



# The Tyrants' Foe

Newsletter of the Texas Rifles



Volume XXXI

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★ Company G ★

## The Captain's Dispatch



We are now well into the fall season with New Market heights behind us, TMD now before us, and our November events at Pioneer farms and Liendo approaching soon..

Obviously the main memories we have .from NMH is our battle with the USCT and the work on the field fortifications. Obviously the USCT impression brings a unique aspect to the hobby and serves to illustrate one of the aspects of the conflict that is of great cultural importance to modern Americans. As previously noted, the RRB made a very favorable impression on the event organizers, and the other units attending the event. It is also appropriate to state that the TR attending were part of creating that impression of the RRB. We were able to consolidate with our friends in the 6<sup>th</sup> TX to form a consolidated company.

My thanks to those who have committed to attend TMD. We will work with our friends of the 1<sup>st</sup> TX on this scenario to present a credible history program. We need to really look at our commitment to this event as it needs either our influence to be something other than a wild west show, or we need to look at his a civilian only..

Likewise, at Pioneer Farms, we should look at portraying something for the benefit of the public. While it is very enjoyable (at least for me) to do a non military themed event, we need to be mindful that we are in the public view, and should have a program for their benefit. That is our obligation as having the use of the site - and is more likely to help us keep the event themed to the proper historical aspect.

Liendo may turn out to be a fairly large event. The 1<sup>st</sup> US has Liendo on their schedule, and that should help boost the number of Federals in attendance. We will consolidate with the 13<sup>th</sup> US for this event, and I'm happy to report that we have a new recruit contact who plans to attend, and a friend of mine has a couple of sons who are likely to want to participate as well. Thus, we will need to run some School of the Soldier, and School of the Company to introduce new people into the hobby..

Our next newsletter will be at the end of the year, and just before we meet for our annual muster

The Sesquicentennial events are now winding down, and those memories will be filed. I'm sure there will be much discussion about what might have been, and the opportunities missed. But, like after the American Revolution Bicentennial, the hobby will keep going. It represents an opportunity to recast and think about how we approach the hobby. While I think it well recognized that large battles may not be in the immediate future, a well crafted living history program in different venues may be in the future.

In the nest issue, I'll discuss one such opportunity for the TR.

Capt. Tommy Attaway



I found this nice article from a Mr. Pierce Keeper. I thought with 1865 coming up, and a possible event in South Texas it would be a good one?

The **Battle of Palmito Ranch**, also known as the **Battle of Palmito Hill** and the **Battle of Palmetto Ranch**, was fought on May 12-13, 1865, during the American Civil War. It was the last major clash of

arms in the war. Many historians, as well as the *Official Record of the Civil War*, consider the Battle of Palmito Ranch to be a post-Civil War encounter, with the Battle of Columbus in April being the recognized last battle of the Civil War.

The battle was fought on the banks of the Rio Grande about twelve miles east of Brownsville, Texas. In the kaleidoscope of events following the surrender of Robert E. Lee's army on April 9, Palmito Ranch was nearly ignored.

## **Battle of Palmito Ranch Background**

Early in 1865, both sides in south Texas honored a gentlemen's agreement that there was no point to further hostilities. After July 28, 1864, most of the 6,500 Union troops pulled out of the Lower Rio Grande Valley, including Brownsville, which they had occupied on November 2, 1863, for other campaigns. The Confederates sought to protect their remaining ports for cotton sales to Europe, as well as importation of supplies. Mexicans tended to side with the Confederates due to a lucrative smuggling trade.

Maj. Gen. Lew Wallace proposed a negotiated end of hostilities in Texas between his forces and those of Confederate Brig-Gen. James E. Slaughter, and met with Slaughter's subordinate Col. John Salmon Ford at Port Isabel in March 1865. Despite Slaughter's and Ford's concurrence that further combat would prove tragic, the negotiations were repudiated by their superior, Confederate Gen. John G. Walker, in a scathing exchange of letters with Wallace. Despite this, both sides appeared to honor a tacit agreement not to advance on the other without prior notice in writing.

