

Grave Registration Submissions Form

Cemetery Information * 4/2013 Rocky

Name: Miami Cemetery

Vol NO:

I

Page No:

13

Cem No:

202

Condition: Good

Size: 1,352 Interments

Country: USA

City: Miami

County: Roberts

State: Texas

Location & Directions: GPS Coordinates

Latitude: 35.69953, Longitude: -100.62561

Veteran Information

First Name*: Robert

AKA:

Middle: Washington

Last Name*: Wright

Suffix:

Enlistment Date:

Rank: Private

Discharge Date:

Source*: Walked Cemetery

Ordinal: 3rd/RegUnit State: ~~Texas~~ Arizona Brig

Unit Type: Texas Cavalry

AKA: Madison's Reg

Company: F + D

AKA:

Born Date: 1840-10-31

Born City:

Born County: Red River

Born State: Texas

Born Country: USA

Died Date: 1915-3-26

Died City: Miami

Died State: Texas

Died County: Roberts

Died Country: USA

Cemetery Space:

Lot: 81

Block: Old Cemetery

Marker Type:

Unit on Marker: No

Last year seen: 2010

Condition:

Wife's First Name: ARCANIE

Maiden Name: Guber

Mother's Maiden Name: CARUTHERS

Submitter Information

First Name*: SANDRA

Last Name*: BARNES

E-Mail: BARNES2049@GMAIL.COM

Phone*: 806-236-5542

SCV ID:

Other Affiliation: Texas Society Order of Confederate Rose
Chapter 51 - Amarillo, TX

Researchers Comments

(Information Not Submitted To C.G.R.)

1910 Roberts Co Texas Census
Answered C/A to Civil War question

* Required Information

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Robert W. Wright

Grave Registration Submissions Form

Cemetery Information* 4/2013

Name: Miami Cemetery

Condition: Good

Size: 1,352 Interments

Country: USA

City: Miami

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Rank: Private

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Unit Type: Texas Cavalry

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Born Date: 1840-10-31

Born City:

Born County: Red River

Born State: Texas

Born Country: USA

Died Date: 1915-3-26

Died City: Miami

Died State: Texas

Died County: Roberts

Died Country: USA

Cemetery Space:

Lot: 81 Block: Old Cemetery

Marker Type:

Unit on Marker: No

Last year seen: 2010

Condition:

Wife's First Name: ARCAWIE

Maiden Name: Guber

Mother's Maiden Name: CARUTHERS

Submitter Information

First Name*: SANDRA

Last Name*: BARNES

E-Mail: BARNES 2049 @ GMAIL.COM

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Researchers Comments

(Information Not Submitted To C.G.R.)

1910 Roberts Co Texas Census
Answered CIA to Civil War question

* Required Information

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Robert W. Wright

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Robert Washington Wright

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Birth: Oct. 31, 1840
Death: Mar. 26, 1915

Burial:
[Miami Cemetery](#)
Miami
Roberts County
Texas, USA
Plot: 81 OC

Created by: [Billie Blaylock Webb](#)
Record added: Jan 07, 2010
Find A Grave Memorial# 46405947

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for this person



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A Photo



- [Paula Ledford Waller](#)

Added: Nov. 13, 2010



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Private Detective and later as a building contractor. In 1960, we returned to Pampa where David died of a heart attack October 22, 1960. He is buried in the Miami Cemetery.

The following year, the children and I moved to Canyon where I once again entered W.T.S.C. and got my B.S. degree in August, 1962, and started teaching school in Muleshoe, Texas.

In August, 1973, Imogene Tiller, our school nurse, and I flew to Hawaii for an eleven day tour. My son, Steve, was then stationed at Schofield Barracks near Honolulu, so we visited him and he helped show us the sights. It was a nice trip and my first real airplane flight.

In 1978, I became interested in finding my "roots" and that summer a cousin, Ruth Meador Buckalew, and I drove to Jacksonville, Illinois, where my mother's family had come from. They had moved to Texas in 1902. My grandfather, John Anderson Reed, was manager of the Cattle Investment Company at the E.O. Ranch north of Pampa for six years. We found that we have three Mayflower ancestors, Francis Cook, Stephen Hopkins, and Degory Priest.

In 1979, two sisters, Peggy Hassell and Marian Jameson and a cousin, Fern Keehn Patterson, and I drove to Seaforth, Ontario, Canada, where our Gerrond and Ramsay grandparents were born. From there we drove on to Neepawa, Manitoba, and Prince Albert, Saskatchewan. We met and visited many cousins along the way. We were quite delighted to tour the two-story stone home that our great-grandfather, Peter Ramsay, had built in the 1840's. Peter and Elizabeth McAdams Ramsay had come from Anwoth, Scotland, with their children in 1839 to Canada. Peter Ramsay farmed near Seaforth, Ontario. He also had timber and donated it to build the first Presbyterian Church there. They also had their first communion in his barn.

Some cousins gave us a book of poems that our great-grandfather, William Gerrond, had written. Some were about the old home place near Gate House of Fleet in Kirkcudbrightshire. His old home was named "Rainton" and he named his home in Canada after it. William Gerrond was a school teacher and taught for many years.

A week after returning home from Canada, I flew to London, England, to visit my daughter, Carol Delaney, and her family. Her husband, John, was in the Air Force and stationed at R.A.F. Lakenheath, Suffolk, England. They lived in Haverhill, Suffolk, a town of about 15,000. A few days after I arrived, John took a week's vacation and stayed with three year old Shawna so Carol and I could go by train to Dumfries, Scotland. We rented a car and with poems in hand drove the 75 miles to "Rainton." Mr. James Findlay now owns the place. He seemed as glad to see us as we were to see him. He showed us all around the place. It is and always has been a dairy. It is quite modern today, but he told us the buildings are the same as they were one hundred and fifty years ago. My sister, Marian, and her

daughter, Vicky Gibson, were there in August, 1981, and gave Mr. Findlay a copy of the poems. He said they were the only history he had of the place. Carol and I then went to the church yard where my great-great-grandfather, William Gerrond, and other family members were buried. One of the amazing things to us is how old everything is. Only the walls of the church were still standing, but it had been built in the 1300's.

We went on to Edinburg to see the sights and also spent two days in London before returning to Haverhill.

David and I had four children. Carol Ann, born in Pampa, April 1, 1946; graduated from Muleshoe High School and received her R.N. from St. Anthony's School of Nursing in Amarillo. She married John Joseph Delaney and they have one daughter, Shawna Carol, born in Las Vegas, Nevada, April 21, 1976. James David, born in Amarillo, January 20, 1950; graduated from Muleshoe High School and West Texas State University with a degree in Business Administration. He then entered the Army and has been stationed at Ft. Lewis, Washington, Ft. Benning, Georgia, and Ansbach, Germany. He is presently a major and is stationed at Ft. Knox, Kentucky. He married Judy Mabel Jacobs Davenport from Rye, New York. They have no children but Judy has two from a previous marriage, Kim and George Davenport.

Ronald Keith born in Amarillo, March 1, 1953; attended Muleshoe Schools and entered the Army. He spent a year in Vietnam. He married Vicki Karen Wossum in Lubbock, Texas, and they have two daughters: Teresa Gayle, born in Lubbock, October 28, 1970 and Katrina Dawn, born in Muleshoe, February 26, 1976. Ron is a welder-machinist and lives in Lubbock.

Stephen Paul, born in Amarillo, November 8, 1954; attended Muleshoe Schools and entered the Army. He spent two and one-half years in Hawaii and fifteen months in Aschaffenburg, Germany. He got his commercial pilot's license in 1981. He is now working at Winkler Meat Company in Muleshoe.

Submitted by Mabel Ramsay Wolfe

ROBERT WASHINGTON WRIGHT

Robert Washington Wright was born October 31, 1840, at Blossom (Red River County, Texas). He was the son of James Gillingwater Wright and Sallie (Caruthers) Wright, the latter a daughter of Major William Caruthers.

