



“The General’s Aide”

Gen. Tom Green Camp #1613 Sons of Confederate Veterans



February 2025

Commander’s Briefing Room

Special Dates of Interest:

- February 8, 2025** - School of the Soldier
- February 14, 2025** - Valentine's Day
- February 20, 2025** - Gen. Tom Green camp meeting.
- February 21-22, 2025** - Ft. Griffin Living History
- March 7-8, 2025** - Ft. Clark Days.
- April 5, 2025** - San Angelo Rodeo Parade.
- June 6-8, 2025** - 128th Texas Division Reunion
- July 17 – 20, 2025** - 130th Annual National Reunion

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Aaah, Love is in the air. It is February and Valentine's Day is upon us, so Gentlemen, now is the time to find that perfect gesture of love for your beloved. I would hate to see you in the 'doghouse' and confined to the backyard, so to speak.



Several topics from our last meeting covered things that have happens in the Confederation to what the Camp will be doing in the coming months and year. The first news is that through a few anonymous benefactors matching donations for the National Confederate Museum, the bank note has been paid in full. That has been a big relief for National retiring this debt which has appeared to strain SCV resources. In the email notice about this debt retirement, it was also noted that the SCV still owes an amount to the Brook's Medical Fund, a category within the SCV from which National borrowed money to service the original debt. It is an annual budget item for National in the

repayment of this in-house lending.

In line with donations, the Camp would like to “Thank” H.D. McLean for his contributions to our Christmas Party.

The only news I received from the Division DEC meeting of January 4th is that they voted to add an additional \$250.00 to the flag preservation/restoration project. If you are not aware of the project, the UDC donated several Confederate flags to the Texas Division to preserve and maintain. If my memory serves me correctly, these were the UDC flags that once were displayed in the Confederate Museum in White Settlement. This wonderful museum closed in October of last year.

The upcoming San Angelo Rodeo Parade was a topic we discussed. The Camp is planning to make a showing this year and we will be looking for help, ideas and equipment to put our best face forward. The parade will be

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Words of Thought

And beginning at Moses and all the prophets, he expounded unto them in all the scriptures the things concerning himself. Luke 24:27 KJV

Charles H. Spurgeon wrote:

The two disciples on the road to Emmaus had a most profitable journey. Their companion and teacher was *the best of tutors*; the interpreter one of a thousand, in whom are hid all

the treasures of wisdom and knowledge. The Lord Jesus condescended to become a preacher of the gospel, and He was not ashamed to exercise His calling before an audience of two persons, neither does He now refuse to become the teacher of even one. Let us court the company of so excellent an Instructor, for till He is made unto us wisdom we shall never

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Flag of the 7th Texas Infantry

The 7th Texas Regiment was a renowned unit which fought for the Confederacy during the war. On October 2nd, 1861 at Marshall, Texas, nine infantry companies were organized into a regiment. The force behind this organization was John Gregg, District Judge from Fairfield, Texas. Gregg received a Colonel's commission and the authority to raise an infantry regiment.

The regiment was sent by train to Shreveport and marched to Memphis, Tennessee and in November of 1861 was in Hopkinsville, Kentucky. The Lieutenant Colonel of the regiment was Jeremiah M.

Clough, who was previously a District Attorney with Harrison County. The Major of the unit was Hiram Bronson Granbury formally a member of the renowned Texas Rangers and he also served as Chief Justice of McLennan County. In February of 1862, the unit arrived at Fort Donelson on the Cumberland

River. After two days of vicious fighting, Fort Donelson was surrendered to Ulysses S. Grant.

All of the 7th Texas Unit that was captured went to a Northern prison until September of 1862 when they were exchanged at Vicksburg, Mississippi. Col. Gregg was promoted to Brigadier General in August of 1862 and Major Granbury was promoted to Colonel. By February of 1863, it had acquired enough troops to regain its regimental status and was placed in Brigadier General Gregg's aid. In May 1863, they were sent to Raymond, Mississippi where

the 7th Texas were engaged in a horrendous battle which resulted in a loss over 50% of men. The 7th together with the other units of Gregg's brigade fought valiantly and conspicuously and after the battle a Federal Commander stated he was convinced that he had been attacked by an entire division rather than a brigade.