A brigade of 1,900 Union troops commanded by Col. Robert B. Jones of the 34th Indiana Veteran Volunteer Infantry garrisoned Brazos Santiago island at the mouth of the Rio Grande River. The 34th Indiana, 400 strong, was an experienced infantry regiment that had seen combat in the Vicksburg campaign and had been reorganized in December 1863 as a "Veteran" regiment, re-enlisting veteran troops of several regiments whose original enlistments had expired. It deployed to Brazos Santiago on December 22, 1864, replacing the 91st Illinois Volunteer Infantry, which returned to New Orleans. The brigade also included the 87th and 62nd United States Colored Infantry Regiments ("United States Colored Troops", or U.S.C.T.), with a combined strength of approximately 1,100. Shortly after Walker rejected the armistice proposal, Jones resigned his commission to return to Indiana, replaced in command of the 34th Indiana by its lieutenant colonel, Robert G. Morrison, and at Brazos Santiago by Colonel Theodore H. Barrett, commander of the 62nd U.S.C.T.

Barrett, 30, had been an officer since 1862, but was without combat experience. Eager to advance in rank, he had volunteered to command one of the newly raised "colored" regiments in 1863 and was appointed colonel of the 1st Missouri Colored Infantry, which in March 1864 was federalized in Louisiana as the 62nd U.S.C.T. Barrett contracted malaria in the summer of 1864, and while he was on convalescent leave, the 62nd was posted to Brazos Santiago, where Barrett rejoined it in February 1865.

Why the battle happened remains something of a mystery. Barrett's detractors among the brigade suggested soon after the battle that he had desired "a little battlefield glory before the war ended altogether." Others theorized that Barrett needed horses for the 300 dismounted cavalry in his brigade and for other purposes. Historian Louis J. Schuler, in a 1960 pamphlet entitled *The last battle in the War Between the States, May 13, 1865: Confederate Force of 300 defeats 1,700 Federals near Brownsville, Texas*, asserts that Brig-Gen. Egbert B. Brown of the U.S. Volunteers ordered the expedition with the object of seizing for sale as contraband 2,000 bales of cotton stored in Brownsville. However, Brown was not appointed to command at Brazos Santiago until later in May.

## **Battle**

On May 11, Barrett instructed his lieutenant colonel, David Branson, to attack the Confederate encampments commanded by Ford at White and Palmito Ranches near Fort Brown, outside Brownsville. Branson's Union forces consisted of 250 men of the 62nd U.S.C.T. in eight companies and two companies of the (U.S.) 2nd Texas Cavalry Battalion, 50 men without mounts. They crossed from Brazos Santiago to the mainland across the Boca Chica Pass during a storm on the evening of May 11 and made a night march upriver to attack the Confederate encampment. At first Branson's expedition was successful, capturing three prisoners and some supplies, although it failed to achieve the desired surprise. During the afternoon, Confederate forces under Captain William N. Robinson counterattacked with less than 100 cavalry, driving Branson back to White's Ranch, where the fighting stopped for the night. Both sides sent for reinforcements: Ford arrived with the remainder of his cavalry force and six guns (for a total of 300 men), while Barrett came with 200 troops of the 34th Indiana in nine understrength companies.

The next day, Barrett started advancing westward, passing a half mile to the west of Palmito Ranch, with skirmishers from the 34th Indiana deployed in front. Ford attacked Barrett's force as it was skirmishing with an advance Confederate force along the Rio Grande about 4 p.m. Ford sent a couple of companies with artillery to attack the Union right flank, sending the remainder of his force into a frontal attack. After some confusion and fierce fighting, the Union forces retreated back towards Boca Chica. Barrett attempted to form a rearguard but Confederate artillery prevented him from rallying a significant force to do so. During the retreat, which lasted until the 14th, 50 members of the 34th Indiana's rear guard company, 30 stragglers, and 20 of the dismounted cavalry were surrounded in a bend of the Rio Grande and captured.