Mr. Wright's father was a native of North Carolina, and was a physician, who practiced in his native state, then in Tennessee, moving on into Red River and Lamar Counties of Texas; in this state ended a long and useful life, dying a free Mason.

Robert's four children were: Maurma Duke, William Crow, Josephine, and Robert Washington.

Robert Washington Wright began his business life as a livestock trader in Lamar County, Texas, purchasing Spanish ponies in old Mexico and sell-

them in Texas to great advantage, with the exception of those the Indians stole from him. He next engaged in the cattle business, proper stocking a ranch in Hardeman County, Texas, and also a splendid farm in Denton County, which he retained until his death.

Mr. Wright married Miss Arcanie Elizabeth Gober, daughter of John Wesley Gober and Mary Ann Camp, a native of Georgia. To this union, twelve children were born: Mary E., Robert G., Neal Mathias, James W., Fred E., Mattie M., Inez Vitille, Julia S., Josephine, and Lee Z. (the eldest, who died in infancy); another died before old enough to be named; Sallie L., who died of burns received while playing around the fireplace during her parents' absence from the home.

Mr. Wright was a free Mason and an Odd Fellow; his wife was an ardent worker in the Sabbath school of the Cumberland Presbyterian Church, of which denomination she was a devout and faithful adherent.

During the Civil War Mr. Wright served in Company D under Captain Canada of Arizona, in Madison's regiment and participated in the battles of Mansfield, Pleasant Hill, and Yellow Bayou, all in Louisiana, and in many skirmishes. On the occasion of Bank's retreat, he was in the saddle forty days. At Pine Bluff, Arkansas, his horse was shot in the head but not killed.

On returning to Texas from the four years or duration of this war, this regiment was disbanded, and Mr. Wright united in a party to protect the settlers from Indian incursions, in a combat with whom, he again had his horse shot from under him. Later, July 29, 1866, while in a fight with a gang of white horse thieves — who had run off fifty-three of his horses,

Mr. Wright was shot in his right side, the ball coming out on the left side.

Robert and his older brother, William Crow Wright, served in the war for four years, which was the length of the war, side by side, having mustered into service October 1, 1862, at Belton, Texas, by Captain Kennedy.

After the war was ended, these two brothers returned to their respective farm and ranching interests in Denton County, where each had land. But there was something beautiful about the plains of Texas, at least it was so said. Robert Wright, my grandfather, and his faithful wife, Arcanie, in the year of 1896, left Denton County, moving to Amarillo to buy land and build a home. Again he bought land, engaged in ranching, cattle raising, and real estate, but was soon enticed to look at another beautiful part of Texas. Taking the train he rode out Amarillo to the northeast, this time to the little city of Miami. His love and desire was to settle there — this time on Mobeetie Street. In 1906, he purchased land, then more land, some of which touches the Miami city limits. By 1915, he owned portions of some twelve or thirteen sections, plus some city property. Mr. Wright also held title to a ranch in Hardeman County.

The sad visitor, Death, called on one of the Miami citizens on March 26, 1915, who had passed to the great beyond — Mr. R.W. Wright, who had been a citizen of the city for several years. He was stricken with Bright's disease the tenth of February, 1915, from which he never recovered. His remains were laid to rest in the Miami Cemetery.

Submitted by Nancy Jane Wright Barns, Granddaughter



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**Robert Washington Wright**Birth **31 Oct 1840** in Red River Territory, Republic of Texas
Death **26 Mar 1915** in Miami, Roberts, Texas[View his family tree](#)[View family members](#)

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R. W. Wright

[Photos \(1\)](#)[Stories \(0\)](#)[Audio \(0\)](#)[Video \(0\)](#)[\(View All\)](#)**Timeline**

- 1840 Birth**
31 Oct Red River Territory, Republic of Texas [4 source citations](#)
- 1865 Marriage to Arcania Rosanah Elizabeth Gober**
24 Dec Denton, Denton, Texas
Age: 25
- 1866 Marriage to Arcania Rosanah Elizabeth Gober**
Age: 26 Denton, Texas [1 source citation](#)
- 1870 Residence**
Age: 30 Precinct 5, Denton, Texas [1 source citation](#)
- 1880 Residence**
Age: 40 Precinct 5, Denton, Texas, United States [1 source citation](#)
- 1900 Residence**
Age: 60 Amarillo Town, Potter, Texas [1 source citation](#)
- 1910 Residence**
Age: 70 Justice Precinct 1, Roberts, Texas [1 source citation](#)
- 1915 Death**
26 Mar Miami, Roberts, Texas [1 source citation](#)
- [View Details](#)

Family Members

Parents

James Gillenwater Wright
1809 – 1843**Sarah Ann "Sally" Carruthers**
1813 – 1850

Spouse & Children

Arcania Rosanah Elizabeth Gober
1846 – 1919**James Wesley Patrick "Jack" Wright**
1873 –[View Family Group Sheet](#)**Source Information****1870 United States Federal Census**☐ 1 citation provides evidence for **Name, Birth, Residence****1880 United States Federal Census**☐ 1 citation provides evidence for **Name, Birth, Residence****1900 United States Federal Census**☐ 1 citation provides evidence for **Name, Birth, Residence, Marriage****1910 United States Federal Census**☐ 1 citation provides evidence for **Name, Birth, Residence****Ancestry Family Trees**

3 citations provide evidence for (Robert Washington Wright)

Texas Death Index, 1903-2000☐ 1 citation provides evidence for **Name, Death**[View All Sources](#)**Web Links**

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1860 United States Federal Census

Name: **Robt Wright**
 Age in 1860: **20**
 Birth Year: **abt 1840**
 Birthplace: **Texas**
 Home in 1860: **Precinct 1, Lamar, Texas**
 Gender: **Male**
 Post Office: **Paris**
 Value of real estate: [View image](#)
 Household Members:
 Name Age
 M G Neal 50
 Malvin Neal 38
 Lizzie Neal 14
 A H Neal 12
 A H Neal 3
 Robt Wright 20

Source Citation: Year: 1860; Census Place: Precinct 1, Lamar, Texas, Roll: M653, 1899, Page: 33, Image: 172, Family History Library Film: 305293

Source Information:



Ancestry.com 1860 United States Federal Census (database online). Provo, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations, Inc., 2003. Images reproduced by FamilySearch.

Original data: 1860 U.S. census, population schedule. NARA microfilm publication M653, 1,438 rolls. Washington, D.C.: National Archives and Records Administration, n.d.

Description:

This database is an index to individuals enumerated in the 1860 United States Federal Census, the Eighth Census of the United States. Census takers recorded many details including each person's name, age as of the census day, sex, color, birthplace, occupation of males over age fifteen, and more. No relationships were shown between members of a household. Additionally, the names of those listed on the population schedule are linked to actual images of the 1860 Federal Census. Learn more.

United States

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Children (1)

James Wesley

B: 1873

Patrick "Jack" Wright

**Robert Washington Wright**

B: 31 Oct 1840 in Red River Territory, Republic of Texas

D: 26 Mar 1915 in Miami, Roberts, Texas

Parents

James Gillenwater Wright

1809-1843

Sarah Ann "Sally" Carruthers

1813-1850

Arcania Rosanah Elizabeth Gober B: 22 Nov 1846 in Cobb, Georgia

1870 United States Federal Census

Name: **Robah W Wright**
[Robert W Wright]

Age in 1870: 29

Birth Year: abt 1841

Birthplace: Texas

Home in 1870: Precinct 5, Denton, Texas

Race: White

Gender: Male

Post Office: Denton

Value of real estate: [View image](#)

Household

Members:

Name

Age

[Robah W Wright](#)

29

[Arkana E Wright](#)

23

[Mary E Wright](#)

21

[Robert Wright](#)

7/12

[Robert Black](#)

30

Source Citation: Year: 1870; Census Place: Precinct 5, Denton, Texas; Roll: M593_1582; Page: 209A; Image: 421; Family History Library Film: 553081.**Source Information:**

Ancestry.com. 1870 United States Federal Census [database online]. Provo, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations, Inc., 2009. Images reproduced by FamilySearch.

