

# THE STRAGGLER

NEWSLETTER OF THE TEXAS RIFLES  
ISSUE NO. 30 OCTOBER 1990



## COMMANDER'S DISPATCH

Texian Market Days is right around the corner (October 27-28). I am looking forward to seeing all of you there. This year's event (as described in the last issue of the newsletter) will be different! You'll have the chance to wear all the period civilian clothing you've bought (and was beginning to think you never had a use for). You can tell your spouse "See, I needed these civilian duds for TMD." Well, at least that's what I'm telling my wife when I receive my new fancy top hat in the mail! If you don't have a civilian outfit per se, don't worry! Scott Swenson, our authenticity director, can help you put together a civilian impression with the period clothing you already own.

I hope you will all take advantage of Michael Moore's personal impression packets. This is a really great idea and will contribute much to the 130th anniversary events. Adopting personal impressions and developing them through use of the packets will make the 130th campaign more authentic in general and will make the casualties we take in action (and otherwise) particularly more significant. With my track record for surviving battles, I'll be changing characters more often than Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde. If you're like me, please don't worry, the names might change, but your packets can be updated or stay the same with minor alterations.

Please call your respective regional directors and let them know if you're going to TMD and if you'd like to give a speech. Everyone needs to be there by 9 A.M. Saturday morning so we can go over the event. Texian Market Days should be fun and will be an event you don't want to miss.

I have the honor to be your captain and most obedient servant,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "B. Gill Eastland".

B. Gill Eastland  
Captain



# CALENDAR OF EVENTS



Please let your Regional Director know which events you plan to attend -- this information is essential for proper planning!

**SIEGE OF ROME:** October 19-21 at Rome, Georgia. Reenactment of 1863 and 1864 battles. Call John Carruth (404) 232-4567 for details.

**\*TEXIAN MARKET DAYS:** October 27-28 at the George Ranch near Richmond, TX. Otto Haardt and Don Drachenberg are chairmen of the Confederate area; Mike Moore is in charge overall. See related article in this issue.

**\*ANNUAL MUSTER AND ELECTION:** January 11-13, 1991 at Winedale, Texas.

**\*SECOND ANNUAL TEXAS RIFLES BALL:** February 2, 1991 at the Driskill Hotel in Austin. This event will recreate the heady period surrounding secession in February 1861. Militia, CS or civilian impressions will be correct. See related article in this issue.

**\*TACTICAL:** March 1991 in Tennessee. More details to come.

**\*BATTLE OF WILSON'S CREEK:** August 1991 in Missouri. More details to come.

(NOTE: An asterisk "\*" denotes a MAXIMUM EFFORT EVENT. Most members, officers & NCO's will be present. At all other events the attendance is usually smaller; you may be on your own.)



## TR TID BITS

### DON DRACHENBERG REPORTS

Texas Rifles members Ron Oglesbee, Otto Haardt, Mike Powell, Gordon Gentry (with cannon), Jerry Keller, Mike Drachenberg and Don Drachenberg, along with Keith Bell and Randy Bennett attended the "debut" of the Battleship Texas at the San Jacinto Battlefield in September. We put on a good show with musket and cannon firings (and a few comedy routines) and the like.

Texas Rifles members Ron Oglesbee, Dennis Hubbard, Otto Haardt, Steve Abolt and Don Drachenberg participated in the annual Gonzales "Come and Take It" Celebration. We put together 14 Mexican soldiers in an attempt to get that damn cannon from those Texas rebellious upstarts, but this year as always, we left the field empty handed. Typically, it was the Friday and Saturday night campfire sessions which were the highlight of the weekend.

For the second year in a row, the Texas Rifles marched in the Fort Bend County Fair parade. Participating were Mike Powell, Mike Drachenberg, Jack Bell, Otto Haardt, Don Drachenberg and Randy Bennett (as color bearer). We fired approximately 15 volleys (double loads, of course) during the course of the three mile parade.

A big thanks to all of those who took the time to participate in these events...hopefully more of the numerous TR members in the Houston area can be persuaded to take part in these type of small but important events in the future! (Editor's Note: I toned down Don's actual comments about the low attendance factor...Suffice it to say that a larger turnout would make us all look better.) Don also gave me a call as the Newsletter was almost ready to be copied and mailed. He wanted to remind everyone that there will be a dance and free beer at TMD on Sat. night and that Bruce Frazier will be bringing his sutlerly goods with him .... particularly early war type items.

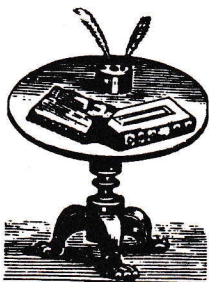
#### GOTTA GRIPE?