## **Battle of Palmito Ranch Aftermath**

In Barrett's official report of August 10, 1865, he reported 115 Union casualties: one killed, nine wounded, and 105 captured. Confederate casualties were reported as five or six wounded, with none killed. Historian and Ford biographer Stephen B. Oates, however, concludes that Union deaths were much higher, numbering approximately 30, many of whom drowned in the Rio Grande or were attacked and killed by French border guards on the Mexican side. He likewise estimated Confederate casualties at approximately the same number. However, using court-martial testimony and post returns

from Brazos Santiago, Texas A&M International University historian Jerry D. Thompson determined that:

- the 62nd U.S.C.T. incurred two killed and four wounded;
- the 34th Indiana one killed, one wounded, and 79 captured; and
- the 2nd Texas Cavalry Battalion one killed, seven wounded, and 22 captured,
- totalling four killed, 12 wounded, and 101 captured.

Like the war's first big battle at First Bull Run, which also yielded little gain for either side, the battle is recorded as a Confederate victory. Two weeks later, Texan forces surrendered formally on May 26, 1865; Confederate General Edmund Kirby Smith surrendered his forces in the Trans-Mississippi Department on June 2. Most senior Confederate commanders in Texas (including Smith, Walker, Slaughter, and Ford) and many troops and equipment fled across the border to Mexico, possibly to ally with Imperial Mexican forces.

The Military Division of the Southwest (after June 27 the Division of the Gulf), commanded by Maj-Gen. Phillip H. Sheridan, occupied Texas between June and August. Consisting of the IV Corps, XIII Corps, the African-American XXV Corps, and two 4,000-man cavalry divisions commanded by Brig-Gen. Wesley Merritt and Maj-Gen. George A. Custer, it aggregated a 50,000 man force on the Gulf Coast and along the Rio Grande River to pressure the French intervention in Mexico and garrison the Reconstruction Department of Texas.

In July 1865, Barrett preferred charges of disobedience of orders, neglect of duty, abandoning his colors, and conduct prejudicial to good order and military discipline against Morrison for actions in the battle, resulting in the latter's court martial. Confederate Col. Ford, who had returned from Mexico at the request of Union Gen. Frederick Steele to act as parole commissioner for disbanding Confederate forces, appeared as a defense witness and assisted in absolving Morrison for responsibility for the defeat. The following material is from first-hand and published sources. They are recounts of the role of Hispanic Confederate veterans and the treatment of black POWs in South Texas.

There were Hispanic Confederate veterans at Fort Brown in Brownsville and on the field of Palmito Ranch. Col. Santos Benavides, who was the highest ranking Hispanic in either army, led between one hundred and one hundred and fifty Mexicans in the Brownsville Campaign in May 1865.

"Some of the Sixty-Second Colored Regiment were also taken. They had been led to believe that if captured they would either be shot or returned to slavery. They were agreeably surprised when they were paroled and permitted to depart with the white prisoners. Several of the prisoners were from Austin and vicinity. They were assured they would be treated as prisoners of war. There was no disposition to visit upon them a mean spirit of revenge."-Colonel John Salmon Ford, May 1865.

When Colonel Ford surrendered his command following the campaign of Palmito Ranch he urged his men to honor their paroles. He insisted that, "The negro had a right to vote."

Private John J. Williams of the 34th Indiana was the last fatality during the Battle at Palmito Ranch,

making him likely the final combat death of the war. Fighting in the battle involved Caucasian, African-American, Hispanic, and Native American troops. Reports of shots from the Mexican side, the sounding of a warning to the Confederates of the Union approach, the crossing of Imperial cavalry into Texas, and the participation by several among Ford's troops are unverified, despite many witnesses reporting shooting from the Mexican shore.

Lt. Dusty Lind



Well the summer doldrums are over and it is time to look forward to our busy time of year. But first I want to thank everyone who made the trip to Virginia and made the event a success. Those long trips are a little harder to do than they used to be and unless the event promises something special it is hard to get excited. Luckily, the earthworks, facing USCTs and an overall appreciation by the event hosts made the trip very worth while.

