



"The General's Aide"

Gen. Tom Green Camp #1613
Sons of Confederate Veterans



March 2025

Commander's Briefing Room

Special Dates of Interest:

March 1, 2025 - Black Powder Shoot-Sheffield, Texas
March 7-8, 2025 - Ft. Clark Days
March 6-9, 2025 - Texas Storytelling Festival
April 5, 2025 - San Angelo Rodeo Parade
April 11-13, 2025 - Pleasant Hill Reenactment
April 19, 2025 - Texas Division Picnic
April 26, 2025 - San Jacinto-Confederate Memorial Day
June 6-8, 2025 - 128th Texas Division Reunion
July 17 - 20, 2025 - 130th Annual National Reunion

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Spring is around the corner and with it the increase of activities. The Camp is registered to participate in the April San Angelo Rodeo Parade.



We need to find a trailer to decorate and ride on. If you have a trailer or know someone with a trailer that we can use, let know as soon as you can. This will allow us to plan what we will be able to do at the March meeting.

March 1st hosts the Judge Roy Bean Camp #2298 Black Powder Shoot held in Sheffield, Texas at the Sheffield Community Center. A Fried Catfish & Fries lunch will be served at 12 noon and then everyone will proceed to the gun range. There will be three shooting categories: Smoothbore, Rifled bore and Pistol. Entry fee is \$10.00 per shooter per category and a first place prize per shooting category. Each category will have 1 round of three (3) shots. Additional shots are \$5.00.

Ft. Clark Days will be March 7-8

near Brackettville, Texas. This is a family friendly event that is held rain or shine, admission is free. Times are Friday 9am - 3pm, Saturday 9am - 5pm. They have entertainment, living historians, arts and crafts, demonstrations and tours.

It seem this weekend is very popular to hold events as there is the Texas Storyteller Festival in Denton, Texas March 6-9, with 30 storytellers, workshops, concerts and more. Check out festival.tejasstorytelling.com for more information. If you are in Mississippi that weekend, there is the Mid South Military History & Civil War Show March 7-8 in Southaven, Mississippi. Here there will be books, documents, cannons, weapons, uniforms, relics and more from the American Revolution to the Vietnam era. You can find more info on: facebook.com/militaryhistorycivilwarshow.

I received a message that there are a few Compatriots that are planning to

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"Words of Thought"

For Christ sent me not to baptize, but to preach the gospel: not with wisdom of words, lest the cross of Christ should be made of none effect. 1 Corinthians 1:17 KJV

Oswald Chambers wrote:

Paul states here that the call of God is to preach the gospel; but remember what Paul means by "the gospel," viz., the reality of Redemption in our Lord Jesus Christ. We are apt to make

sanctification the end-all of our preaching. Paul alludes to personal experience by way of illustration, never as the end of the matter. We are nowhere commissioned to preach salvation or sanctification; we are commissioned to lift up Jesus Christ (John 12:32---see below). It is a travesty to say that Jesus Christ travailed in Redemption to make me a

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An Incident of Rocky Face Ridge

By Lieutenant Andrew M. Sea

Thirty years ago the Confederate army of General Joseph E. Johnston was camped in the vicinity of Dalton, Georgia, in a fertile and beautiful valley, although destroyed fencing and uncultivated fields indicated the presence of armed men whose trade is destruction and war. A mile north of the town ran a chain of small mountains, called Rocky Face Ridge, which were impassable for horse or vehicle, except at gaps, several of which were within a few miles of Dalton. Across the ridge on the north side lay the Federal army of General Sherman. Several spirited engagements had taken place at Rocky Face and Snake Creek Gaps, invariably resulting in an enforced order to "shinny on your side" to whichever army attempted to temporarily effect a passage of the ridge.

After several days of maneuvering and the ceaseless vigilance on both sides it became apparent that General Sherman intended forcing a passage through the lower gap, which, if successful, would have turned our left flank and placed his army in our rear, and, of course, cut off communications. But, able soldier as General Sherman was, he had in General Johnson a foeman worthy of his steel; and if the passage had been attempted, the enemy would have found no braver and more determined men than defended that pass at Thermopylae. Indeed, nearly our whole army was within striking distance of the lower gap. To mask his real purpose, General Sherman sent a division to make an attack and, if possible, force a passage at the upper gap, some two

miles northeast of Dalton. It is to this division my story relates:

My section of artillery was encamped by the side of the main road, which led up the valley and was halfway between Dalton and the gap. The battery boys were lounging about the guns in rather a listless, lazy sort of way, unsuspecting of danger. I was lying under the shade of a small tree, aimlessly gazing across the open ground in my front when I

became interested in the movement of a rapidly approaching horseman. Upon his nearer approach I at once recognized Major General S. — , who briefly informed me that a division of Federal troops were driving our small command through the gap, and would soon be upon me on its way to capture the town of Dalton and the supplies of our army. He ended his hurried information by ordering me to put my guns in position for action and "fight them to the muzzle of their guns." Meanwhile, he would hurry any command he could find to my support.