Each member is encouraged to let our elected leaders or the appropriate regional director know if she or he has a complaint about any aspect of our organization or its activities. This is the only way our leadership can effectively meet the needs of the membership of The Texas Rifles. Your complaints will be printed in The Straggler (subject to being edited for the sake of clarity and length) only if you accompany your gripe with a proposed solution to the problem you have identified.

Late Item: For the time being Scott Swenson's work phone number is not valid. Call him at his home number (817)848-4487.

#### DO YOU BELIEVE IN REINCARNATION?

Did any our members serve with the 17th Maine Infantry in a previous life? Here's an excerpt from the journal of Private John W. Haley which indicates that Haley may have encountered such a current Texas Rifles member on July 7, 1863: "The wise man seeth the rain coming and hideth himself under a tent. The fool sleepeth out of doors and is punished. My punishment didn't end with the drenching; I had to sleep under the same blanket with----- . To bivouac with this person is to bivouac with a swine of the genus Homo. Grunting and groaning, turning and twisting, snoring and gurgling in his throat, and stoppages in his nose--all indicated the difficulties under which he labored. Even a man who can sleep in a saw mill would be fixed by such a racket. Not a solitary wink did I get, while he slept like a person with a clear conscience and good digestion. It seemed as if nothing short of the last trumpet could wake him, and it would have to be no ordinary blast, either."



## ARTICLES FROM THE MEMBERSHIP

### TEXIAN MARKET DAYS

This event will be held at the George Ranch near Richmond, Texas (see map elsewhere in this issue), on October 27-28. Otto Haardt and Don Drachenberg will start setting up the company street with their three tents on Thursday night and will be available on Friday after six P.M. to help early arrivals. Travel mileage will be available to those who drive over 70 miles round trip and who also stay at the event until at least four P.M. on Sunday. The ranch has provided us with funds that will pay for the Saturday night meal and will subsidize the cost of the other meals to be prepared by our camp kitchen over the weekend. Thus dinner on Saturday night will be free and any combination of the other meals (breakfast and lunch on Saturday and Sunday) will cost a total of \$3.00. Please let your regional director know if you plan to utilize the services of the camp kitchen at TMD so proper plans can be made.

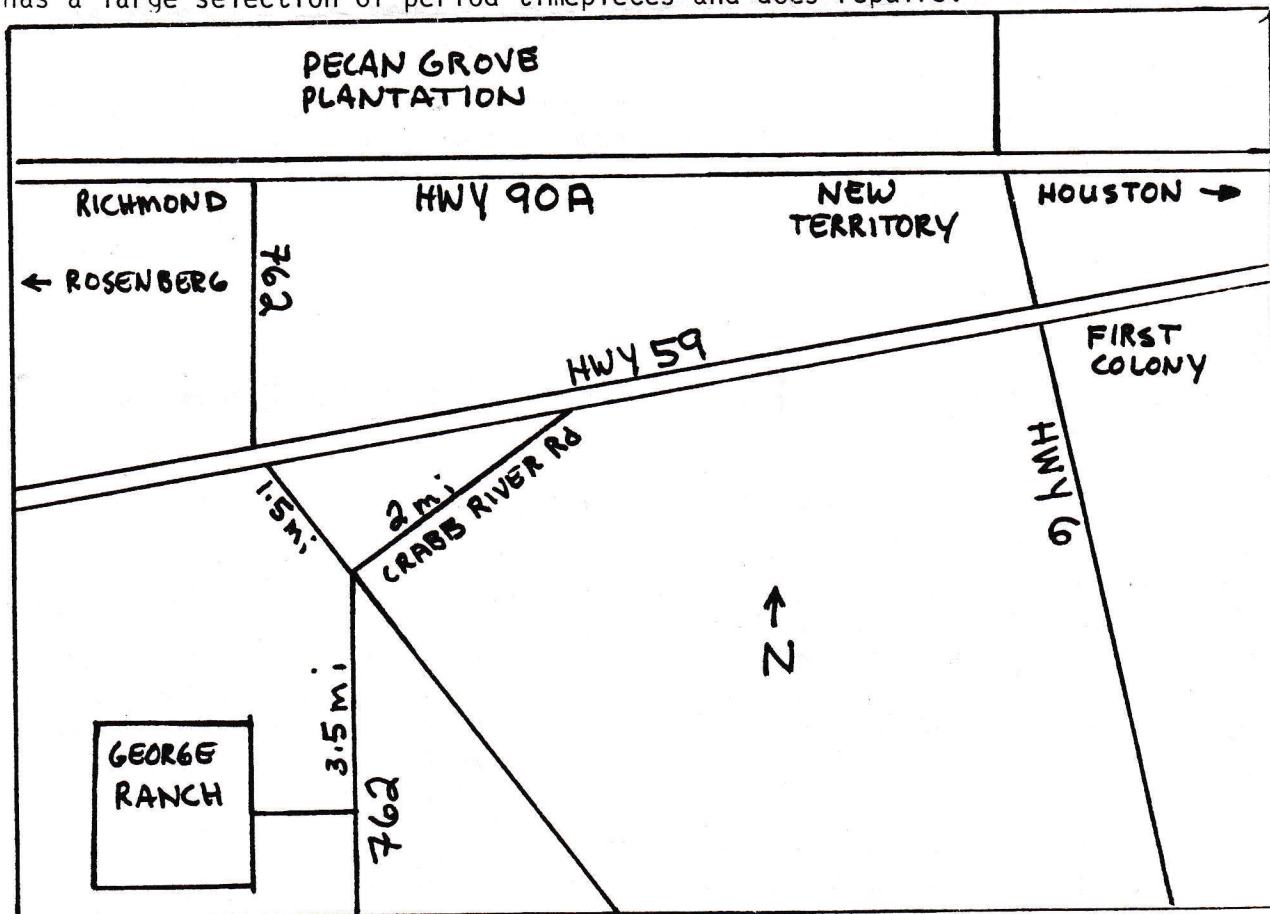
A complete schedule of events for the weekend has been worked up by Gill Eastland, Jeff Hunt and Mike Moore covering Saturday from ten A.M. to six P.M. and on Sunday from ten A.M. to 4:30 P.M. This schedule has been printed in 25,000 programs which will be given to the public attending the event. Thus it is vital that all who are able (with the exception of those who have to travel a great distance back home) should remain at the event until 4:30 on Sunday. Taking down of tents prior to 3:00 or 4:00 P.M. on Sunday is discouraged as well.