Original data:

- 1870 U.S. census, population schedules. NARA microfilm publication M593, 1,761 rolls. Washington, D.C.: National Archives and Records Administration, n.d.
- Minnesota census schedules for 1870. NARA microfilm publication T132, 13 rolls. Washington, D.C.: National Archives and Records Administration, n.d.

Description:

This database is an index to individuals enumerated in the 1870 United States Federal Census, the Ninth Census of the United States. Census takers recorded many details including each person's name, age at last birthday, sex, color, birthplace, occupation, and more. No relationships were shown between members of a household. Additionally, the names of those listed on the population schedule are linked to actual images of the 1870 Federal Census. [Learn more](#)

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Children (1)

James Wesley B: 1873
Patrick "Jack" Wright

**Robert Washington Wright**

B: 31 Oct 1840 in Red River Territory, Republic of Texas
 D: 26 Mar 1915 in Miami, Roberts, Texas

Parents

James Gillenwater Wright
 1809-1843
Sarah Ann "Sally" Carruthers
 1813-1850

Arcania Rosanah Elizabeth Gober B: 22 Nov 1846 in Cobb, Georgia

1880 United States Federal Census

Name: **Robert W. Wright**
 Age: **39**
 Birth Year: **abt 1841**
 Birthplace: **Texas**
 Home in 1880: **Precinct 5, Denton, Texas**
 Race: **White**
 Gender: **Male**
 Relation to Head of House: **Self (Head)**
 Marital Status: **Married**
 Spouse's Name: **Ann R. E. Wright**
 Father's Birthplace: **Alabama**
 Mother's Birthplace: **Tennessee**
 Neighbors: [View others on page](#)
 Occupation: **Farmer**
 Cannot read/write:
 Blind: [View image](#)
 Deaf and dumb:
 Otherwise disabled:
 Idiotic or insane:

Household Members:	Name	Age
	Robert W. Wright	39
	Ann R. E. Wright	32
	Mary E. Wright	11
	Robert G. Wright	10
	Neal M. Wright	9
	James W. Wright	7
	Fredric E. Wright	5
	Josephine A. Wright	3
	Louena Wright	1

Source Citation: Year: 1880; Census Place: Precinct 5, Denton, Texas; Roll: 1300; Family History Film: 1255300; Page: 159C; Enumeration District: 107.

Source Information:



Ancestry.com and The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. 1880 United States Federal Census [database on-line]. Provo, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations Inc, 2010. 1880 U.S. Census Index provided by The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. © Copyright 1999 Intellectual Reserve, Inc. All rights reserved. All use is subject to the limited use license and other terms and conditions applicable to this site.

Original data: Tenth Census of the United States, 1880. (NARA microfilm publication T9, 1,454 rolls). Records of the Bureau of the Census, Record Group 29. National Archives, Washington, D.C.

Description:

This database is an index to 50 million individuals enumerated in the 1880 United States Federal Census. Census takers recorded many details including each person's name, address, occupation, relationship to the head of household, race, sex, age at last birthday, marital status, place of birth, parents' place of birth. Additionally, the

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Parents to Robert Washington Wright

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Children (1)

James Wesley
Patrick "Jack" Wright

B: 1873



Robert Washington Wright

B: 31 Oct 1840 in Red River Territory, Republic of Texas
D: 26 Mar 1915 in Miami, Roberts, Texas

Parents

James Gillenwater Wright
1809-1843
Sarah Ann "Sally" Carruthers
1813-1850

Arcania Rosanah Elizabeth Gober B: 22 Nov 1846 in Cobb, Georgia

1900 United States Federal Census

Name: **Rw Wright**
[R H Wright]

Age: 59

Birth Date: Oct 1840

Birthplace: Texas

Home in 1900: Amarille, Potter, Texas
[Potter]

Race: White

Gender: Male

Relation to Head
of House: Head

Marital Status: Married

Spouse's Name: Arconie Wright

Marriage Year: 1866

Years Married: 34

Father's
Birthplace: Alabama

Mother's
Birthplace: Tennessee

Occupation: [View on Image](#)

Neighbors: [View others on page](#)

Household Members:	Name	Age
	Rw Wright	59
	Arconie Wright	54
	Imez Wright	13
	Julia Wright	10
	Mollie Wright	18

Source Citation: Year: 1900; Census
Place: Amarille, Potter, Texas; Roll: 1665; Page: 11A; Enumeration
District: 0080; FHL microfilm: 1241665.

Source Information:



Ancestry.com. 1900 United States Federal Census [database on-line]. Provo, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations Inc, 2004.

Original data: United States of America, Bureau of the Census. *Twelfth Census of the United States, 1900*. Washington, D.C.: National Archives and Records Administration, 1900. T623, 1854 rolls.

Description:

This database is an index to individuals enumerated in the 1900 United States Federal Census, the Twelfth Census of the United States. Census takers recorded many details including each person's name, address, relationship to the head of household, color or race, sex, month and year of birth, age at last birthday, marital status, number of years married, the total number of children born of the mother, the number of those children living, birthplace, birthplace of father and mother, if the individual was foreign born, the year of immigration and the number of years in the United States, the citizenship status of foreign-born individuals over age twenty-one, occupation, and more. Additionally, the names of those listed on the population schedule are linked to actual images of the 1900 Federal Census. [Learn more...](#)



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1910 United States Federal Census

Name: **Robert W Wright**
Age in 1910: **70**
Birth Year: **1840**
Birthplace: **Texas**
Home in 1910: **Justice Precinct 1, Roberts, Texas**
Race: **White**
Gender: **Male**
Relation to Head of House: **Head**
Marital Status: **Married**
Spouse's Name: **Ore Wright**
Father's Birthplace: **Alabama**
Mother's Birthplace: **Tennessee**
Neighbors: [View others on page](#)
Household Members:

Name	Age
Robert W Wright	70
Ore Wright	63

Source Citation: Year: 1910; Census Place: Justice Precinct 1, Roberts, Texas; Roll: T624_1593; Page: 2A; Enumeration District: 0207; ; FHL microfilm: 1375596.

Source Information:



Ancestry.com: 1910 United States Federal Census [database online]. Provo, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations Inc, 2006.

Original data: Thirteenth Census of the United States, 1910 (NARA microfilm publication T624, 1,178 rolls). Records of the Bureau of the Census, Record Group 29. National Archives, Washington, D.C. For details on the contents of the film numbers, visit the following NARA web page: [NARA](#)

Description:

This database is an index to the head of households enumerated in the 1910 United States Federal Census, the Thirteenth Census of the United States. In addition, each indexed name is linked to actual images of the 1910 Federal Census. The information recorded in the census includes: name, relationship to head of family, age at last birthday, sex, color or race, whether single, married, widowed, or divorced, birthplace, birthplace of father and mother, and more. [Learn more...](#)

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Texas, Deaths, 1890-1976 > 004032102 > Image 2633 of 3309 >

2664

PLACE OF DEATH
County *Tarrant*
City *Ft. Worth*

Texas State Board of Health
STANDARD CERTIFICATE OF DEATH
Registered No. **6351**

No. *100* St. *100* Ward *100*
(If death occurred in a hospital or institution, give the NAME, building street and number.)

FULL NAME *Robert Lee Smith*

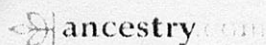
PERSONAL AND STATISTICAL PARTICULARS
Sex *Male* Age *26* Date of Birth *Aug 25 1905*
Place of Birth *Wichita, Kansas*

MEDICAL PARTICULARS
Cause of Death *Chronic Right Ovary*
Date of Death *Aug 26 1931*
Time of Death *11:20 PM*
Place of Death *Home*

PARENTS
Name of Father *James L. Smith*
Name of Mother *Lillian Smith*

OTHER
Name of Physician *Dr. J. H. Smith*
Name of Undertaker *John Smith*

NOTE: This certificate is to be filled out by the physician or other qualified person who attended the deceased at the time of death. It is to be filed in the office of the State Board of Health, and a copy is to be sent to the local health officer.