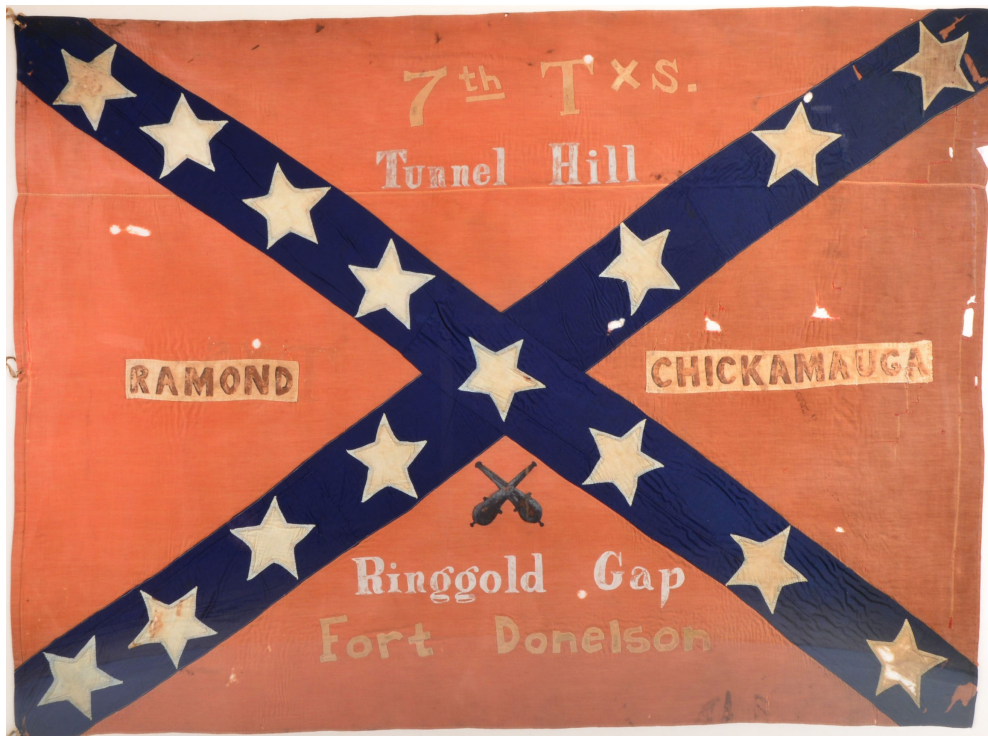
In 1863, the brigade was sent to Jackson, Mississippi, once again seeing much fighting and action. In mid-September of 1863, they were involved in the great battle of Chickamauga where they once again lost a number of their men. The 7th

Texas conspicuously participated in the final charge which drove the Union army from the field and into siege at Chattanooga. After Chickamauga, the 7th Texas was placed in the brigade of James A. Smith of Major General Patrick R. Cleburne's division. Here the 7th Texas would remain until the end of the war.

On

November 25th & 26th, 1863, they participated in the Battle of Missionary Ridge and the 7th Texas helped to defend the Confederate right. General Smith and his second in command were both wounded which thus elevated Col. Granbury to Brigade Commander. General Braxton Bragg's center and left collapsed and his army retreated. Cleburne's men, including the 7th Texas, occupied the post of honor that being the rear guard. On November 27th,

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After communicating with Harold Johnston about the Texas 7th Infantry's Flag, he sent me a link to Poulin's Auctions which auctioned this very flag in April 2020.

A Letter Home—Rufus King Felder

On July 9, 1863, Private Rufus King Felder of the 5th Texas Infantry wrote to his mother living in Chappell Hill, Texas, about the recently fought Battle of Gettysburg. His letter home to far off Texas, tells about the march to Gettysburg and the battle and his thoughts after the battle.

Private Rufus King Felder
5th Texas Infantry
Hagerstown, Maryland July 9th.

My Dear Mother,

You probably think hard of me for neglecting to write so long, but you will excuse me when I tell you this is the first opportunity I have had of writing or sending a letter back since we started on this long and eventful campaign. I have not time to give any of the particulars of the campaign as you will be able to gather more information from the papers than I could possibly give. Sufficient to say that ever since the 10th of May when we took up a line of march from Richmond we have been all the while on the march or lying in line of battle. You cannot imagine the fatigue and hardship we have been exposed to having been on a forced march all the while, making from 15 to 25 miles a day. After the capture of Milroy's force at Winchester, we did not meet with any opposition till we reached Gettysburg, Pa., when we met Meade who it is said has superseded Hooker with an immense force. As part of our army engaged him on the first of July & drove him back 3 miles. He then took possession of a high mountain & that night & next day made it impregnable. The evening of the 2nd, Lee attempted to carry the heights by storm. The charge commenced along the whole line

& the fighting was terrible indeed. A part of the enemy's lines gave way, but the main heights were not taken. It seemed like madness in Lee to have attempted to storm such a position. He came very near losing his whole army by it.