Next up is Liendo. As you know, we military types will be in blue and the event will be pretty much the same as usual. However, you should be excited to participate because it is the last military event of the year. I agree, most of us are veterans and the drill comes easy but there are camp skills that we really ought to brush up on. The teamwork that we need to see as far as firewood details, canteen details and weapon cleaning and campfire cooking are really starting to slide. Now I will agree that I am as guilty as the rest, it is easy to farb out. Most of us will say that we participate in this hobby for the camaraderie. That is one of the best parts for me too but we really need to get past the idea of leaving the event site to go out and eat and we really need to work more together to make our camp more "soldierly." Hell we can go out and eat, catch a movie or sit under the pecan tree and drink beer and eat ribs any time (and we do!) but we joined the Rifles and put on the uniform for a deeper reason. The battles are always fun., or boring but we need to find the motivation to do things in camp to keep it interesting. I guarantee that we will find good memories in camp if we try to look for them. It does take some effort, we are all used to the same old same old, but why else put on the uniform?

In the coming weeks I would like to see someone other than Boz or myself step up to the plate and volunteer to be company cook for Liendo. You will NOT be obligated to buy everything you need for the evening meal but if you let the group know, we can all pitch in whatever we need to help make it a success.

I also want some fellers to volunteer to be on a team of horse shoe pitchers. We will have a quick tryout for our two best players and we will then challenge any company for a little competition. These will be regular sized horseshoes and NOT regulation sized. We've done this before and it is harder than it sounds but I trust that we can beat any company in the battalion. The loser will be subject to ridicule.

F.J.Marek  
1st Sgt of Texas Rifles



## Civilian Report

The fall season is here and our schedule is getting busier. We have three events coming up before the end of the year. I know the planning has been lacking due to personal issues Frank and I have had. We are trying to correct that.

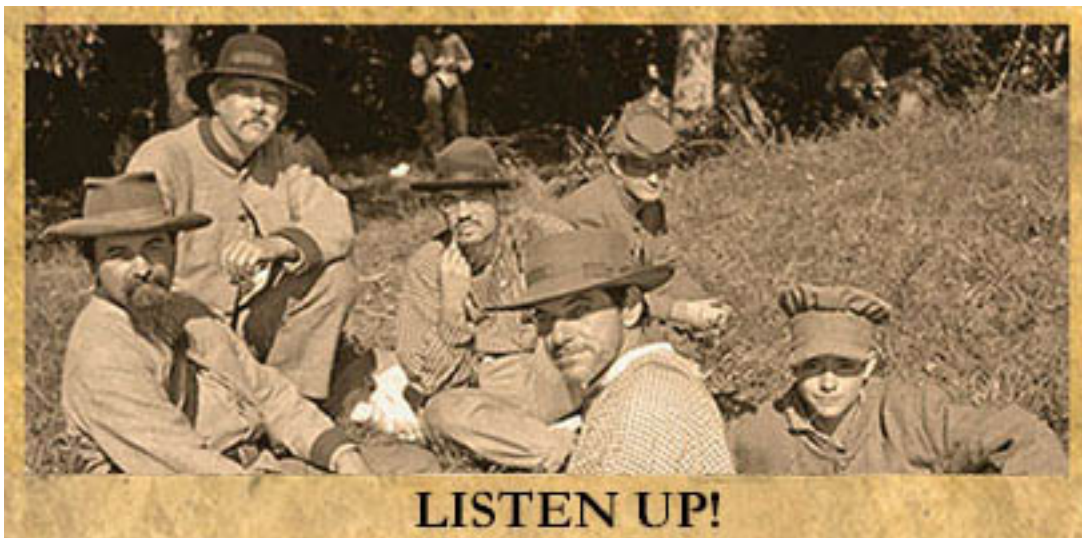
Pioneer Farms is November 8 & 9. This weekend will be an interpretive weekend with no set scenerio. Both civilian and military impressions are welcome. This will be an opportunity to develop our personas to utilize what the site has to offer. Please be prepared to speak to the public about the Civil War and how it affected Texas and civilian life. We hope to build our relationship with the site.

Liendo is November 21 - 23, I look forward to this one every year. It is a great opportunity for recruiting

and an all around fun weekend. The 1st Sgt. has ordered the military to cook and eat in camp. This is not to separate the group, but to remind the military of camp life. This will give us all the chance to brush up on our camp cooking skills. Hope to see you at any or all of the events.



