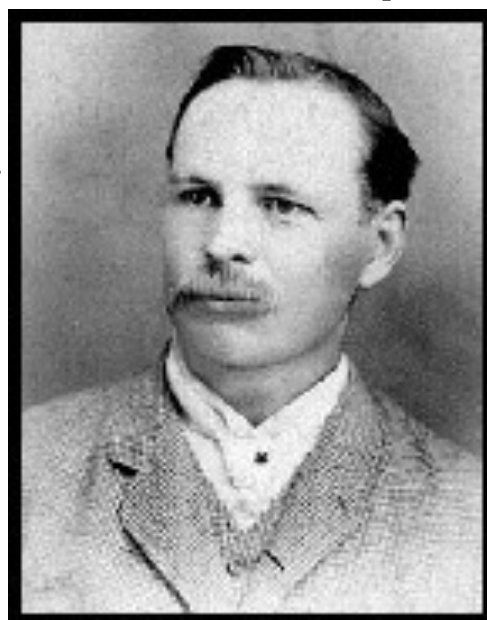
ing a commissary supplier in northern Stewart County and western Chattahoochee. After learning what farmers could supply what food stuffs and familiarizing himself with a penciled map which he later memorized, Ben acquired a mule and wagon cart and became a gatherer of farm produce as well as home comforts (soap, towels, clothing, etc.) and letters to the Confederate depot and outpost to an element of General Joe Wheeler's forces near the Alabama line. In warmer weather, he ran his route every ten or twelve days; one day to gather his load, another to deliver it to the Quartermaster Depot, and a third to return home. In mid-June of 1862 Ben's father relinquished his command to enlist in the infantry. For two years he stayed in the Columbus, Georgia, area and his son could visit on occasion and even spend the night. At war's end, Ben F. Williams was one of the youngest war veterans at 11 years and 1 month.

From a 1938 interview with Ben F. Williams, Martha N. McLeod took down the following quote for her forthcoming book, "Brother Warriors" (1940), "At the age of nine I was engaged in the War. My older brothers and father carried gunpowder and shots. I was too young to enlist as a soldier and carry a gun,

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Hugo H. Raven

Not all of the Confederate Veterans that we honor are native born. Hugo H Raven was born in 1837 in the Mecklenburg-Schwein region of what is now Germany. His family came to Texas in 1844 and his father established a bookbinding business in Austin. In 1860, Hugo was still living at home and working for his father as a printer. Germans were adamantly against slavery, but when the war broke out in 1861, Hugo joined Company G of the Texas Riflemen out of a sense of loyalty and duty to his new state. In 1862, he joined the 1st Texas Cavalry as a bugler. You can almost hear his bugle charge on



Hugo H. Raven

April 8, 1864 as the 1st Cavalry led by another German, Colonel Augustus Buchel, attacked and turned the left flank of the Federal line at the Battle of Mansfield in Louisiana.

After the war, Hugo returned to Travis County and began farming. He moved north into Williamson County where he lived until his death in 1918. Hugo Raven is buried in the Round Rock Cemetery where 61 Confederate Veterans rest.



Dance Brothers Factory

Just north of Anderson, Texas on FM 244 off Highway 90 is Texas Historical Marker #8603 placed in 1936. It reads: "Site of a munitions factory of the Southern Confederacy, established 1861, in operation until 1865."

This was the second site of the munitions factory of the J. H. Dance and Company. Civil War firearms manufactured by the Dance brothers are among the most highly prized antique weapons, valued for their fine craftsmanship as well as their rarity. From July 1862 through May 1865 the company produced six-shot Colt-pattern revolvers in both .44 and .36 caliber; total output was fewer than 400. The factory also produced producing bullets and cartridges for both .54 and .58 caliber long and short pattern Tom Green Minnie balls.

In addition, they were also manufacturing and loading cannon balls and shells for 6 and 12 pound artillery. Workers were also converting muskets from flint to percussion type firearms.