There was also very hard fighting on the third & the cannonading was terrible in the extreme, surpassing anything perhaps in the annals of warfare. There could not have been less than five hundred pieces of artillery engaged at once on both sides. The very mountain shook with its thunder. The slaughter on both sides was terrible. The enemy acknowledged a loss of a thousand & that they were unable to hold their position. They commenced falling back on Baltimore & Washington on the third & Lee fell back to Maryland to shorten his lines & get supplies on the fourth. Had this army known that it was to be defeated we would have been whipped. I will give you some idea of the position of our brigade in

the fight. We were on the extreme right & had the highest portion of the peak to charge. We charged a mile double quick up an almost perpendicular peak at the top of which the enemy had fortified to make it impossible to take had the enemy only been armed with rocks. Our regiment suffered severely having charged up within thirty yards of the enemy four successful times & having to fall back as many times two hundred yards from the enemy's works. I must close by giving a list of casualties in our company. We started in the fight with 27 guns & came out with eight. All those not able to walk out fell in hands of the enemy. They are Lieut. Harper,



Early war photo (ca 1861-1862) of Rufus King Felder on the left and his cousin Miers Felder on the right.

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Flag of the 7th Texas Infantry (con't)

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1863, Cleburne and his unit received additional glory at the Battle of Ringgold Gap for their incredible action in the campaign.

Cleburne's division won the thanks of the Confederate Congress and on February of 1864, Colonel Granbury was promoted to Brigadier General and command of the brigade. By May of 1864, the Army of Tennessee opposed Sherman's advance on Atlanta and fought for over 100 days.

Once again, the 7th Texas gained new glory at places like Pickett's Mill, Kennesaw Mountain, Atlanta, Jonesboro, and LoveJoys Station. During this campaign, the 7th Texas once again lost a number of men.

On November 30th, 1864 (the date the flag was captured by Union forces), the 7th Texas fought heroically in Franklin, Tennessee. In one instance, charging without the benefit of artillery against entrenched Federal positions. During this desperate battle, a great number of the 7th Texas were killed, wounded or captured and Brigadier General Granbury and Major Cleburne were among the killed. The Commander of the 7th Texas, John William Brown, was also captured and at the end of the day, Captain Edward Thomas Broughton of the 7th Texas commanded the brigade.

The Confederates pursued the Federal Army to the environs of Nashville and on December 15th & 16th, 1864, two days of battle ensued. The 7th Texas and the rest of the brigade fought well but were eventually driven back from the field.

On April 26th, 1865, the regiment accompanied the Army of Tennessee into the Carolina's where they surrendered to Major William Tecumseh

Sherman.

The 7th Texas was truly a historic and distinguished regiment in the Texas Confederate Army. The flag of the 7th Texas, which was sold at public auction, is one of the finest Confederate flags currently in private hands and possibly the finest ever offered at public auction. One of the most desirable attributes of a historic flag is its graphic design and condition and here the 7th Texas flag is exemplary. Its brilliant red background with huge blue cross interposed with beautiful sewn through stars, is ornately embellished with numerous battle honors. There are only a handful of Confederate Battle Flags today in private hands with battle honors but this is the only Texas Confederate Battle Flag left in private hands having battle honors. This example is in incredible condition and the numerous battle honors on the flag include Chickamauga, Ringgold Gap, Fort Donelson, Raymond, and Tunnel Hill. In addition, it features the "Crossed Cannons" which was earned during the Battle of Chickamauga, when Gregg's Brigade helped capture a battery of Union artillery.

The 7th Texas flag shows three styles of battle honors. One artist did the unit designation (on both sides) and the "Fort Donelson" battle honor. Another did "Ramond" (sic) and "Chickamauga". Still another painted the cross-cannon honors, awarded to the regiment for capturing Federal guns at Chickamauga where Gregg's Brigade shattered the Federal center. The honors for "Tunnel Hill" and "Ringgold Gap" are the most interesting however. Done in white paint they are the same style of honors painted on Hardee/Cleburne battle flag of the 17th & 18th Texas Cavalry (Dismounted) that was captured in the Battle of Atlanta in July 1864. This suggests that the same artist painted the honors on these two flags. Other flags of Cleburne's Division were decorated by different artists in different styles.