Well, this was an eye-opener sure enough! Just think of it, "fight them to the muzzle of their guns" simply meant to die or be captured in your tracks;

sacrifice yourselves and guns to gain a little time, and that, too, absolutely without support. Why the order fairly took my breath. I was not sure of those men who never felt the sensation of fear. Still I had hitherto summoned courage enough to go in and stay when comrades were around me and I felt that I had a fair chance; but with two pieces of artillery and



General Alexander Welch (Old Gauley) Reynolds

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Was Cassville the Turning Point Sherman Never Planned?

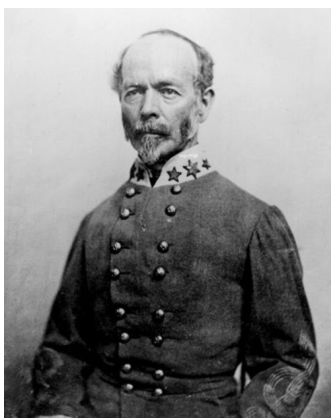
By Robert D. (Bob) Jenkins, Sr. BGES.org

For more than 150 years, Civil War historians have remained baffled over the Cassville controversies. There are two conflicting versions of events: one from Confederate commanding Gen. Joseph E. Johnston and the other from Lt. Gen. John Bell Hood. But Union Maj. Gen. William T. Sherman pursued his own plans, leaving the Confederates "surprised" in the woods and fields of Bartow County, near Cartersville, Georgia.

At the heart of the Cassville affair were two Confederate dilemmas: first, whether to attack a portion of the Federal army in the morning; and second, once the morning attack was deemed unfeasible, whether to stay and fight the following day. Both decisions were the responsibility of Johnston, and both decisions involved advice and assistance by Hood.

On the morning of May 19, 1864, Johnston issued a General Order declaring the army's retreat had ended, and the time had come to turn and face the enemy. Yet, after a series of unforeseen developments, the Southern commander chose to withdraw from Cassville without engaging in a major fight.

Several factors played a hand in the decision to retreat from Cassville. Chief among them was the "fog of war," a term coined by military theorist Carl von Clausewitz to describe the uncertainty and chaos of battle that can disrupt even the best laid plans. As fate would have it, both accidental mishaps and enemy actions compounded to derail Confederate strategies at Cassville.



Gen. Joseph E. Johnston
in uniform, ca 1862

Due to an oversight in Confederate map-making, a key road was not properly identified, leaving the Confederate cavalry screen unable to protect Hood's column of infantry, which was marching to execute a flanking surprise attack on a vulnerable portion of the Federal army. This lapse allowed Brig. Gen.

Edward McCook and his Federal cavalrymen to penetrate the rear and flank of Hood's forces, unraveling the Confederate plan.

Additionally, Sherman had his eyes set on Kingston as the target of his army, not Cassville. Like spokes of a wagon wheel pointing toward the center, Sherman ordered his six infantry corps to converge on Kingston, with each column supporting the others as the widely scattered corps converged. As a result, Hood's intended target, Maj. Gen. John Schofield's XXIII Corps, did not march into the intended trap. Even if McCook's cavalry had not frustrated Hood's plan, the Confederate attackers would have been striking at air, for Schofield was not where they expected and when they had anticipated. In fact, Schofield and his corps would not arrive in the vicinity of Cassville until after 4 p.m., long after Hood's attacking force had abandoned the plan.

Cassville was supposed to be the site of a bold Southern counterattack, where Johnston and Hood would turn the tide on Sherman and reverse Confederate fortunes in Georgia, and with it the wider war. Instead, Sherman's decisions in the "fog of war" served to both successfully (and accidentally) prevent Schofield's force from being struck in a surprise ambush, and to successfully (and intentionally) thrust McCook's cavalry into the unsuspecting underbelly of Hood's marching column.