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U.S. Civil War Soldiers, 1861-1865

Name: **Robert W. Wright**
 Side: Confederate
 Regiment: Texas
 State/Origin:
 Regiment Name: Madison's Reg't Texas Cavalry
 Expanded:
 Regiment Name: Madison's Regiment, Texas Cavalry (Phillips') (3rd
 Expanded: Regiment, Arizona Brigade)
 Company: F
 Rank In: Private
 Rank In: Private
 Expanded:
 Rank Out: Private
 Rank Out: Private
 Expanded:
 Film Number: M227 roll 40

Source Information:

National Park Service. *U.S. Civil War Soldiers, 1861-1865* [database on-line]. Provo, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations Inc, 2007.
 Original data: National Park Service, Civil War Soldiers and Sailors System, online <<http://www.itd.nps.gov/cwss/>>, acquired 2007.

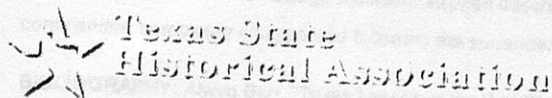
Description:

This database contains the names of approximately 6.3 million soldiers who served in the American Civil War. In addition to their names, information that may be listed for each soldier includes regiment, company, and rank. [Learn more...](#)

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THIRD TEXAS CAVALRY, ARIZONA BRIGADE

THIRD TEXAS CAVALRY, ARIZONA BRIGADE. On May 29, 1862, Lt. Col. John Robert Baylor received authorization from the Confederate War Department to raise "five battalions of Partisan Rangers of six companies each" for what would become known as the Arizona Brigade. The government would pay volunteers a bounty, but expected them to furnish their own arms, equipment, and horses. The purpose of the brigade would be to retake the southwestern territories for the Confederacy, and its ranks would be made up of Texans recently returned from fighting in Arizona and territorial volunteers who had joined the Confederate command at Mesilla. George Madison, former deputy sheriff of Tucson, organized one of the battalions with companies from Burnet, San Saba, and Bell counties. Company B, organized in the San Antonio area, reenlisted many Arizona veterans as well as members of the local Tejano community. When Colonel Baylor lost command of the brigade because his controversial policies toward the Apaches in Arizona became public, Maj. Gen. John Magruder reorganized the small incomplete battalions into three regiments. Madison's Battalion became part of the Third Texas Cavalry, Arizona Brigade. Three additional companies known as Coast Guards because they had served in defense of the Galveston area for over a year also joined the Third. Hendricks's company from Denton, Woods's company from Robertson and Milam counties, and the Arizona Scouts completed the regiment. For promotion to colonel of the Third Texas Cavalry, Arizona Brigade, General Magruder chose a member of his own staff, a thirty-year-old Virginian, Capt. Joseph Phillips.

Phillips's regiment left for Louisiana on April 24, 1863, and was accompanied by Col. Barton W. Stone's Second Texas Partisan Rangers. They were assigned to Col. James Major's Second Texas Cavalry Brigade. In their first action, the Third Cavalry raided the town of Plaquemine and seized three steamers, two steam flats, approximately 100 bales of cotton, and a quantity of commissary stores. In June they took part in the assault on Fort Butler, a Union earthwork at Donaldsonville. Colonel Phillips fell dead in an unsuccessful attempt to breach the walls of the fort. George Madison, wounded in the assault, took command of the regiment. Through the rest of 1863 they continued to operate in the bayou country and took part in battles at Stirling's Plantation and Bayou Bourbeau.

In December 1863 the regiment returned to Texas and made camp at Galveston to assist in the defense against a Union expedition advancing up the coast from Brownsville. They remained in Galveston until March 1864, when the Second Texas Cavalry Brigade again marched into Louisiana to take part in the Red River campaign. During the campaign, they fought in battles at Mansfield, Pleasant Hill, Monett's Ferry, and Yellow Bayou. When Gen. Nathaniel Banks's Union forces began its retreat across the Atchafalaya River, Madison's regiment followed to harass the enemy and engaged the Union rear guard in several skirmishes. In September 1864 the regiment marched to Arkansas with the cavalry brigade and returned to Texas in December. They remained in the Houston area until the surrender of the Trans-Mississippi Department on May 26, 1865. The regiments that had once formed Major's brigade assembled and mustered out of service at Hempstead. Under the conditions of surrender, the men retained their side arms, personal

baggage, and their horses. George Madison, so often described as a daring and courageous commander, completely disappeared following the surrender of his regiment.

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HEROES AND RENEGADES

A History of the Arizona Brigade, C.S.A.

by Robert P. Perkins

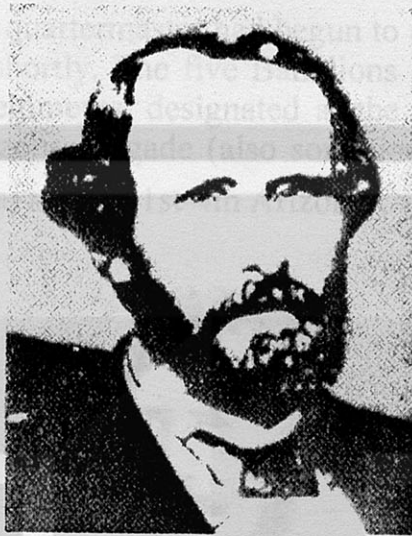
The history of the War Between the States as it transpired in the Trans-Mississippi West is little known. Much attention has been focused on the victorious campaigns of the gallant Army of Northern Virginia, and on the valiant struggles of the hard-luck Army of Tennessee. But thousands of brave men struggled and died for Southern Independence in the far west, fighting in campaigns whose names are now rarely heard. Among the least known of these Trans-Mississippi Army units is the Arizona Brigade. This is their story.

It may be said that the term "Arizona Brigade" is a misnomer. It was formed for the invasion and recapture of the Confederate Territory of Arizona (which was lost to Union invaders in July 1862), and yet never once set foot in Arizona. The Regiments within the Brigade were unofficially known as "Arizona Cavalry Regiments," and yet almost all the men within them were from Texas. And it was called the "Arizona BRIGADE," and yet never fought together as a Brigade...its Regiments were detailed to other Brigades instead. Be that as it may, the Arizona Brigade and its individual regiments left a rich and colorful record that deserves to be told, and it is hoped this paper will accomplish that object.

The history of the Arizona Brigade can be said to begin with the collapse of the Confederate Territory of Arizona in July, 1862. The said Confederate Territory had been founded by Lt. Colonel John Robert Baylor, Second Texas Mounted Rifles, following a successful invasion by Confederate forces in August, 1861. Baylor had declared himself military governor of the new Confederate Territory, a post in which he was later confirmed by the Confederate Government. The Confederate Territory of Arizona had much support among the people of Arizona (the term "Arizona" then meaning what we would consider the southern halves of the present-day States of Arizona and New Mexico), but was militarily weak, and it maintained a precarious existence until it finally fell to Union invasion the following July.

When the Territory fell, some Confederate leaders were willing to abandon it. For example, Brigadier General Henry Hopkins Sibley, commander of the Confederate Army of New Mexico (the name by which the forces assigned to defend the Confederate Territory of Arizona were known) stated his own belief that "except for its political geographical position," Arizona and New Mexico were "not worth a quarter of the blood and treasure expended in its conquest," and many other Confederate leaders shared his view.¹

However, John Robert Baylor thought otherwise, and in this he was supported by the many Arizona secessionists who ardently desired to see Arizona liberated from the rule of the hated Yankees. With their support, Baylor began to work to raise a new army with which he would invade and recapture Arizona for the Confederacy.²



George W. Randolph, Confederate Secretary of War

Baylor had received orders on April 14, 1862 from George W. Randolph, Confederate Secretary of War instructing him as follows...

