



# “The General’s Aide”

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



January 2025

## Commander’s Briefing Room

### Special Dates of Interest:

- January 1, 2025** - New Years Day
- January 4, 2025** - Tx.Div. DEC Meeting
- January 16, 2025** - Camp Meeting
- January 19, 2025** - Texas Confederate Heroes Day
- January 19**—Gen. Robert E. Lee Birthday
- January 21**—Gen. Thomas “Stonewall” Jackson Birthday
- June 6-8, 2025** - 128th Texas Division Reunion
- July 17 – 20, 2025** - 130th Annual National Reunion

Greetings Compatriots,  
Happy New Year! It is a great day to be Southern and we have a new year in which to make a difference. Consider a New Year resolution of being more involved and active in the Confederation promoting our Southern Heritage.



We had a great time and good food at the Camp’s Christmas Party. It was a good time of fellowship for us. I

Across America at Belvedere Cemetery last month. Over all they had a great turnout this year.

It is time to start planning for the annual reunions. You can find more information on the calendar or online. 128th Texas Division Reunion, Sons of Confederate Veterans Mineral Wells, Texas, June 6-8, 2025 <https://scvtexas.org/128th-texas-division-reunion/>

130th Annual National Reunion, Sons of Confederate Veterans Houston, Texas - July 17 – 20, 2025

<https://scv130.com/>  
The Texas Division DEC will be meeting January 4th in Waco at Papa Rollo's Pizza. There is more information on the back page and on the calendar.

Have a safe New Years and see you at the meeting.



Cmdr. Melton

want to thank everyone for making this a great party. We had a few Compatriots attend the Wreaths



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## Christmas at Old Ft. Concho

Cloudy skies and wet weather did not stop the annual Christmas at Old Ft. Concho. Reenactors, students and

shoppers alike made their rounds through the fort and parade grounds. Several of our Camp's members



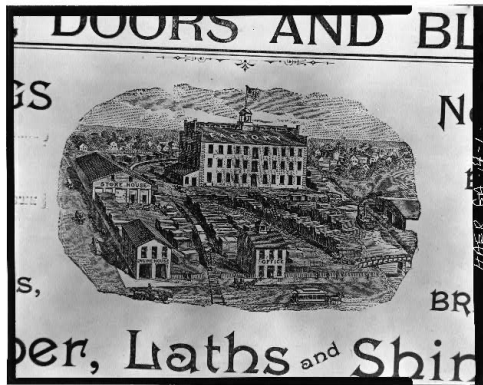
participated as reenactors of the South and post-war military. We had several supporting

*(Continued on page 4)*

# The Rigdon & Ansley Machine Works

Charles H. Rigdon began in the revolver business before the war as an engineer for Shawk and McLanahan in St. Louis. After the war began, he moved to Memphis with some machinery and teamed up with Thomas Leech (not "Leach") to set up a revolver works in that city. On May 9, 1862, with the approach of Federal forces, Beauregard ordered evacuation of arms plants, and Leech and Rigdon pulled out and moved to Columbus, MS, and on December 15 to Greensboro, GA.

This was the first place Leech and Rigdon revolvers were actually made. They received a contract from the C.S. government on March 6,



This picture is from the Library of Congress showing the Augusta Machine Works in 1850. After the war this became the Augusta Lumber Company and was the predecessor of Georgia Iron Works.

Ansley to form Rigdon and Ansley.

The number of guns made is in dispute, but the highest serial number of a Leech & Rigdon revolver



The gun pictured above is #1532.

is reported to be 1461, with 1546 being a Rigdon and Ansley. In a letter from Col. Rains, he complained to Charles Rigdon that "something must be done with the 'hair trigger' as our men are shooting themselves

1863. Guns made after that are reportedly marked "CSA" on the barrel. The Leech and Rigdon partnership ended in December, 1863, and Rigdon moved to Augusta, GA, where he went into partnership with Jesse



These Rigdon-Ansley pistols, SN 1774 & 1775 may actually be the two finest Confederate Navys of any make or model known. The Augusta Museum of History acquired one of these guns several years ago at a reported \$38,000.

in the foot." The characteristic 12 notches are found in higher numbered guns.

The revolvers were fairly good copies of the Colt Model 1851. Tens of thousands of reproductions have been made in Italy with the Leech & Rigdon marking, and thousands more repros have been re-marked with that legend. In other words, fakes are far more common than original pistols. As to value, a Leech and Rigdon in excellent condition can be traded about even for a Lexus. The repros bring \$100 or so.

The Augusta Machine Works, located on the other side of Marbury Street and part of the same complex, also manufactured handguns and these are even more rare than the Leech and Rigdon.