The factory was moved to this site from East Columbia, Texas after the threat of Union invasion. According to the Texas Historical Association, one of the last known shipments of Dance revolvers

took place on April 18, 1865; a lot of twenty-five six-shot pistols were sent from Anderson to the Houston Depot of Supplies. At the end of the war, the Dances returned to East Columbia and the manufacturing of gristmills and cotton gins. This is when they began the manufacture of furniture. The 1900 hurricane ruined the factory. It was never rebuilt.



Texas Historical Marker #8603. It reads: "Site of a munitions factory of the Southern Confederacy, established 1861, in operation until 1865."

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Benjamin Franklin Williams (con't)

(Continued from page 2)

but I did duty at the Quartermaster Supply Department throughout the four years of the war.

My father served as an enrolling officer at the beginning of the war. He got up a company of young boys and drilled them. When the last call for volunteers came, Father went to the war. The company of young boys he had prepared, gave their services by hauling supplies to the camp depots. These provisions were gathered around the country from the farmers, who gave a certain portion of their foodstuff to the quartermaster at the camp commissary. I carried lots of supplies to Wheeler's Cavalry.

One exciting come-off was when I ran a bunch of Yankees about two miles by myself. You bet, I was leading them – they tried to catch me, but I outrun



Benjamin Franklin Williams

'em. They shot once in a while, just to see how fast I could run, but if they met to hit me, I outrun the bullets." It was noted that Ben F. Williams was the Commander of the local UCV Camp at the time of that interview.

Ben F. Williams, age 87, attended the 51st National Reunion of the U.C.V. in Atlanta and he is pictured in the Atlanta Constitution, (10/14/41), fingering a golden sword that was his father's, a memento of the Mexican War. His father was Capt. Nathaniel Jackson Williams, CSA (1816-1894), and his mother, Louise A. Cleveland Williams (1827-1913). In his obituary, one of his sons, Bass Eli Williams (1882-1971) was living in

Houston, Texas. Benjamin Franklin Williams, March 7, 1854-August 26, 1943 is buried in the Williams Cemetery, Stewart County, Georgia.

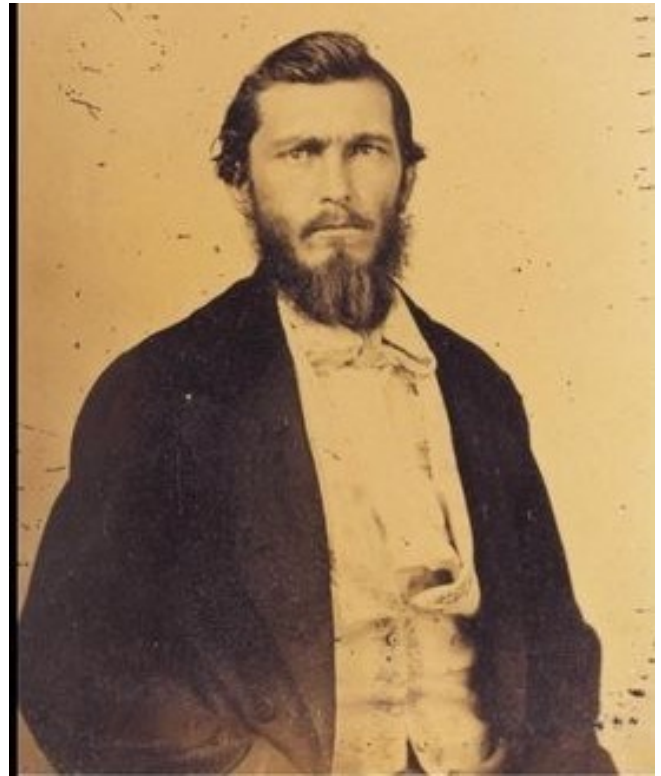


Dance Brothers (con't)

(Continued from page 3)

If anyone happens to own one of the Dance brothers less than 400 manufactured pistols they not only have a valuable, sought after, and desirable fire-arm but a historic piece of Texas history. Missie Hughson supplied the photographs of the historical marker and of her great-great-grandfather James Alfred Hughson, who worked at the Dance factory in Anderson. He became a photographer in Brenham, Texas after the war.