HolliBeth Marek, aka Peach, Civilian Coordinator



## The Old Army

During the WBTS, the regular army numbered over 50 regiments, however, as in the War of 1812, most of the regiments had been authorized either just before the war, or after the war had started. By 1863, the regular regiments had suffered severe attrition, and were down to about 200 men, usually operating as a “compact battalion” of 4 or 6 companies, and commanded by a captain. At this time references to the “Old Army” was a reference to the regiments that existed prior to 1861. Here is a brief history of this “old Army” from 1784 to 1855.

The only link of today’s US Army with the Continental Army is the Artillery company retained to guard military stores, (Battery D, 1-5 Artillery today). The rest of the Continental Army had been disbanded as



Congress could not afford to pay the troops and the new Constitution intended to rely primarily on state militias for military manpower.

Adequately trained militia units were hard to find, and as Shay's, and the Whiskey rebellion showed, militia units tended to decide for themselves which side was in the right, and act accordingly. This led to increasing reliance on the regulars, first for guarding the frontier, then in war time to make up for poor militia performance, and then shrink post war.

In addition to expansions and contractions, new army organizations caused units to change designations and make continuity of tradition difficult. Only the 6<sup>th</sup> Infantry has been able to retain its original designation since its founding, all other regiments have been renamed or renumbered at some point in the history of the US Army.

We see a series of expansions, followed by contractions in 1802 down to two regiments, 1821 down to 7 regiments after a high of 46 authorized infantry regiments, 4 rifle regiments, and 2 regiments of light dragoons of 1815. And then gradual expansion starts in 1832 until 1848 when the "additional regiments for the war" are disbanded. Finally, the period of expansion begins in 1855 under Secretary of War Jefferson Davis.

Guarding the frontier lead to the raising of the First American Regiment in 1784, which became first Infantry in 1791, and the first sub Legion in 1792, and returned to the designation as 1<sup>st</sup> Infantry in 1796. Consolidated in 1815 with the 5<sup>th</sup>, 17<sup>th</sup>, 19<sup>th</sup>, and 28<sup>th</sup> Infantry regiments and designated the 3<sup>rd</sup> Infantry (retains designation as the 3<sup>rd</sup> Infantry today)

The Second Infantry was organized in 1791, became the second sub Legion in 1792, and the returned to the designation of 2<sup>nd</sup> Infantry in 1796. In 1815, was consolidated with 3<sup>rd</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup>, and 44<sup>th</sup> Infantry, and was designated the 1<sup>st</sup> Infantry (retains this designation today)

The Third Infantry Regiment served briefly as the third sub Legion, and was disbanded in 1802, and was reconstituted in 1808. Part of the regiment was present at New Orleans in January 1815. The 3<sup>rd</sup> was consolidated with the 2<sup>nd</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup>, and 44<sup>th</sup> to form the modern 1<sup>st</sup> Infantry.

The Fourth Infantry Regiment was originally constituted as the 4<sup>th</sup> sub Legion, and as with the 3<sup>rd</sup>, was eliminated in the reductions of 1802, and like the 3<sup>rd</sup>, was reborn in 1808. At the start of the War of 1812, the regiment was surrendered to the British in a very cowardly incident resulting in the court martial of the American commander - "to be shot dead and to have his name stricken from the rolls of the army.....the rolls of the army are no longer to be debased by having upon them the name of Brigadier-General Hull." The regiment was exchanged in late 1812, and recruited up to strength in 1813. In 1815, this regiment was consolidated with the 9<sup>th</sup>, 13<sup>th</sup>, 21<sup>st</sup>, 40<sup>th</sup> and 46<sup>th</sup> infantry to form the 5<sup>th</sup> Infantry of today.

The Fifth Infantry was likewise raised in 1808 and part of the expansion of the army, and the first regimental commander was later president William H. Harrison. In 1815, the regiment was consolidated with the 18<sup>th</sup> and 35<sup>th</sup>, to form the 8<sup>th</sup> Infantry, which was later eliminated in the reduction of 1821 down to 7 Infantry regiments.