Our camp will be situated in a shady oak grove. Very little drilling is planned, but there will be "target practicing" (with a specially concocted apparatus, with the use of blanks), many speeches and hoopla, voting, some surly carryings-on, perhaps a mock battle, etc. Bring all the period camp gear you want, as we're portraying a pre-war militia encampment, not an army on campaign. Ice chests and other necessary anachronisms must remain hidden in tents at all times.

Those of you who have Mexican uniforms or portions of Mexican uniforms please bring them (scarfs are fine for head cover). The Mexicans will have an encounter with the Pioneers on Saturday afternoon and a battle on Sunday afternoon.

Although 1860 civilian and militia attire will be the primary theme of this year's TMD---don't worry if all you have is confederate military attire. Scott Swenson can give you advice on how to make do with what you've already got. Please give him a call. There will even be U.S. Regulars in attendance (Bruce Frazier and son and cannon), as well as Gordon Gentry (civilian or confederate) and his artillery piece. Bring non military firearms if you have them, but don't sweat it if you only have military arms. The most important thing is to be at Texian Market Days the weekend of the 27-28th of October.

More last minute stuff: TR member Dan Morgan is a watchsmith and will be at TMD. He has a large selection of period timepieces and does repairs.



PARTICIPANTS' PARKING

PARTICIPANTS' ENTRANCE

CAMP SITE

FM 762

SECTION C

SECTION B

SECTION D

SECTION A

FORT

DRY GREEN ARROYO SECO

BANDSTAND

FOOD AREA

ENTRANCE

DRIVING HALL

# GEORGE RANCH



## LEGEND

- SECTION A**
    - The Ranch Complex
    - 1 Actor's Dressing
    - 2 Guy Lodge Hall
    - 3 Snack Bar
    - 4 Garage
    - 5 A.P. and Mamie E. George
    - 6 Ranch House
    - 7 Reception Center
    - 8 First Aid / Information
    - 9 Shed/Feeding Zoo
    - Barn No. 1
  - SECTION B**
    - 10 Barn No. 2
    - 11 Digging Pit
    - 12 Barn No. 3
    - 13 Barn No. 4
  - SECTION C**
    - The 1880's Davis Home
    - 14 J.H.P. Davis Mansion
    - 15 Henry and Nancy Sikes Memorial Cemetery
  - SECTION D**
- RESTROOMS** (indicated by a small square symbol)

Map donated by: Bruce P. Reed, Founder, Silver Saddle.

## SECOND ANNUAL TEXAS RIFLES BALL by Ana Draa

On February 2, 1991 at the Driskill Hotel in Austin, The Texas Rifles will hold their second annual Ball. Within the walls of the ballroom we plan to turn the hands of time back to February 2, 1861. Secession fever is sweeping Texas along with the rest of the deep South. In the midst of the political upheaval, the people still take time for social activities such as dancing, but you can bet this ball will be abuzz with discussion (heated and otherwise) of the merits of secession and the potential for war.

This year, as last, we are making every effort to keep all aspects of the ball as authentic as possible; the food, decorations, band and participants. With Norman Hughes returning as dance master, you can rest assured that the music and dancing will be top-notch and we are working with the Driskill to make sure the food and facilities are of equal quality.