*"You are authorized to enlist volunteers in Arizona Territory and to muster them into service, singly or by companies, for three years or the war, to be organized as soon as a sufficient number of companies are mustered into a regiment, electing field officers. You will continue to organize regiments under this authority until a brigade has been raised for the defense of the Territory."*³

Armed with this authority, Baylor began preparations to raise this new "Arizona Brigade" almost immediately after his arrival in San Antonio, Texas, sometime in July 1862. Baylor set up his headquarters at Eagle Lake, Texas (located between San Antonio and Houston), and began to organize and recruit. He planned to raise five Battalions of Mounted Rifles, each of 500 men, for a total of 2,000 men in the brigade. Recruiting went well, and by December 1862 Baylor already had 1,500 of the planned 2,000 men signed up. However, arming and equipping the men had proved to be extremely difficult, with the result that only three companies (about 300 men total) had been armed, and those "indifferently" at that.⁴

It was at this point that Baylor was suddenly removed from command, due to an action he had taken while serving as Governor of Arizona. Baylor had, in March 1862, issued an order to his military commanders in which he directed them to call in the various bands of the Apaches for "peace talks." When the Indians came in, Baylor instructed, they were to be gotten drunk, the adults killed, and the children sold into slavery to defray the expense associated with killing their parents! News of this order had only just reached the Confederate Government in Richmond, and President Jefferson Davis was outraged when he heard of it. He immediately removed Baylor from his post as Governor of Arizona, stripped him of his rank, and cashiered him from the Army.⁵

But Baylor's Brigade lived on, and plans proceeded for the ultimate invasion of Arizona. By

the Spring of 1863, the brigade quartermaster had begun to amass supplies for the expedition, which was expected to begin shortly. The five Battalions of the Brigade had, by this time, been consolidated into four Regiments, designated at the First, Second, Third, and Fourth Texas Cavalry Regiments, Arizona Brigade (also sometimes unofficially called the 1st-4th Regiments of Texas-Arizona Cavalry, or 1st-4th Arizona Cavalry Regiments).⁶



John Bankhead Magruder

But then, news came of a Union offensive in Louisiana that endangered Texas. Union General Nathaniel Banks was pushing up the Bayou Teche, with the aim of proceeding up the Red River and occupying east Texas and securing for the Union the rich cotton production to be found there. Major General John Bankhead Magruder, desperate for troops to resist this invasion, issued orders to postpone the expedition to Arizona. The Arizona Brigade was broken up, and the regiments (most still not at full strength) were rushed to different sectors. Although the regiments would still be officially designated as members of the Arizona Brigade, and would continue to be so until the end of the war, the brigade would never again function together as a single unit. And with the dispersal of the brigade, the last chance for the recapture of Arizona was lost.⁷

But though now deprived of the reason for their formation, the regiments of the Arizona Brigade would all leave a rich and varied history in the upcoming campaigns. Some of their men would serve with great distinction, and some would end up as renegades. We will now examine their records.

The FIRST TEXAS CAVALRY REGIMENT, ARIZONA BRIGADE, was formed on February 21, 1863 as a result of Special Order #81, District of Texas, New Mexico, and Arizona, which directed that the First Cavalry Battalion of the Brigade, commanded by Lt. Colonel William P. Hardeman, be consolidated with several independent cavalry companies to form a regiment. Hardeman was commissioned as Colonel of the new Regiment. Other field officers were Lt. Colonel Peter Hardeman (brother of the regimental Colonel who would replace his brother as Colonel), and Major Michael Looscan. After Peter Hardeman took over as Colonel, and Looscan resigned as Major, Edward Riordan became the Lt. Colonel, and

Alexander P. Terrell became the regiment's Major.⁸

The First Regiment served mainly in the Red River area of Texas, Arkansas, and the Indian Territory (what is now Oklahoma) during the war. It served with a number of different commands, but mainly with Colonel Richard M. Gano's Texas Cavalry Brigade (which itself was assigned to several different commands during the war).⁹

Battles in which the First Regiment was involved were the Camden Expedition (March-May 1864), the Battle of Poison Spring (April 18, 1864), the Battle of Massard's Prairie (July 27, 1864), and the Battle of Cabin Creek (September 19, 1864). The regiment also fought a number of skirmishes with hostile Indians and with raiding parties of Union soldiers sent out from Fort Smith, Arkansas, the names of which are not recorded.¹⁰

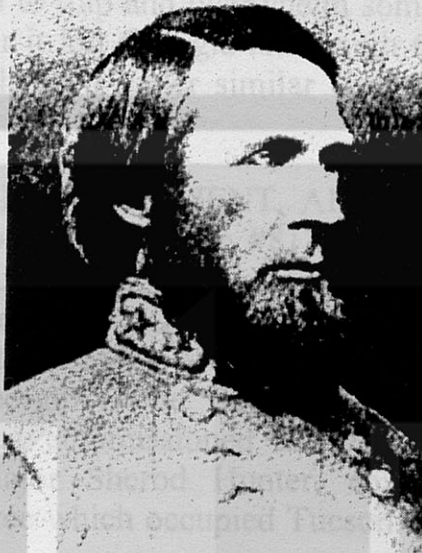
Of the battles listed above, the Battle of Poison Spring (in which not only the First Regiment, but also several other Texas Cavalry Regiments and at least two Regiments of Choctaw Indians, were involved) was probably the most famous, or perhaps we should say "infamous," and as such it deserves some further elaboration. For the Battle of Poison Spring has gone down in history as the "Fort Pillow of the West," due to an alleged massacre of Union negro troops which took place there.

The events which lead up to the battle began in March, 1864. A Union army, under Major General Frederick Steele, was moving south from Little Rock, Arkansas, heading for Shreveport, Louisiana. Steele's aim was to link up with the army of Major General Nathaniel Banks, which was moving northward up the Red River toward Shreveport. However, Steele's army had run short of supplies by mid-April, with Union soldiers living on half-rations. The Union army halted at Camden, Arkansas, and a supply base was set up. On April 17 a foraging expedition of 198 wagons guarded by about 1,000 men, which included the First Kansas Colored Infantry (about 500 men strong), was sent out to secure supplies for the army.¹¹

The expedition left Camden with orders to take, by force, corn and other food from Southern farmers in the surrounding areas. The expedition looted the farms of many poor Southern families, leaving them destitute and starving. And food was not all they took. According to Colonel Charles de Morse, 29th Texas Cavalry, after the battle the Confederates found "the enemy's train of 200 wagons, laden with corn, bacon, stolen bed quilts, women's and children's clothing, hogs, geese, and all the *et ceteras* of unscrupulous plunder."¹²

historian of the Red River Campaign has said regarding Poison Spring, "it is often difficult to draw the line between legitimate foraging and murder."