More of this article can be found at poulinauctions.com.



Birthdays & Service Anniversaries

Birthdays:

Howard Coleman	February 13th.
David Johnson	February 14th.

Service Anniversaries:

Leland Hamner	February 2nd	26 Yrs.
Deaune Whitehead	February 15th	7 Yrs.
Roy Fiveash	February 20th	7 Yrs.
Rod Smith	February 24th	13 Yrs.





A Letter Home—Rufus King Felder (con't)

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severely wounded in three places; S. Watson, right arm broke; thigh broke; J. Booth, skull fractured, John Roberts, wounded in the calf of both legs; Counts, Weathersby and Lockett, all severely wounded & left in the hands of the enemy. W. Stevens & Daniels, missing; Lieut. Nash & six others were able to get out. Excuse these few hurried lines as there is a man ready to start for Richmond with the letters. I will write again, the first opportunity. Love to All, Your son, Rufus (*)

(*)Rufus King Felder to Catherine Felder, July 9, 1863, Hood's Texas Brigade Letters, Texas Heritage Museum, Hillsboro, Texas.



Words of Thought (con't)

(Continued from page 1)

be wise unto salvation.

This unrivalled tutor used as His class-book *the best of books*. Although able to reveal fresh truth, He preferred to expound the old. He knew by His omniscience what was the most instructive way of teaching, and by turning at once to Moses and the prophets, He showed us that the surest road to wisdom is not speculation, reasoning, or reading human books, but meditation upon the Word of God. The readiest way to be spiritually rich in heavenly knowledge is to dig in this mine of diamonds, to gather pearls from the heavenly sea. When Jesus Himself sought to enrich others, He wrought in the quarry of Holy Scripture.

The favoured pair were led to consider *the best of subjects*, for Jesus spake of Jesus, and expounded the things concerning Himself. Here the diamond cut the diamond, and what could be more admirable? The Master of the House unlocked His own doors, conducted the guests to His table, and

placed His own dainties upon it. He who hid the treasure in the field Himself guided the searchers to it. Our Lord would naturally discourse upon the sweetest of topics, and He could find none sweeter than his own person and work: with an eye to these we should always search the Word. O for grace to study the Bible with Jesus as both our teacher and our lesson!

May these "Words of Thought" be a blessing unto you.

Troy Chandler

Chaplain, Army of Trans-Mississippi





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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

Commander's Briefing Room (con't)

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Saturday, April 5th this year, so mark your calendar and plan to help out.

Another topic discussed at the meeting was the loss of our annual event, the Lee-Jackson Banquet in Midland. Whether you call it Covid-19, or Corona virus, i.e. the 'beer virus', celebrating our ancestors and the South came to a screeching halt. Prohibitions on gatherings and the closure of Sidekicks & Legends restaurant stifled attempts to restart the banquet. So, we will begin exploring the possibility of having a similar event here for 2026 and hopefully we can encourage participation from other area camps. I will also add that 2nd Brigade Commander Bob Hazlewood issued an email right before our meeting about this very subject.

I am going to produce a Camp Roster of the membership for distribution among camp members. This roster will have names, addresses, phone numbers and email addresses that are listed with National. As I stated in the meeting, if anyone does not want their information on this

roster, please contract me ASAP as it will be made available by March.

We talked about the upcoming San Angelo Rodeo Parade that will take place April 5, 2025. At this time we are working on participating in the parade with a float. We will be discussing this topic more at the next meeting so bring your ideas and thought with you to the meeting.

And before I forget, Ft. Concho will have its "School of the Soldier" February 8, 2025. This event begins at 9:00 am and goes till 5:00 pm. They will have the "Crackers & Biscuits" reenactors from Louisiana onsite preparing food for the fort's members.

If you were a fan of the Mort Kunstler's Legends in Grey calendars, take heart. Kunstler's calendars are back and in stock at The Confederate Shop (confederateshop.com). I must advise that the new version of Mort's calendar has a 50/50 artwork of Confederate pictures and the other side. Price of the calendar is \$25.00.

See y'all at the meeting.