There will be pre-ball activities (including a ladies' toilette and gentlemen's activities in the Citadel Room, which will be decorated as a KGC Castle), dinner and dance with period band for \$35 a person--the same low price as last year. The Driskill is giving us a discounted room rate.

Participation is limited to 75 persons and until November 15, tickets will be available only to dues paying members of The Texas Rifles. You are urged to reserve yourself a spot by sending a \$35.00 check, payable to The Texas Rifles, to Ana Draa 8715 Wind Side Drive Houston 77040 as soon as possible. Don't risk missing out on the ball by waiting until after November 15--large numbers of reenactors from other units have already been inquiring about attending this event. Gentlemen, please don't be shy about coming to the ball without an escort....there will be plenty of ladies to dance with.

As noted above, we are trying to make this living history event as authentic as possible. Thus a few words about clothing and other authenticity matters are in order.

A lady of the 1860's usually owned only one "best dress". She could have worn a ball gown or day dress to a ball, whichever was her best dress. With the lack of ready made clothes, their wardrobes were not nearly as extensive as ours are today. I have seen a carte de visite of a woman wearing a bridal veil and her wedding dress -- a plaid day dress. Please feel comfortable wearing either a ball gown or a day dress. Some ladies will be renting dresses. I have researched what is available and have found one costume shop to be better than the others - 2nd Childhood in Austin, Texas. Their dresses are made from period patterns, some of the same ones reenacting ladies use. I found another shop - Frankles of Houston- which has quality dresses, but some are not of the right design, so please be careful. For those ladies who will be wearing dresses they already own, please be certain to use a hoop or large underskirt that gives the appearance of a hoop. Try to avoid obvious synthetics. For ladies interested in sewing a gown, we have patterns available. Gloves are an essential accessory.

Dance slippers were the prevalent shoe wear of the time. Modern ballet slippers adorned with bows and fabric flowers on the toe appear to be almost identical to original slippers seen in museums. If you must wear a heel, please limit the height to 1 1/2 inches as was considered a "high" heel. Capezio jazz shoes or low pumps are good substitutes.

Make up should be very natural as only ladies of questionable virtue wore bright painted faces. Please don't wear any colored nail polish as it was not available at the time.

Reproductions of period jewelry seem to be abundantly available. Some of the "1928" brand jewelry is particularly good. An easy and very period necklace is a velvet ribbon tied as a choker with a locket hanging in the front. Much of the jewelry we wear today such as simple pearl bracelets could easily have been worn in 1861; beads such as pearls were usually short in style, around 16". Try to avoid modern-styled jewelry such as post earrings and definitely no wrist watches.

We will have a ladies "toilette" before the ball. During this time, we will discuss period issues and fix our hair. There will be many hair accessories available with lots of ribbons, pearls, laces and flowers. The period hairstyles are too numerous to mention here so we will have books for you to look through and choose from. We will help you as much as you would like to be comfortable, period and pretty. Please don't be scared of period styles -- many of them are similar to modern ones. Even if you don't want your hair done, please attend the toilette to enjoy the company, tea snacks and homemade perfumes.

As far as the men are concerned, since this is an event set in early 1861, civilian attire and militia, early war and even federal regular uniforms will be acceptable. Please, no rental of military uniforms - they are all terribly unauthentic and come from "polyester city". Do wear white gloves. Just like the ladies, the men would have won their best outfit, whether it was a frock coat or a field uniform. If you wear your field uniform, please be certain to remove all dirt and odor - if possible - and make any necessary repairs. You should take care to blacken your brogans and polish your buttons. A plain uniform can easily be "dressed up" after such previously described improvements and the addition of a nice shirt with a cravat. In short, wear your best civilian or military attire. Scott Swenson, our authenticity director, can give you advice on sprucing up the stuff you already own for purposes of attending the ball.

Smoking will be allowed only in the designated area and absolutely no modern cameras or visitors will be allowed in the ball area. Modern eyewear should be left at home in favor of contact lenses, period glasses or at last resort, squinting. Modern watches - especially worn on the wrist - are unnecessary anachronisms as many people carry period time pieces and are glad to share the time.

Every effort you exert to make your attire, conduct and attitude period will increase everybody's ability to forget about the 1990's and spend an evening in the 1860's. There will certainly be some anachronisms at our ball, but let's keep them to a minimum.

Please give me a call at (713) 896-1023 if you have any questions.

## TEXIAN MARKET DAYS-HISTORICAL BACKGROUND by Jeff Hunt

At the upcoming Texian Market Days event we will reenact two specific scenarios. The first will be the national election of 1860 as it was held in Texas. The second will be the public referendum on secession held on Feb. 1, 1861. In order to help all of us put on the best first person impression possible I have put together these brief articles on the kinds of current events and happenings which the common person following each election would have been aware of and talking about.