The Rigdon & Ansley company formed a home guard unit that was called into action at the Battle of Griswoldville where they lost 2 men and at the Battle of Aiken they were detailed to defend Horse Creek which runs "up the valley" from Hamburg to Graniteville.



Source: Researchonline.net

# Outstanding Friend of Ft. Concho Award

Our very own Ray Johnson was recognized during the Christmas at Old Ft. Concho event this year. I will let him tell you the story in his own words:

Good morning, I am going to tell you a short story this morning with your coffee. Started about three weeks ago. My wife Nita Johnson stated to me I was going to the dance that was going to be held at Fort Concho National Historic Landmark during their event.

Well, I said I would see and she said No we are going. Lol Well, that was different I thought to myself. So, a few weeks go by and the event at the Fort is upon me.

So, we get there and start setting camp and the gun line and everything else I do. Then something starts.

Everyone starts asking me if I was going to be at the dance, from Sarah Ross Thieme to different other people

setting up and other fort staff. Then my close friend and partner David Rediger started in on me about the damn dance which I have not attended ever because of my bum knee and I dance like a fish out of water. I am thinking is everyone losing their minds?

So, this goes on until the time of the dance. I get there and get refreshments and take a seat and watch others square dance. Which was cool. Then the music and dance were stopped by the educational director Sarah Thieme at Fort Concho. Well then this happened, my reason for being at the dance. I was awarded the "Outstanding Friend to Fort Concho Award."

Ok now I get the reason for me being at the dance.

Thank you, Fort Concho, for this means a lot. You have always supported me and my gun crews. Very humbled. Also like to thank all gun owners and crews for the support in me. It means a lot. Thank you from the bottom of my heart. You all are outstanding and loyal Friends.



# November Meeting

At the November meeting, we had the honor to be introduced to one of Lt. Commander Deaune Whitehead's Confederate ancestor, Joshua W. Whitehead. Joshua Whitehead fought with the Louisiana 11th Infantry Regiment and the 14th Battalion Sharpshooters. Deaune provided us with an excellent program.





# Christmas at Old Ft. Concho (con't)

(Continued from page 1)

folks from Abilene, Balmorhea, Midland, Odessa, Dallas and elsewhere filling the ranks of Southern reenactors. And there were family members that joined in on reenacting, too.



We made the news!!!



# Rosser's West Virginia Raid

**January 30, 1864 in Medley, West Virginia** - On January 29, Brig. Gen. Thomas L. Rosser entered Moorefield with his Confederate force. He had learned of a large Union supply train that was heading to Petersburg.

On January 30, Rosser discovered that the train was at the town of Medley. The train was being guarded by several Union regiments. Rosser decided on a plan that would have one of his regiments around the rear of the Federals, the rest of his force would

move to the flank, and he would have an artillery piece fire from the Union front. The plan worked out just the way he planned it. Rosser stampeded the Union cavalry and then routed the remaining 350 Union soldiers with a dismounted attack. In the end, Rosser had captured 95 wagons from the supply train. The final casualties are unknown.



# Birthdays & Service Anniversaries

## Birthdays

- Harold Johnston - 5th
- Kevin Theis - 11th
- Mike Taylor - 12th
- Jim Kerbow - 14th
- Damon Lambert - 15th

## Service Anniversaries

- Charles Westbrook - 11th - 23 yrs
- Ben Prestiano - 17th - 24 yrs



# More Pictures from Ft. Concho





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



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Camp website:  
[www.generaltomgreen.org](http://www.generaltomgreen.org)  
Camp Facebook page:  
<https://www.facebook.com/scvtomgreen1613>

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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## Battles & Skirmishes

1862  
January 1 – January 10 1862 –  
*Jackson's Baltimore & Ohio Railroad  
Raid, WV*

1863  
January 4 – January 17 1863 –  
Arkansas River Expedition, AR  
January 13 – January 19 1863 – White  
River Expedition, AR  
January 20 – January 22 1863 – The  
Mud March, VA

1864  
January 29 – February 1 1864 –  
*Rosser's West Virginia Raid, WV*

1865  
January 4 – January 16 1865 – Terry's  
Fort Fisher Expedition, NC



TEXAS DIVISION  
Sons of Confederate Veterans  
4 January 2025 DEC Agenda  
Waco, TX

### DEC MEETING ANNOUNCEMENT

WHAT: Quarterly Meeting of the Division Executive Council

WHO: All Members in Good Standing Are Invited To Attend

WHEN: Saturday, January 4, 2025

TIME: 9:00 AM

#### WHERE:

Papa Rollo's Pizza  
703 N. Valley Mills Dr.  
Waco, TX 76710

Restaurant Phone: 254-776-6776

Lunch - A Pizza Buffet will cost \$15.00 per person.  
Cash is preferred, but the staff can also take a credit card.