Secretary of War John C. Calhoun (yes - that one) objected strongly to having the regiment cut from the Army, proposing an alternate plan to have 14 regiments with 36 privates per company instead of 76, so that in times of conflict, the army could double in size by recruiting privates and already having experienced officers and NCOs in place. Based on the experience of the War of 182, he thought this the better method to expand the army from peacetime to wartime requirements. The plan was rejected.

The Sixth Infantry was organized in 1808, and by coincidence has retained the designation after being consolidated with the 11<sup>th</sup>, 25<sup>th</sup>, 27<sup>th</sup>, 29<sup>th</sup>, and 37<sup>th</sup> in 1815.

The Seventh Infantry is another of the 1808 regiments that was consolidated into the 1<sup>st</sup> Infantry after the war of 1812. The 7<sup>th</sup> Infantry of post War of 1812, and pre WBTS, is the consolidation of the War of 1812 regiments being the 8<sup>th</sup>, 19<sup>th</sup>, 36<sup>th</sup>, and 38<sup>th</sup> Infantry.

The Eighth Infantry, like the 2<sup>nd</sup>, and 3<sup>rd</sup> had two incarnations during this period of study, the 1808 regiment was consolidated into the post War of 1812, 7<sup>th</sup>, the post War of 1812 8<sup>th</sup> Infantry was the result of consolidating the 5<sup>th</sup>, 18<sup>th</sup>, and 35<sup>th</sup>, which was retired in 1821. The regiment came back to the rolls in 1838. Of interest to us, is the regiment is ordered to Texas in 1845, and with the 5<sup>th</sup> Infantry was present at Palo Alto. After the Mexican War, this regiment was on garrison duty in Texas until 1861.

The Ninth Infantry saw service in the War of 1812, and was consolidated into the post war of 1812 5<sup>th</sup> Infantry. The Regiment came back into existence in 1847 for the Mexican War. The regiment was disbanded after the war in 1848. The regiment returned to stay in 1855

The 10<sup>th</sup> Infantry was another War of 1812 regiment that disappeared from the rolls after the war, to make a permanent appearance in 1855 after a brief one year existence during the Mexican War.

The first and second light dragoons were regiments that served in the War of 1812, and were disbanded. With the need to have greater mobility in fighting the native American population, the First Dragoons were authorized in 1832, and redesignated the First Cavalry in 1861 with the renumbering of the mounted regiments and designating all mounted combat regiments as Cavalry..

This was shortly followed by the Second Dragoon, who have always managed to retain the designated as the Second, even after being redesignated as the Second Cavalry, Second Tank Regiment, Second Armored Cavalry Regiment and now Second Stryker Brigade today.

The Regiment of Mounted Rifles were raised just before the war with Mexico, and were redesignated the Third Cavalry in 1861. Like the Second Dragoons, the RMR retained their old uniforms (somehow always managing to find the old color trimmed jackets) until well into 1863.

The First Cavalry was raised in 1855, and changed designation to 4<sup>th</sup> Cavalry in 1861.

The 2<sup>nd</sup> Cavalry had its officers hand picked by Jefferson Davis when raised in 1855, and became the 5<sup>th</sup> Cavalry in 1861.

Capt. Tommy Attaway



**John Keahey**  
**Captain Emeritus**

## **WINEDALE REQUIEM**

Winedale is the proper name of a wide spot in a two lane hill country road near Round Top, Texas. It means more to me than the name of a wide spot in a road generally does; the name evokes memories of misty damp cold mornings, tan colored winter fields, enemy troops in the tree line, historic buildings, company drill, lines of battle, and split rail fences. For more than a decade Winedale was the location of the Texas Rifles' annual meeting. This is where we drilled, exchanged items of historical interest, planned our year's activities and elected our leaders. In short, the word "Winedale" brings forth for me a long series of memories. To copy a line from a favorite movie, when a character is asked if the memories he associated with a particular home are good memories he replied, "No, they are grand." My memories of Winedale are grand.