### BACKGROUND TO THE ELECTION OF 1860

The election of 1860 was a monumental one for the people of the United States and for Texas. Since 1820, when the Missouri Compromise had been passed, the nation had been engaged in a debate over slavery, economics, territorial expansion and the powers of the states vs. those of the Federal government. In 1854 the Kansas-Nebraska Act had been passed through the Congress of the U.S., opening up all the Western territories to slavery on the basis of "popular sovereignty". That meant that the people who settled a territory would decide for themselves whether to admit slavery there or not. Just when that decision would be made was unanswered --- would it be when the first territorial legislature was formed? Or when the territory drew up a constitution and applied for admission to the Union? The ambiguity of this question led to a political storm and open warfare in Kansas, the first territory to be contested under the new law.

The Kansas-Nebraska Act and the fighting in what came to be called "Bleeding Kansas" led to the creation of an all Northern party --- the Republican Party. In 1856 it had run John C. Fremont for president on a radical anti-slavery, anti-southern platform and had lost. But the election was close, if Illinois, New Jersey, Indiana and Pennsylvania had gone the other way the Republicans would have won. A less radical platform and a less radical candidate would have given them victory and they recognized it. The man who did win in 1856 and hence was president at the time of the 1860 election was James Buchanan --- a northern democrat with southern views. No sooner had he entered the White House than the Supreme Court had handed down its decision in the famous Dred Scott Case, which basically declared it beyond the power of Congress to limit the spread of slavery.

This decision infuriated the Republican party, whose platform called for a return to the Missouri Compromise, which



drew a line at the southern border of Missouri (the famous 36°30' line) and declared slavery would never go into the area north of that line. The court's decision helped to solidify the North against the further expansion of slavery.

Although the Radical Abolition movement had spent its force by the mid 1840s the South had not noticed. Most Northerners believed that the abolitionist were a dangerous and deranged minority, for it must be remembered that the North was just as anti-black as the South and saw no benefit in freeing the slaves to move into Northern cities and compete for Northern jobs. Still the Abolitionist made headlines and in doing so they made the South increasingly nervous. In Oct. of 1859 a madman by the name of John Brown, infamous for his killings of pro-slavery settlers in Kansas, staged a raid on the U.S. arsenal at Harper's Ferry, Virginia. Brown intended to seize arms and supply them to the horde of slaves he expected would rise up to strike for their freedom as soon as they heard of his attack. Although Brown had the financial backing of several prominent New England abolitionist, his plan was unrealistic and his followers (numbering only 19, which included five of his own sons) too few.

The first person killed by Brown was a free negro who tried to flee in panic at the start of the raid. Brown took several Virginians hostage and then fought a brief battle with U.S. Marines who had come down from Washington D.C. under the command of Col. Robert E. Lee and Capt. JEB Stuart to put down the uprising. Brown was captured, tried and hung for treason to Virginia and trying to incite servile insurrection. To most people throughout the North and South justice was done. But on the day Brown died (Dec. 2, 1859) New England church bells tolled and public buildings were draped in black. Brown had become a martyr to the abolitionist. The South, seeing this, feared that the whole North was behind Brown's plan to drench the Slave States in a sea of blood shed in a race war.

In this charged atmosphere the election of 1860 approached. The Republicans chose Lincoln as their candidate, basically because he was the most available choice --- not too well known, but not unknown (he had debated Stephen Douglas for the Ill. Senate seat in the U.S. Congress in 1858 and had ruined Douglas' credentials with the South by making him admit that even though the Kansas-Nebraska Act might allow slavery into a territory, Northern settlers could keep it out by failing to pass laws protecting slave property in the territories). Lincoln was a moderate, who advocated only stopping the spread of slavery. But Southerners were sure that if his all Northern party were elected then emancipation could not be too far in the future.

There was no Republican Party in the South where the Democratic Party dominated. Since that party contained both Northerners and Southerners the South, although the minority section of the country, had been able to control national politics because it made up the majority of the Democratic

party. But if the South lost the support of the party's Northern wing, then it would lose control of the central govt. to the Republicans. Hoping for unity the Democratic Party had held its nominating convention in the most radical of all Southern states and cities --- Charleston, S.C. Here in April and May of 1860 the two wings of the party fought over the platform and the candidate. The Southerners favored Kentuckian John C. Breckinridge, the current Vice President, and a pro-extension of slavery platform. The Northerners wanted Stephen Douglas on a popular sovereignty platform. Neither side had enough votes to win, and finally the convention broke up when the delegates of eight Southern states walked out.