For 160 years, Johnston successfully deflected blame for the failure at Cassville, shifting the narrative to suit his legacy. But, as this new study has revealed, there was plenty of blame to go around.



Bartow County Courthouse (1902) and Confederate Monument in Cartersville, Georgia. General Sherman's troops burned the first Bartow County Courthouse, built in Cassville, in 1864.



An Incident of Rocky Face Ridge (con't)

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without support to fight a division of the enemy flushed with success seemed preposterous. I confess that I was decidedly rebellious, and my thoughts while preparing for action were not most pleasant. Still the order was preemptory and left me no discretion. What could not be helped must be endured.

The enemy did not approach as rapidly as I anticipated, and our little band was disputing every inch of ground; but the firing was perceptibly getting nearer and nearer.

Just then my attention was called to another rider coming directly from the front. He was kicking with both feet and beating his jaded horse with his Sabre-scabbard. He was a badly demoralized, straggling cavalryman. On he came to the battery, and, checking up his horse, breathlessly turned in his saddle, and, looking in the direction of the enemy, he said, "Now, d—n you, I reckon you'll stop!" and away he went, kicking and spurring for dear life. The incident was so supremely ridiculous that my poor boys forgot their own peril in their jeers and laughter. Looking at the figure of the retreating cavalryman, our eyes were gladdened by the sight of a body of infantrymen coming from Dalton at a double-quick, and riding at the head of the column was General Reynolds, who commanded a small brigade of Virginians and North Carolinians. He was a small, delicate-looking man, calm and absolutely fearless—a stouter heart never beat in human breast.

These qualities had been apparent on many a bloody field. Early in the war, on Gauley River, West Virginia, his splendid judgment and dauntless courage had saved the day, and ever since he had been known as "Old Gauley." My relief at seeing him may be imagined, and I said, "Well, General, you never saw a man so glad to see another." "Why, what's the matter? Had you in a tight place, didn't they? But it's all right, Lieutenant. If I can't take my fleet footed Virginians and my 'Tar Heels' and whip any division of Yankees that ever lived, my name ain't Gauley Reynolds, and I want you to see me do it."

The absolute confidence his assertion and his evident eagerness to begin were inspiring and contagious. Asking him if he would take the responsibility of ordering my guns to accompany him, he answered, "Certainly!" and told me to fall in after his first regiment. Very soon the column was thrown into line, and the proper distribution made for the reception of "our friends the enemy." When our gap-guard, which had been steadily and surely driven before overwhelming numbers, came in sight of our line of battle they and we raised a tremendous yell, which was doubtless the first intimation the enemy had of our presence. But they, too, were veterans, and not to be stopped by yells. On they came, confident and defiant. When they had advanced within 40 yards of our line General Reynolds gave the command to fire, and instantly flashes of fire and storms of lead and iron succeeded each other in rapid succession.

The enemy recoiled as from the mouth of a volcano. Several times they rallied, but only to meet the same murderous fire. Verily, "Hell had broken loose in Georgia." Their loss had been heavy; they knew that they were on our side of the ridge, and they doubtless imagined our force much larger than it was. They fought with less determination, and there was some evidence of confusion in their lines. General Reynolds detected this, and gave the command to charge with the bayonet. Nothing could withstand the impetuosity of that charge, led by the general in person. The enemy gave way in defeat, and utter rout followed. Everything was abandoned in their eagerness to reach the gap, and our victory was complete. What a change within a short hour! Then, I fully expected to be butchered or captured at my guns; now, I was exultingly pouring shot and shell into the ranks of the beaten foe. The general's entire confidence in his command had been verified.

The genial, convivial gentleman, the able and intrepid general of whom I write, has also passed over the dividing line and eternity. Peace to his ashes! We shall not soon see his like again.



Inside Story Headline

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go to the Battle of Pleasant Hill in Pleasant Hill, Louisiana. This event will be April 11-13, 2025 and will focus on the battle re-enactment more than living history. Their intent is to represent the 7th Texas Infantry. If you would like to participate with these men, contact Logan Elsey at: logelse5@gmail.com.

April 19, 2025 will be the day for the Texas Division Confederate Heritage Month Celebration and Picnic. The picnic will be held at the Confederate Reunion Grounds in Mexia, Texas. This is a 'Potluck' picnic and lunch will be served at noon. The park has an entry fee: \$5 per person, \$2 for children 12yr old and under, First Responders, Seniors & Veterans are \$3.