Was there a massacre at Poison Spring, motivated by race hatred, as Union accounts claimed? The fact that the looters in the Poison Spring case were negroes may have contributed to the ferocity of the reaction by the Confederate troops upon discovering the contents of the captured Union wagons. But, then again, if the colored troops really did "give and receive no quarter," as General Smith claimed in his letter previously quoted, there may have been no massacre at all. And one has to ask...what might have happened if a large



Samuel Bell Maxey

On April 18, as the plunderers were on their way back to Camden, they were ambushed by a large Confederate force (which outnumbered the Union troops by at least three-to-one) under the command of Brigadier General Samuel B. Maxey. A fierce battle ensued, in which the Confederates overwhelmed the Union force. The Confederates caught the wagon train in a thundering crossfire of artillery and then charged it from the front, sides, and rear.¹³ Union casualties were extreme. About 600 Union soldiers were left dead on the field, "principally negroes who neither gave nor received quarter" (to quote Confederate General Edmund Kirby Smith, Commander-in-Chief of all Confederate forces west of the Mississippi River, who spoke of the affair in a letter to his wife penned shortly after the battle). Among the approximately 200 Unionists who were captured (again according to General Smith) were only two negro prisoners.¹⁴

Almost immediately, the Union authorities charged that a massacre had taken place. Confederate soldiers were accused of having driven captured wagons back and forth over the fallen negro wounded until none were left alive (incidentally, the white Confederates were not the only ones charged with atrocities that day...the Choctaws were accused of scalping both dead and wounded prisoners).¹⁵ But, as with the more famous incident at Fort Pillow (which, as it happened, occurred within days of the fight at Poison Spring), we really don't know what happened. Maybe a massacre took place, and maybe it didn't. As one prominent historian of the Red River Campaign has said regarding Poison Spring, "it is often difficult to draw the line between legitimate killing and murder."

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Confederate force had managed to trap and overwhelm some portion of General William T. Sherman's army of looters after it left Georgia and South Carolina in flames? It is hard to imagine that white men, apprehended under similar circumstances, would not have met a similar fate.

The SECOND TEXAS CAVALRY REGIMENT, ARIZONA BRIGADE, was formed on February 21, 1863 pursuant to Special Order #81, District of Texas, New Mexico, and Arizona. It was formed by consolidating Lt. Colonel John W. Mullen's Cavalry Battalion (one of the original five of the Arizona Brigade) with two independent companies, thus raising the Battalion to regimental strength. Mullen continued to serve as Lieutenant Colonel of the new regiment, and George Wythe Baylor, younger brother of former Arizona Governor John R. Baylor, was commissioned as regimental Colonel. Completing the regiment's field staff was Major Sherod Hunter, an Arizona Confederate who had commanded the Confederate force which occupied Tucson in the Spring of 1862 and fought the westernmost battle of the war at Picacho Pass, April 15, 1862.¹⁶

For most of the war the Second Regiment was assigned to Brigadier General John P. Major's Cavalry Brigade of General Thomas Green's Texas Cavalry Division and served mostly (with the exception of a brief assignment to the forces defending Galveston, Texas from December 1863 to February 1864) in Louisiana. Battles in which the Second Regiment was involved included Brashear City (June 23, 1863), Cox's Plantation (July 12-13, 1863), and the many battles and skirmishes of the Red River Campaign of March-May 1864, including the major battles at Mansfield (April 8, 1864) and Pleasant Hill (April 9, 1864).¹⁷

The battle in which the Second Regiment figured most prominently was the capture of the Union supply depot at Brashear City, on June 23, 1863. An account of this action follows.¹⁸

The Federal Army had established a major supply depot at Brashear City, which was located on the east shore of Berwick Bay (a broad portion of the Atchafalaya River which flows into the Gulf of Mexico). The Confederates desperately needed those supplies, and Major General Richard Taylor, commanding Confederate forces in the region, ordered their capture. Major Sherod Hunter of the Second Arizona Cavalry was put in command of the assault force.

On the night of June 22, 1864, Major Hunter led a motley force of 250 Confederate cavalymen (three companies from the Second Texas Cavalry, Arizona Brigade, volunteers from other Texas Cavalry units, and a contingent from the Second Louisiana Cavalry) aboard a strange flotilla of flatboats, skiffs, rowboats, dugout canoes, even sugar coolers...in short, anything that would float. Hunter and his "mosquito fleet" slipped silently down the Bayou Teche to the Atchafalaya River, thence up said River to Brashear City (a distance of about 12 miles, all of which had to be traversed by rowing, as the boats had no sails).

At daybreak on June 23, 1863, Hunter's force disembarked from their strange fleet, then marched a further four miles, single file, through a swamp of mud, water, and tall palmetto to reach Brashear City. Upon emerging from the swamp, Hunter's men were greeted by the sight of row after row of white tents, pitched thickly for the space of half a mile, as well as two

imposing earthwork forts. Many of the Confederates briefly lost heart and retreated back into the swamp, thinking that a large army lay before them.

However, Major Hunter was not daunted by the size of the Union force, and he rallied his men, saying "We may all be shot...Not one of us may get back to the brigade; but gentlemen, we'd better just fall down in our tracks than go back disgraced, and have old Tom Green tell us so!" Upon hearing these stirring words, which were likely sprinkled with some profane language that has been expurgated by the chronicler of this scene), Hunter's men formed up and moved ahead toward Brashear City.

As Hunter and his men emerged from the woods, Confederate artillery stationed on the shores of Berwick Bay across from Brashear City (including the four guns of the Valverde Battery, captured by the Confederate Army of New Mexico at the Battle of Valverde in 1862) opened fire. Most of the Union garrison marched off to the shores of the bay in response to this attack, leaving the rear approaches to Brashear City open. It was now that Hunter made his assault.

Major Hunter led his men in a bayonet charge that took the enemy completely by surprise. The earthwork forts guarding Brashear City were quickly captured, and then the Confederates were in the town itself. Most of the Union garrison was too stunned by this sudden onslaught to put up a fight, but the Confederates did find a few pockets of resistance that cost them 3 killed and 18 wounded. But these were soon crushed, and by 11:00 a.m. all Union resistance was at an end.

Thus, in short order, Hunter and his 250 men were the proud possessors of Brashear City, 1,300 Union prisoners, 11 heavy siege guns, 2,500 stands of Enfield and Burnside rifles, immense quantities of quartermaster, commissary and ordnance stores, as well as 2,000 negroes and between 200 and 300 wagons and tents. The overall value of the captured supplies was more than \$2,000,000, and Richard Taylor's Confederate Army was to be well supplied by them for many months.

The THIRD TEXAS CAVALRY REGIMENT, ARIZONA BRIGADE, was organized on February 21, 1863, pursuant to Special Order #11, District of Texas, New Mexico, and Arizona. It was formed by consolidating the Third Cavalry Battalion, Arizona Brigade, with several independent companies to raise the battalion to regimental strength. The Third Regiment was commanded by Colonel Joseph Phillips. Other field officers were Lt. Colonel George T. Madison (who had been the commanding officer of the original Third Cavalry Battalion) and Major Alonzo Ridley (who later became the regiment's Lt. Colonel).¹⁹

The Third Regiment was assigned for most of the war to Brigadier General James P. Major's Brigade of General Thomas Green's Texas Cavalry Division, and served primarily in Louisiana. The Third Regiment participated in many battles, including those at Donaldsonville, Louisiana (June 24, 1863); Cox's Plantation (July 12-13, 1863); Stirling's Plantation (September 29, 1863); Bayou Bourbeau (November 3, 1863); and the many battles and skirmishes of the Red River campaign in Louisiana, including most importantly Wilson's Farm (April 7, 1864), Sabine Crossroads, or Mansfield (April 8, 1863), and Pleasant Hill,



A photograph of Lt. Frank Mullen, Second Arizona Cavalry Regiment (left), shown with Major Alonzo Ridley, Third Arizona Cavalry (right).

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(April 9, 1863).²⁰

Since both the Second and Third Regiments of the Arizona Brigade were assigned to Brigadier General James P. Major's Texas Cavalry Brigade for most of the war, brief descriptions of the major battles fought by that Brigade are in order. Both the Second and the Third Regiment would have been present for, and would have participated in, most or all of these battles...