The Democrats adjourned, agreeing to meet again in June at a more neutral site --- Baltimore, Maryland (yet another militant pro-slavery town). Things worked no better here. Once again the Southerners walked out and this time the party split. The Southern wing nominated John C. Breckinridge as its candidate while the Northern wing nominated Douglas. Although there was much campaigning the Democrats were doomed. Douglas was unacceptable to the South, Breckinridge likewise to the North. Lincoln was a purely Northern candidate who did not even appear on the ballot of a single Southern state. A Compromise party called the Constitutional Union Party put forward John Bell of Tenn. in the hopes that his election would prevent a break-up of the Union.

When the election was held on Nov. 6, 1860 Lincoln swept the North, winning more electoral votes (180) than his three rivals put together. He did not get a single Southern vote. Breckinridge came in second with 72 electoral votes (he won big in Texas getting 47,548 votes to Douglas' 410 votes and Bell's 15,463). Douglas won 12 electoral votes. Bell got 39. Breckinridge took all the states of the Deep South, including Ark., N.C., and Maryland. Bell got Tenn., Va. and Ky. Douglas took Missouri. Everything else went to Lincoln who thus won election with a purely sectional vote. However, Honest Abe was a minority president winning only 1,856,593 popular votes (40%) to the combined total for his three opponents of 2,823,975.

The South had feared such a result. The legislature of S.C. had remained in session during the election. When the news reached it that Lincoln had won it called for a special convention to consider S.C.'s relationship with the Union. Meeting in Charleston this convention voted unanimously to secede on Dec. 20, 1860. The rest of the South now had to decide what to do.

### SECESSION IN TEXAS

In rapid order the other states of the Deep South followed S.C. out of the Union. Before the month of January was at an

end Mississippi, Alabama, Georgia, Florida, and Louisiana had left the Union. In Texas public opinion was hot for secession, although there were those who believed as did the border states of the upper South (Va., N.C., Ark., Tenn.,) that the South should wait for Lincoln to commit some overt aggressive act before taking such a radical step as breaking up the Union. This sentiment was particularly noted in Travis County and in Austin. The Governor at the time was Sam Houston and he did not think that the moment had yet come for Texas to secede. However, he was in the minority. Most Texans seemed to have wanted to act before giving Lincoln a chance to take measures that might prevent their acting later on. In other words secession for the Deep South and for Texas was a preemptive act.

Against Houston's wishes the state legislature called for a special convention. Houston resisted this to the last and as a result his office was declared vacant and the Lieutenant Governor, Edward Clark, was appointed to take his place. Following elections for delegates, the secession convention met in Austin on Jan. 28, 1861. Judge O.M. Roberts, associate justice to the state supreme court was elected president of the convention. Four days later by a vote of 166 to 7 the convention recommended that Texas secede from the Union. It was decided to put this issue directly before the voters of the state for ratification. The vote to be held on Feb. 23, 1861. By that time a convention of seceded states had formed the Confederate government in Montgomery, Ala. and elected Jefferson Davis as Provisional President with Alexander Stephens as his Vice President.

Texans were divided on just what the results of secession would be. Most naturally assumed Texas would join the Confederacy, although a few like Houston favored a return to the independent status of a Republic. Some believed secession would inevitably mean war. Others thought the Yankees too cowardly and too addicted to making money to fight. Whatever the thoughts of the people of the state it soon became clear that secession was a popular step. When the election was held on Feb. 23, 1861 34,794 voted in favor of it, while 11,255 voted against it. Texas had left the Union. On that very same day Texas forces under the command of Rip Ford forced the surrender of the small U.S. post on Brazos Island at the mouth of the Rio Grande. Already on Feb. 18th U.S. forces in San Antonio under General Twiggs had surrendered to Texas forces under Ben McCulloch. There was now no question of which side Texas was to take. Although her people, by and large, may not have yet recognized the fact, the Lone Star State was on the verge of a long and bloody war.

## INTERPRETING THE KNIGHTS OF THE GOLDEN CIRCLE

Kevin R. Young

By the time of the critical 1860 Presidential elections, radical thought on both sides of the Mason-Dixon had become less re-actionary and more mainstream. Southerners who had only months before denounced the idea of secession were now embracing it as the only course left open for the South. Southern nationalism was growing to an all time high as everyone from dirt farmers to merchants to the planter class adopted an united view point against the fear of Northern and Republican Domination.

The Knights of the Golden Circle, a secret organization dedicated to the concept of expanding Southern institutions in Latin America, is typical of how a radical, re-actionary, basicly small group could in fact, gain ground both socially and political in the critical period from October, 1860 until March, 1861. Founded by a physician named George William Lamb Bickley in 1859, the organizations' goals, even as late as May 1860 were listed as:

1. As a lawful company, it would win an Empire for the South.
2. It would show an outlet for the free negro population of the Southern States.
3. It would gain control of the Gulf of Mexico and the vast trade thereof.
4. It would keep Mexico out of the hands of the Republican majority of the North.
5. It would make the South strong in or powerful out of the Union.
6. It would provide a vanguard in the great army of the South, which must be, at no distant day, brought in the field.

