

Head Quarters R E Lee camp Fort Worth April II 1915

To T J Maben commander

The undersigned committee have the sad duty to report the death of comrade T T Ball which occurred in the Home at Austin last week, at the advanced age of 77 years.

He was a native of the state of Mississippi and enlisted first among

the earliest volunteers in the 9th Mississippi infantry Col, afterwards General Chalmers, and for a long while his command with others was at Pensacola where they saw service, one of the main incidents was that of the battle of Santa Rosa Island off the Pensacola bay.

Afterwards he was transferred to the 37th Miss inf where he did active service part of the time as adjutant till the end of the war.

There is a historic incident connected with his service that requires to be recorded. That is he was present with Harry McCarthy an Irish vaudeville artist in the convention hall at Jackson Miss on the 9th of January 1861 the day Mississippi passed the ordinance of secession and on that day McCarthy originated the popular war song of the Bonnie Blue Flag. The circumstances of its origin I got from comrade Ball a long while ago — as follows.

While the convention was in session on that day a bevy of Southern ladies came marching down the hall, one of whom bore a blue flag with a white star in the center at which the convention went wild with enthusiasm and McCarthy, catching the spirit of the moment, retired with comrade Ball and McCarthy wrote the first stanzas of the "Bonnie Blue Flag" and sang it that night in the opera house at Jackson amid the greatest enthusiasm being encored time and again and after that he continued singing it all over the South in camp and hall till it became one of our Southern songs that is yet sung by the Southern people.

We regret to record the passing of our comrade with regret, for he did his duty gallantly as a soldier of the South, leaving a son who is a soldier in our regular army an officer equally as gallant as his father.

Therefore resolved by this camp that we here pause and drop a tear to the memory of our comrade and hope that after lifes fitful fever he sleeps well

C C Cummings

committee

J L. Summers
Geo R Allen