DONALDSONVILLE (June 28, 1863): Major's Cavalry Brigade assisted in an attack on Union-held Fort Butler, at the junction of the Bayou LaFourche and the Mississippi River near the town of Donaldsonville. The attack, made in the darkness of the early morning hours, resulted in a confused melee in which men from both sides hurled bricks from the fort's parapet at each other. The attack was finally driven off by the fire of Union gunboats on the Mississippi.²¹

COX'S PLANTATION (July 12-13, 1863): A Union force of 6,000 men, led by Brigadier Generals Godfrey Weitzel and Cuvier Grover, advanced southward along the Bayou LaFourche from Donaldsonville. They had gone less than ten miles when they were ambushed at Cox's Plantation by the Texas Cavalry of Brigadier Generals Thomas Green and James P. Major. The Yankees were severely thrashed by the badly outnumbered Texans, and forced to retreat back to Donaldsonville.²²

BAYOU BOURBEAU (November 3, 1863): In cooperation with three regiments of Major General John G. Walker's Texas Infantry Division (known as Walker's Greyhounds due to their many long and rapid marches from one front to another), the Texas Cavalry Brigades of Thomas Green and James P. Major routed a larger Union force under Major General William B. Franklin, capturing 600 men and one cannon.²³



Major's Cavalry Brigade, including the Second and Third Texas Cavalry Regiments, Arizona Brigade,

attack the Yankee wagon train at Wilson's Farm, April 7, 1864

WILSON'S FARM (April 7, 1864): The advance guard of Major General Nathaniel Banks' Union army, consisting of a division of cavalry and recently-formed regiments of mounted infantry under the command of Brigadier General Albert L. Lee, encountered the four regiments of Major's Texas Cavalry Brigade on the road between the towns of Pleasant Hill and Mansfield, Louisiana. Lee's men had never before encountered Confederate cavalry, and expected them to retreat, as had the various Confederate infantry units with which they had previously skirmished. Instead of retreating, however, Major's Texas cavalymen gave a thunderous Rebel Yell and charged into Lee's leading brigade. A wild, close-range melee ensued, with troopers on both sides firing revolvers and carbines. Major's men swept right through the stunned Yankees and attacked Lee's wagon train, and it was only with great difficulty that the Yankees finally drove off the outnumbered Texans, who retreated, ending the battle. Union commander Lee, stunned by the sudden onslaught, called for reinforcements, which were promptly dispatched, setting the stage for the next day's engagement at Sabine Crossroads.²⁴

SABINE CROSSROADS, OR MANSFIELD (April 8, 1864): The Union advance guard, which now consisted not only of Lee's Cavalry Division but also included the 4th Infantry Division, 13th Corps, under the command of Colonel William J. Landrum (Landrum's force had been rushed forward to reinforce Lee's advance guard after the unexpected attack by Major's Confederate cavalry the previous day), continued to advance toward Mansfield. Confederate Major General Richard Taylor, seeing that the Union advance guard was separated from the bulk of their army by their wagon train, decided to attack. Taylor's Confederate army executed what was almost a classic double-envelopment of the larger Union force. Major's Cavalry Brigade held the extreme left of the Confederate battle line. Fighting dismounted, they managed to work themselves around the right flank of the Union line and take the Union force in the rear. Other Confederate units had also managed to outflank the Union force on its left flank as well, and the Yankees fled in disorder. In the confusion of the retreat some Union regiments attempted to hold their ground, and two of these (the 130th Illinois and the 48th Ohio) were surrounded and captured by Major's Cavalry Brigade. The panic-stricken Yankees were pursued for over two miles by the jubilant Confederates, and only the timely arrival of another Union infantry division under Brigadier General William H. Emory prevented their utter destruction.²⁵

The **FOURTH TEXAS CAVALRY REGIMENT, ARIZONA BRIGADE** was the brainchild of Spruce McCoy Baird, former attorney general of New Mexico Territory (U.S.) and an ardent secessionist who had accompanied the Confederate Army of New Mexico when it retreated back to Texas. Baird began to recruit troops for the recapture of Arizona, at first independently of the larger effort which John R. Baylor was organizing at Eagle Lake, Texas. However, by the end of 1862 Baird had moved his recruiting efforts to Eagle Lake, and his embryonic regiment became part of the Arizona Brigade.²⁶



Colonel Spruce McCoy Baird, 4th Arizona Cavalry

The Fourth Regiment was organized in February 1863, with Spruce Baird himself commissioned as Colonel and placed in command of the regiment. Other field officers were Major Edward Riordan and Lt. Colonel Daniel Showalter.²⁷

Lt. Colonel Showalter, who would later command the Fourth Regiment after Baird resigned in early 1864, was a California politician and ardent Southern sympathizer who had been captured and imprisoned by Union authorities in November 1861 while attempting to leave California on his way to join the Confederate army in Texas. Released from his enforced confinement at Fort Yuma after five months, Showalter made a second attempt to defect, this time successfully. Slipping through the Mexican state of Chihuahua, Showalter made his way to Texas, where he took a commission in the Fourth Regiment.²⁸

Baird's recruiting efforts were never as successful as those of Baylor, and Baird was forced to move his recruiting efforts yet again in early 1863. He set up headquarters near the Pecos River, in far west Texas, and his recruiters signed up draft evaders, deserters, and other riff-raff who had drifted into the no-man's-land between Confederate Texas and Union-held New Mexico. Naturally, the discipline and quality of the regiment suffered as a result.²⁹

The Fourth Regiment only took to the field in late 1863, due to the slowness with which its ranks were filled. The regiment was not assigned to a specific brigade or division for most of the war, but rather was used as a sort of "mobile reserve" force, to be moved wherever it was needed. And shortly after it took the field, it was apparently divided into two Battalions of five companies each. One of these, under Lt. Colonel Showalter, was ordered to Fort Washita, Cherokee Nation, in the Indian Territory (present-day Oklahoma), and the other, under Colonel Baird, was sent to Brazoria County, on the Texas Gulf Coast.³⁰

Little is known about the activities of the two battalions prior to December, 1863. In September 1863, while stationed in the Indian Territory, Lt. Colonel Showalter's Battalion apparently engaged hostile Indians in north Texas, and 30 November 1863 the battalion was ordered to report to Brigadier General H. E. McCullouch at Bonham, Texas. On December 15, 1863, the regiment was ordered to consolidate once again in the region of San Antonio, in

response to the threat of a Union sea-borne invasion. The regiment was to serve in a command called "The Cavalry of the West," under the command of Colonel John Salmon Ford (popularly known as "R.I.P." Ford due to his habit, when filling out death certificates, of adding the abbreviation "R.I.P."...for "Rest in Peace"... after the names of those men under his command who had "gone to meet their maker"). However, this consolidation did not apparently happen at that time, because although Baird's Battalion was apparently with Ford at San Antonio as of February 5, Showalter's Battalion apparently did not join the rest of the regiment until March 31, 1864.³¹



Colonel John Salmon "R.I.P." Ford

The threat against San Antonio never materialized, and the "Cavalry of the West" was soon engaged in operations against Union forces under Major General Francis J. Herron, which had occupied the lower Rio Grande region since November 1863. Ford's operations had a simple, but undeniably important aim...to secure the routes by which the Confederacy shipped cotton to Mexican, European, and even Yankee cotton merchants who had established themselves in the border towns of northern Mexico. Confederate cotton was sold there for gold and silver, which in turn was used to purchase vitally needed war supplies for the Confederacy. And since Mexican ports could not be blockaded by the Union fleet, the Rio Grande crossings were the only relatively unimpeded means of entry for European goods into the Confederacy.