7. It would give peace an permanency to Mexico; it would protest the weak and punish the bad.

These goals would be reached by allowing the membership organizations(or castles) to form and invade Mexico, establishing a new government based on Southern institutions and allowing the South a new territorial base from which to meet the growing power of the North and Republican Party. For Southerners looking for a way to check the growing power of the Northern Radicals yet not willing to dissolve the Union, the concept was far from being foreign or unappealing.

Bickley, along with his nephew, came to Texas as it's unstable frontier was the perfect place from which to launch his liberation of Mexico. Early supporters of the Knights were Sam Richardson and Elkanah Greer of Marshall as well as Pyror and Albert Lea of Goliad. Sam Houston even supported the plans of the Knights as an alternative to dis-Union. Colonel Robert E. Lee was contacted by Albert Lea concerning his leading an army of Knights into Mexico. Lee declined. By October, 1860, with the National Headquarters of the KGC in San Antonio, a large force of Knights was gathering at Gonzales. Their plans of Mexican invasion were stopped by Houston's orders.

Bickley, however, now switched directions. The second great goal of the KGC was to support the Southern Nation, if it came into existence. The 1860 election created the political climate that made this goal of the Knights most attractive. Bickley commenced a speaking tour in October which included Houston, Hollandale, Huntsville and Marshall. As more and more Southern civic leaders joined the cause, the various castles grew. By the time of the Secession Convention, the Knights constituted a political and military force which helped guide Texas out of the Union. When Ben McCulloch arrived at San Antonio to take the Federal Arsenal there, he was quickly supported by well organized KGC Castles from in and around San Antonio.

The KGC Castles were divided into three levels-Military, Financial and Political. Most of the Castles were of the Military Order. The Owensville Castle in November had organized ladies to make Lone Star flags and the KGC

members were formed in military drill squads conducted by Lt. E.W. Herdon. Each KGC member wore a blue cockade with a Lone Star in the centre on their caps.

The following communities had organized KGC Castles;

Alleyton(Colorado); Austin; Bastrop; Booneville(Brazos); Brenham; Caldwell; Cameron(Milam); Castroville; Chappell Hill; Columbus; Dallas; Eagle Lake; Gonzales; Helana(Karnes); Houston; Huntsville; Independence; Jefferson; La Grange; McKinney, Marshall, Navasota; New Braunfels; Owensville; Pleasanton; Rusk; St. Mary's(Refugio); San Antonio; Seguin; Sulpher Springs; Waxahachie.

The San Antonio Castles(there were three); The Pleasanton Castles; the New Braunfels Castle, the Seguin Castle, the Castroville Castle and the Gonzales Castle all were part of McCulloch's force when he marched into San Antonio. Additional KGC Castles formed the expedition under John S. Rip Ford when he captured Fort Brown and when Colonel Earl Van Doren confronted the Federals at Indianola. Many of the members of the Secession Convention, including John Wilcox, Alfred Hobby, Thomas Lubbock, John Littleton, Philip Lockett, George Chilton and Pryor Lea were either known KGC members or had strong ties to the organization.

Because of the growing secession movement and the fear of slave uprisings(triggered by the "great fires" in North Texas during the summer of 1860), the KGC found considerable success in Texas. As radical thought became more and more mainstream, many Texans joined or supported the organization, particularly after the 1860 election results. By the time of actual secession, the KGC represented a viable political and military organization. That the castles could be counted on to attack with efficiency was clearly demonstrated in the seizure of Federal property in February-April.

For further information, please consult "The KGC In Texas, 1860-1861" by Roy Sylvan Dunn(Southwest Historical Quarterly, Volume LXX, Number 4.