April 26, 2025, the Tom Green County Historical Commission will host the San Jacinto and Confederate Memorial Day at the Fairmount Cemetery honoring the Veterans of the Texas Revolution and the War for Southern Independence. They have requested that we provide a memorial firing line for their ceremonies. The ceremony will start at 10 am and the TGCHC will provide lunch for the attendees after the ceremony.

Last month I mentioned that Mort Kunstler had produced a new calendar depicting his WTBS artwork. A few days after posting the newsletter, I learned that Mr. Kunstler had passed away. We will miss him and his beautiful work.

Have a great month, see y'all later!



Judge Roy Bean Camp #2298



Black Powder Shoot



March 1, 2025 at the Sheffield Community Center/Gun Range

Starts at 12:00 noon with lunch [Fried Catfish & Fries]

3 Categories: Smooth Bore, Rifled Bore, & Pistols.

Entry Fee: \$10.00 per Category.

Winner of each Category splits Category Entry Fee with the Camp, 50/50.

Smooth Bore - 1 round, three shots. One extra shot can be purchased for \$5.00. Targets placed at 50 yards.

Rifled Bore - 1 round, three shots. One extra shot can be purchased for \$5.00. Targets placed at 100 yards.

Pistol - 1 round, three shots. One extra shot can be purchased for \$5.00. Targets placed at 25 yards.

We will meet at the Sheffield Community Center, behind the Sheffield Community Pool, have lunch and then at 1:00 will make the short drive to the shooting range.

1:00-2:00: Open black powder shooting and practice

2:00 - 3:00: Smooth Bore Competition

3:00-4:00: Rifled Bore Competition

4:00 - 5:00: Pistol Competition

5:00-6:00: Open shooting of any firearm for those wishing to shoot

Please RSVP so we know how much food to prepare. Families welcome to attend. Bring your own seating!

RSVP to:

Bob Hazelwood

csa.reb@yahoo.com

"Words of Thought" (con't)

(Continued from page 1)

saint. Jesus Christ travailed in Redemption to redeem the whole world, and place it unimpaired and rehabilitated before the throne of God. The fact that Redemption can be experienced by us is an illustration of the power of the reality of Redemption, but that is not the end of Redemption. If God were human, how sick to the heart and weary He would be of the constant request we make for our salvation, for our sanctification. We tax His energies from morning till night for things for ourselves--- something for me to be delivered from! When we touch the bedrock of the reality of the Gospel of God, we shall never bother God any further with little personal complaints.

The one passion of Paul's life was to proclaim the Gospel of God. He welcomed heartbreaks, disillusionments, tribulation, for one reason only, because these things kept him in unmoved devotion to the gospel of God.

And I, if I be lifted up from the earth, will draw all men unto me. John 12:32 KJV

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

Troy Chandler

Chaplain, Army of Trans-Mississippi





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



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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

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Birthdays & Service Anniversaries

Birthdays

Charles Westbrook	2nd
Steve Melton	6th
Joseph McDonald	19th

Service Anniversaries

George Coleman	9th	32 yrs.
Will Bowen	17th	31 yrs.
Jim Kerbow	20th	5 yrs.
David Johnson	27th	8 yrs.



Texas Division Confederate Heritage Month Celebration and Picnic!



Come Celebrate Confederate Heritage Month!

•The Confederate Reunion Grounds are located at 1738 FM 2705 Mexia, TX 76667. The Location is 1 hr drive from Dallas and Fort Worth, 2 hrs from Austin, 45 minutes from Waco, 2.5 hrs from Houston, and 2hrs from Tyler, TX.

•The historic 1893 Picnic Pavillion was built for the Reunions of CSA Veterans.

•Enjoy the Central Texas countryside in the springtime.

•Hiking, fishing, and bird watching!

•Visit "Old Val Verde," a Union cannon captured at Mansfield, L.A.

•Visit nearby Fort Parker, a replica of the Parker family's compound.

•Bring your favorite dish to an old-fashioned potluck!

•Important Note: A \$5.00 entrance fee per person is required to enter the park (children under 12 are \$2.00, and First Responders, Seniors, and Veterans are \$3.00).

Save the Date!

April 19, 2025

Confederate Reunion
Grounds
Mexia, TX
Lunch Served at Noon