However, Union forces now occupied the important river crossing at Brownsville, opposite the Mexican city of Matamoros, forcing Confederate cotton traders to transport their precious cargo by land over costly and dangerous routes far to the west which led to trading centers at

Laredo and Eagle Pass. And now, Union forces were moving up-river, threatening even these remote Confederate outposts. Something had to be done, and "R.I.P." Ford aimed to do it!³²

In a series of engagements that began in March 1864, Ford and the "Cavalry of the West" gradually pushed back the Union forces to their stronghold at Brownsville, and finally captured Brownsville itself in July 1864.³³ However, Colonel Baird was not to command the regiment during any of these engagements. Upon arriving at San Antonio, he raised objections to being placed under Colonel Ford's command. Ford held a commission from the State of Texas, but it had never been confirmed by the Confederate Government itself. Since Baird was a commissioned Colonel in the Confederate Army, he felt that he, not Ford, should command. Baird appealed to his superiors, and lost. Shortly afterward he turned the Fourth Regiment over to the Lt. Colonel Showalter, and left.³⁴

The Fourth Regiment, now under the command of Lt. Colonel Showalter, figured prominently in the campaign to recapture Brownsville, taking part in battles at Rancho Las Rinas (June 25, 1864) and Rancho del Carmen (July 1864), among others.³⁵ In particular, it won praise for its capture of a Yankee riverboat, the *U.S.S. Ark*, during one of the final battles near Brownsville on August 8, 1864.³⁶ And on September 9, 1864, 207 men of the regiment under the command of Major Kavanaugh took part in a battle a few miles above Palmito Ranch, in which a force of 371 Confederates defeated a force of 600 Federals and 300 Mexicans with 2 pieces of artillery. According to "R.I.P." Ford's postwar account, the Confederates "drove the enemy for five or six miles, killing and wounding a great many."³⁷

The praise won by the Fourth Regiment and its commander was to be short-lived, however. Within a short time, Lt. Colonel Showalter was facing court-martial. It seems that Showalter had a problem with alcohol, and had, while "in a maudlin condition," beat a hasty retreat before a raid by the Mexican bandit, Juan Cortina, which had taken place shortly before the battle near Palmito Ranch. Colonel Ford got the charges dropped, however. "When not under the influence of liquor," Ford explained to his angry superiors, "he [Showalter] was as chivalrous a man as ever drew a sword."³⁸

Records indicate that the regiment was still with Ford's command near Brownsville until February 8, 1865, when they were ordered to Houston.³⁹ There had apparently been rains in the area during this time, the roads were choked with mud, and the rivers were swollen, making travel very difficult, so progress toward Houston was slow.⁴⁰ While on the way there, they were diverted to Corpus Christi, in anticipation of a raid by Union forces on that place.⁴¹ This diversion to Corpus Christi caused a mysterious "burst up" of the regiment, as apparently about 200 men refused to obey orders, met and appointed their own officers, and moved on to the east.⁴² The exact date of this "burst up" is not certain, and may have occurred in late February. These men would remain gone from the regiment until May 1865, when all but 30 or 40 of them (who were said to have crossed the Rio Grande) returned to the regiment.⁴³ Little is known about the activities of the Fourth regiment between March and

May 1865.

What was the final fate of the regiment? Here we run into something of a mystery, for there seems to be more than one answer to that question. Stewart Sifakis, in *THE COMPENDIUM OF THE CONFEDERATE ARMIES*, states that at the end of the war, the Fourth Regiment was stationed in Cooke County, in northern Texas, that the regiment had committed depredations against the local inhabitants, and that the regiment was, as a result, being pursued by other Confederate troops at the close of the war.⁴⁴

However, there are newspaper reports indicating that, as of May 9, 1865, the regiment was stationed in Harrisburg, Texas (near Houston). On May 19, 1865, the *HOUSTON TRI-WEEKLY TELEGRAPH* published a letter, signed by Lt. Colonel Showalter on behalf of the regiment, which stated the determination of the Fourth Regiment to "repel the foe who dare to assail us or perish in the attempt." This letter does not state the location of the regiment, but it was likely still in the Houston area (although one source places it near Palmito Ranch, near Brownsville, Texas). A May 23, 1865 article in the same newspaper states that the regiment had been ordered to Houston, and indicates that it broke up at about this time.⁴⁵

All this begs the question...if the Regiment was in the Houston area at the end of the war, how could it also be in Cooke County, in northern Texas...some 300 miles away...being pursued by other Confederate troops at the same time? Which of these alternate scenarios is true? Or could both be true? Perhaps the regiment had, once again, been divided into two battalions as had taken place during the fall of 1863. Although there is no surviving record of this, that does not deny the possibility.

Another possibility is that the troops referred to by Sifakis are, in fact, the 200 or so troops which left the regiment during the February/March 1865 "burst up." The activities of these men during the roughly two months they were "absent without leave" from the Fourth Regiment have not been documented, and it is not beyond the realm of possibility that they, or part of them, might have gone to north Texas before returning to the regiment. Some portion of them may have remained there to be pursued by the other Confederate troops in the region, as stated by Sifakis. This would seem to be denied, however, by the May 1865 *HOUSTON TRI-WEEKLY TELEGRAPH* article cited previously, which states that all but "30 or 40" of the absent soldiers returned, and that those 30 or 40 who did not return crossed the Rio Grande.

And last but not least, recent research by Dr. William Burns of Houston, Texas, has suggested yet another possibility...a case of mistaken identity. The former commander of the Fourth Regiment, Colonel Spruce M. Baird, was given authority, in June 1864, to raise a command of 100 men for the purpose of harassing Union supply trains on the Santa Fe Trail.⁴⁶ Furthermore, it appears that in the following month, this proposed force was expanded from 100 men to a proposed regiment, and Baird was authorized to raise a battalion of cavalry, which would be combined with another battalion under Colonel M.W. Sims to form the new Regiment. Baird apparently completed recruiting for this battalion by October 1864. Despite the fact that he had resigned his command of the Fourth Regiment in February

1864, Baird was apparently still being referred to during this period in dispatches and newspaper articles as "Col. Baird, 4th Arizona Regiment."⁴⁷

Furthermore, an affidavit made by a Confederate deserter, one William J. Davis, to Union authorities on May 3, 1865, states that this latter command of Baird's was stationed at Gainesville, Texas...in Cooke County. It also states that this unit included "some of Quantrill's and Anderson's bushwhackers"...men who might well be ill-disciplined and inclined to commit depredations against the local inhabitants...and that the unit had mutinied when ordered to leave Gainesville and move to Hempstead, Texas.⁴⁸ And finally, a report in the HOUSTON TRI-WEEKLY TELEGRAPH for May 24, 1865 describes the capture of Baird's command by two Confederate regiments near Gainesville, Texas on or about May 1, 1865.

Could Sifakis have mistakenly identified this latter command of Colonel Baird's with the Fourth Regiment? Very possibly. But whether he did or he didn't, it appears that the vast majority of the Fourth Regiment (save, perhaps, the 30 or 40 who crossed the Rio Grande to become renegades, never to return) stood by their colors to the end.

What, then, can finally be said of the Arizona Brigade? In effect, the Arizona Brigade was a microcosm of the entire Confederate army, and its men displayed both the best and the worst qualities of the Confederate fighting man. The regiments of the Arizona Brigade left records both of valor, and of infamy. They produced both heroes and renegades. And somewhere in between was the vast majority, who did their duty to the best of their ability, saw the war through to the end, and remained true to their colors. And in the end, isn't that all that really matters?

FINIS

NOTES

¹Brigadier General Henry Hopkins Sibley, report to General Samuel Cooper, Adjutant and Inspector General of the C.S. Army, May 4, 1862, reprinted in Calvin P. Horn and William S. Wallace, CONFEDERATE VICTORIES IN THE SOUTHWEST: PRELUDE TO DEFEAT, Albuquerque, New Mexico: Horn and Wallace, 1961, pp 156-157, hereafter cited as Horn and Wallace.

²An excellent discussion of the efforts of Arizona secessionists to regain their lost Territory is found in L. Boyd Finch, "Arizona in Exile: Confederate Schemes to Recapture the Far Southwest," JOURNAL OF ARIZONA HISTORY, Spring 1992, pp 57-84, hereafter cited as Finch, "Arizona."

³Orders from Secretary of War Randolph to Governor Baylor, April 14, 1862, reprinted in Horn and Wallace, p. 200.

⁴Finch, "Arizona," p. 62.

⁵Odie Faulk, JOHN ROBERT BAYLOR: CONFEDERATE GOVERNOR OF ARIZONA. Tucson, Arizona: Arizona Pioneers Historical Society, 1966, pp 13-15.