***Special thanks to Missie Hughson for sharing the photos of the marker and her great-great-grandfather.



James Alfred Hughson, who worked at the Dance factory in Anderson. He became a photographer in Brenham, Texas after the war.



J.H. Dance and Brothers "Army" Revolver, Confederate. Columbia, Texas 1863-1865. Dance made two models of the revolver, an "Army" style in .44 caliber (above) and a .36 caliber "Navy" model. Both were pretty much copies of period Colt pistols.



General Tom Green Camp 1613
2nd Brigade, Texas Division
Sons of Confederate Veterans



Individual Awards Record Form

Name: _____
 SCV #: _____ Email: _____
 Address: _____ Phone: _____
 City, State Zip: _____
 Offices Held: _____

Awards & Medals

Date Awarded:

Presented by:

National:

National/Division/Brigade

<input type="checkbox"/>	Distinguished Service Medal		
<input type="checkbox"/>	Meritorious Service Medal		
<input type="checkbox"/>	Superior Achievement		
<input type="checkbox"/>	SCV Leadership Award		
<input type="checkbox"/>	SCV Commendation Medal		
<input type="checkbox"/>	National Guardian Award		
<input type="checkbox"/>	Name of Other Award(s)		

Texas Division:

<input type="checkbox"/>	Deo Vindice		
<input type="checkbox"/>	Texas Confederate of the Year		
<input type="checkbox"/>	Gold Cross for Meritorious Service		
<input type="checkbox"/>	Gold Cross Stars & Oak Leaf		
<input type="checkbox"/>	Silver Cross for Meritorious Service		
<input type="checkbox"/>	Silver Cross Stars & Oak Leaf		
<input type="checkbox"/>	Bronze Cross for Meritorious Service		
<input type="checkbox"/>	Bronze Cross Stars & Oak Leaf		
<input type="checkbox"/>	Honor Award		
<input type="checkbox"/>	Texas Division Guardian Award		

Brigade or Camp Awards:



Gen. Tom Green Camp #1613 Texas Division, 2nd Brigade Sons of Confederate Veterans



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Texas Division website:
www.scvtexas.org
Camp website:
www.generaltomgreen.org

To you, Sons of Confederate Veterans, we will commit the vindication of the cause for which we fought. To your strength will be given the defense of the Confederate soldier's good name, the guardianship of his history, the emulation of his virtues, the perpetuation of those principles which he loved and which you love also, and those ideals which made him glorious and which you also cherish."

Lt. General Stephen Dill Lee, Commander General,
United Confederate Veterans,
New Orleans, Louisiana, April 25, 1906

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Briefing Room

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next Gun Show in San Angelo. That same weekend the SCV National Reunion will be going on, July 16 - 21 in North Charleston, S.C.

I am working on a project to obtain Individual Awards Records for our membership. Included in this edition you will find a page with a copy of the form. I am asking those who have received any Medals or Awards to please print out this page, fill it in and return it to me at your convenience. If your computer skills prevent you from printing the form, just send me the information and I will make a form for you.

Y'all be safe out there and keep your powder dry. See you at the meeting.

I have just learned that Com-

(con't)

patriot Frank Bussey has passed away. Our condolences to the family.



It is my sad duty to inform you of the passing of a true Confederate. Wednesday afternoon, May 29th, Frank Bussey crossed over the river. Frank was a longtime member of the Sons of Confederate Veterans and lived every day to uphold the Charge. Frank was the Camp Commander of the Lieutenant General Nathan Bedford Forrest Camp #2313 in Whitney and was Past Commander of the 2nd Texas Frontier District Camp in DeLeon, and immediate Past Commander of the Central Texas 7th Brigade.

Arrangements are under the care of the Higginbotham Funeral Home in Gorman, located at 219 West Roberts Street. The funeral service and visitation will take place on Wednesday, June 5th, as follows:

Where: Higginbotham Funeral Home

219 West Roberts Street, Gorman, TX 76454

10:00am - Visitation at the funeral home

11:00am - Funeral service at the funeral home

12:00pm - Graveside service at the Gorman Cemetery, with Confederate rifle salute

James Bozeman

Texas Division Chaplain