Winedale started as a competition between bored rich people. When the quaint village of Round Top was invaded and re-built by a wealthy person into a mini 1850's Texas hill country Williamsburg, Ima Hogg (rich owner of Bayou Bend and the daughter of an oil soaked Texas Governor) started a competitive venture at nearby Winedale. As at Round Top grew with antique buildings which were purchased and moved there, Ms. Hogg added buildings to the area around a general store/gas station at Winedale; no doubt to the astonishment of the Winedale population. Houses, barns, split rail fences, an Interpretive Center, Meeting Room, lodgings and kitchen were all added with a lovely view over a man-made lake and rolling hills. It was a beautiful spot, and perfect for the annual meeting of the Texas Rifles. There was plenty of room to drill, skirmish, and discharge volleys without disturbing the very few neighbors. Days were filled with a busy schedule of meetings, drills, competitions and instructional lessons. Nights were filled with drinking, comradery, historic movies, and the annual Slide Show. We slept on the carpeted floor of the Meeting Room. Tables around the room were filled with stuff for sale by members; antiques, computer games, movies, reproductions were all exchanged. Food was supplied by the kitchen staff for a modest price; generally it was good except for the biscuits. They were always like a hockey puck in size, shape and digestibility. We always swept and vacuumed the room before leaving on Sunday afternoon and we never damaged anything that I recall.

But whether due to a lack of funds, Ms. Hogg's lack of life, or a lack of direction; Winedale never took-off and soared. It never really got beyond being a wide spot on a country road. It never even rated a stop sign. One of the historic houses burned to the ground. Ms. Hogg donated Winedale to the University of Texas as teaching/meeting facility with an endowment to help support it. And the magic of Winedale died.

The first death notice about Winedale came when I was captain of the Texas Rifles. When I contacted the new staff at Winedale to book the facility for our annual meeting on the site, I was told that we could not meet there because the lodging house was being renovated. I said that was fine since we generally stayed in the Meeting Room. Then I was informed that we could not use the separate Winedale Meeting Room structure because the renovation of the Lodging House caused the kitchen to be closed. I said that was fine because we could supply our own food. Then I was told that there was no record of the Texas Rifles ever having rented any facilities at Winedale. When I gave them the dates and years we had been there, suddenly our old paperwork was found going back more than a decade. Then I was told that the Texas Rifles would have to fill-out an application to use the site. Winedale would now only accept applications to use its facilities from groups which had an educational impact (such as the quilting group he used as an example), so I researched and sent them a paper detailing the thousands of students our teaching members educated every year, not to mention the one million or so spectators who learned about the American Civil War by watching us at reenactments as both Confederate and Federal soldiers (somehow I suspect that the quilters could not match those numbers). Finally I was told the truth; the Texas Rifles were not wanted at Winedale because we were Confederate Civil War reenactors. In short, we were too politically incorrect for the University of Texas to tolerate our presence in the hill country far from the Austin campus. I was devastated. The annual meeting

that year was held at Round Top whose staff was kind enough to take us in, but it was a bitter disappointment to me. The Texas Rifles have not been back to Winedale since.

The Houston Chronical Sunday edition carried an article about Winedale in the 7/6/14 issue. The gist of the article was that Winedale was failing. Ms. Hogg's and other lesser endowments produced an income in excess of \$250,000 per year, but that was not enough. The University of Texas at Austin had received lower funding in the post 2008 educational budgets and had reduced its financial support to Winedale. First to go was building maintenance and staff. The building signs, which became unreadable, were removed. Next to go was the split rail fences, they have collapsed into long low piles of rotten wood. Buildings are closed due to lack of maintenance. Grass was not mowed. The only bright spot was the annual student's Shakespeare Festival held in the barn; they somehow found money for that. It was, frankly, emotionally difficult for me to read this article. But I could not help but gloat a little in the midst of the sad news. Maybe, just maybe, if the University of Texas had allowed politically incorrect groups like the Texas Rifles to use the Winedale facilities, these financial troubles would not have happened. The article said that Winedale was failing, but I could have told them different. Winedale was not failing; the magic of the Winedale I remember so well died many years ago. Winedale is a corpse waiting to be buried. The lost jobs, unreadable signs, collapsed fences and closed buildings are the rotten flesh dropping from its dead bones. And political correctness had helped murder it.

Jmk



“Is this the end?”



# CIVIL WAR 20 YEAR REUNION

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