# OCTOBER

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<p><b>7</b> 1861—At Atlanta, the "Fulton True Blues," a local Confederate military unit, is organized for the purpose of Georgia coastal defense.</p>	<p><b>8</b> 1862—Battle of Perryville, Ky. Confederate invasion of Kentucky halted at this major battle of the war there.</p> <p>Losses U.S.A. C.S.A. Total 4,211 3,405</p>	<p><b>9</b> 1861—Confederate troops land on Santa Rosa Island near Ft. Pickens in Pensacola Bay, Florida. They rout one Federal camp, but withdraw when Federal reinforcements arrive from Ft. Pickens.</p>	<p><b>10</b> 1862—At a Savannah, Georgia public meeting, measures are taken to secure clothing for Confederates. The Pulaski House, a local hotel, offers all its carpets to be converted to 500 soldier's blankets.</p>	<p><b>11</b> 1865—C.S.A. Vice-President Alexander Stephens and other cabinet members are paroled by President Johnson and released from prison.</p>	<p><b>12</b> 1862—Maj. Gen. Earl Van Dorn assumes command of all Confederate troops in the state of Mississippi.</p> <p>1862—Job Stuart, completes his "second ride around McClellan."</p> <p>1870—Death of Gen. Robert E. Lee at Lexington, Virginia.</p>	<p><b>13</b> 1864—Near Kearnysville, West Virginia, Col. John S. Mosby and his raiders capture and burn a Baltimore and Ohio train. The raiders also capture several Federals and take \$173,000 from Union paymasters.</p>
<p><b>14</b> 1861—At Macon, Georgia, more than 400 delegates from all over the South attend a cotton convention.</p> <p>1861—At New York City, the "Tribune" asserts that its rival, the "Herald," keeps a Confederate flag hidden in its offices.</p>	<p><b>15</b> 1863—During practice dives, Confederate submarine "H.L. Hunley," sinks for the second time in Charleston Harbor. Inventor Hunley and 7-man crew are trapped aboard and drown in 54 feet of water.</p>	<p><b>16</b> 1859—At Harper's Ferry, (West) Virginia radical abolitionist John Brown and a group of 21 armed men seize the U.S. Army. Brown is captured within 24 hours by a force of U.S. Marines led by Colonel Robert E. Lee.</p>	<p><b>17</b> 1862—Federal troops are used to put down draft resisters in several Pennsylvania counties.</p> <p>1863—President Jimmy Carter signs bill restoring citizenship rights to Confederate President Jefferson Davis.</p>	<p><b>18</b> 1862—Morgan's raiders capture the Federal garrison at Lexington, Kentucky.</p> <p>1863—Skirmish at Bristoe Station as the Army of Northern Virginia withdraws from the Manassas area.</p>	<p><b>19</b> 1864—Battle of Cedar Creek, Va. Gen. Stephen Ramseur mortally wounded.</p> <p>1864—About 25 Confederate soldiers from Canada make a surprise attack on St. Albans, Vermont.</p>	<p><b>20</b> 1820—Birthday of Major General Benjamin F. Cheatham of Tennessee. Distinguished brigades, division and corps commander in the Army of Tennessee. Died in 1886 at Nashville.</p>
<p><b>21</b> 1861—Battle of Balls Bluff, Va. Early, dramatic Confederate victory in the war.</p> <p>Losses U.S.A. C.S.A. Killed 49 36 Wounded 158 117 Missing 714 2 Total 921 155</p>	<p><b>22</b> 1862—Confederate cavalry under Gen. "Fighting Joe" Wheeler capture the town of London, Ky.</p> <p>1864—In the aftermath of the Atlanta Campaign, Hood's Army of Tennessee moves west across Alabama, enroute to Tennessee.</p>	<p><b>23</b> 1864—Battle of Westport, Missouri. Outnumbered almost 3-1, Gen. Sterling Price and his Confederates frantically fight out the last major Confederate effort in Missouri. Both sides suffer about 1500 casualties and Price is forced to withdraw.</p>	<p><b>24</b> 1862—At Portsmouth, Virginia, all the machinists at this Union-held port suddenly disappear, taking their tools with them as they "go over" to the Confederacy.</p>	<p><b>25</b> 1864—Battle of Mine Creek, Kansas. Gen. John S. Marmaduke is captured by a Union private because his nearsightedness causes him to mistake the private for a Confederate soldier.</p>	<p><b>26</b> 1861—The Federal General-in-Chief directs the transfer of political prisoners in New York Harbor to Fort Warren, Boston Harbor.</p> <p>1863—Beginning of the reopening of the Tennessee River in Tennessee to river traffic.</p>	<p><b>27</b> 1860—Skirmish in Cherokee County, North Carolina.</p> <p>1863—Skirmish at Clinch Mountain, Tennessee.</p> <p>1860—Federal scout from Columbia toward Pulaski, Tennessee.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Texian Mkt Days</p>
<p><b>28</b> 1862—The ship "Alleghanian" is partially destroyed after being boarded and set afire by Confederates in Chesapeake Bay as she waits out a storm before departing for London.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Texian Mkt Days</p>	<p><b>29</b> 1862—Skirmish at Island Mount, Missouri. For the first time in the war, the Federals use black troops in action against Confederate forces.</p>	<p><b>30</b> 1862—The USS "Dan," shells Sabine Pass, Texas and burns a mill and several buildings. Elsewhere in the area, the USS "Conneticut" captures the blockade-running British schooner "Hermosa" where the Sabine River enters the Gulf of Mexico.</p>	<p><b>31</b> 1862—At Atlanta, the Macon and Western Railroad brings 100 cords of wood into the city for free distribution to the families of Confederate soldiers.</p> <p>1864—The mineral-rich state of Nevada is admitted to the Union.</p>			



# THE TEXAS RIFLES

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