

TEXAS MILITARY

In 12 the Confederate Congress in Richmond, Virginia, passed a conscription law that ordered all men from 18 to 45 years of age to be placed into military service except ministers, state, city, county officers, and certain slave owners; all persons holding 20 slaves or more were exempt from confederate conscription under the “Twenty Nigger Law”. The law would prove extremely unpopular with poorer white Confederate men, many of whom did not own any slaves at all, and would contribute to the often-repeated adage of the Confederate war effort being "a rich man's war, but a poor man's fight."¹

When the first companies of Texas soldiers reached Richmond, Virginia, Confederate President Jefferson Davis greeted them with the words: “Texans! The troops of other states have their reputations to gain, but the sons of the defenders of the Alamo have theirs to maintain. I am assured that you will be faithful to the trust.”



“The Texas Brigade” (also known as “Hood’s Brigade”) was a unit composed of the 1st, 4th and 5th Texas infantry regiments augmented at times by the 18th Georgia Infantry and Hampton’s (South Carolina) Legion until they were permanently teamed with the 3rd Arkansas Infantry. Often serving as “shock troops” of General Lee and on more than one occasion Lee praised their fighting qualities, remarking that none had brought greater honor to their native state than “my Texans.”



“Walker’s Greyhound Division” was a division composed of four brigades with Texan units; the only division in the Confederate States Army that maintained its single-state composition throughout the War. Formed in 1862 under command of Major General John George Walker it fought in the Western Theater and the Trans-Mississippi Department, and was considered an elite backbone of the army.



Among the most famous mounted units were Terry’s Texas Rangers, a militia of former rangers and frontiersmen, many of whom later became peacekeepers in the Old West; and the 33rd Texas Cavalry Regiment of Colonel Santos Benavides, which guarded the Confederate cotton trade lines from Texas into northern Mexico.

One Confederate soldier from Texas gave his reasons for fighting for the Confederacy, stating that “we are fighting for our property”, whereas Union soldiers were fighting for the “flimsy and abstract idea that a negro is equal to an Anglo”.

Camp Near Saltillo Aug 22/62

Dear wife

Again I am favored with an opportunity of communicating you a few more thoughts in regard to how I am getting in the army. I am still in good health and enjoying myself as well as one could under the circumstances. Never is there a day passes over my head but I think my boy and thee and the pleasant scenes and endearment of home and things around about. I have nothing of interest to communicate only the same old camp news. The boys are all in very good health and in great spirits on account of their being remounted and I hope Capt Cook will succeed in getting our horses here soon with them and I will give you a list of the things wish you would send to me if they are convenient for you to obtain In the first Place I want a horse Old henry if you have not sold him if you have, Tell Father to send or bring me a good poney a good saddle saddle bags and bridle one pr spurs. Send me two over shirts one pr good home made boots and some socks I have three of the shirts I started from home with two pr pants two pr drawers which are good yet except the pants which are getting thread bear in some places about the knees and seet; But I am in hopes they will last me until I can get a chance to come home Though that may be a long time as Old Abe has ordered out six hundred thousand new troops He gives half the privilege to volunteer and is drafting the balance But I think Jeff is getting the heels on the old scamp as we are driving the back into their

Their own territory Gen. Bragg is making them retreat at Chatanooga and we are getting powerfully Scared in Kentucky Tennessee and Masoura And Vallanding ham is making stump speaches in the north against the men volunteering and trying to get the East to secede from the west and do hope he will succeed in getting them to secede.

Mollie I have not received but two letters from you since I left the city of Memphis I suppose the reason of this was that you supposed that we could not get them by mail. Now let me entreat you to write once every week and start them whether we get them or not they will come through after while and they will give me great satisfaction I have been very uneasy about home ever since the 17th being the time that Add received a from Wm [Truit?] dated Aug 3 which informed us Mrs Peacock's death and others and He also said There was a goodeal of sickness in our neighborhood. But I hope you all have not been visited by the cruel monster. Though we must all die and should be prepared for the unexpected visiter. That we might never dread his grim appearance. And never let our selves be grieved to too great an extent at the loss of a friend or relative Mollie I must bring my letter to a close as I have no more paper Tell Ma to write to me that I have not and never will forget her. You must tell all our relatives to write and write often Tell Ike to send me word how hiw hogs and chickens are thriving Tell my boy to write me a letter as soon as you receive this You must write often or you will please write often and you will be so doing afford me a greatdeal of Pleasure. I remain your affectionate husband until death (I send this by Can Thigpen)

[envelope included addressed to:]

Mrs. M. E. Willeford
Dangerfield Texas

[also written on the envelope] Per Urbanitz of Mr. [Thigpen?]

[return address] From B. F. Willeford Private of Co I Whitfield's Texas Legion

Mrs. J. M. Miller
 P. O. No. 10
 Dallas, Texas
 Mr. D. M. E. Milford
 Pangerfield
 Texas
 Per Robandy
 of
 Mr. Stiggen

There was a gradual increase
 in our neighborhood. But I
 hope you all have not been visited
 the cruel monster. Though we must
 all die and should be prepared
 for the unexpected visitor. That
 we might never dread his grim
 appearance. And never let our
 selves be grieved to too great an
 extent at the loss of a friend or
 relative. Nollie I must bring my
 letter to a close as I have no more
 paper Tell Mollie to write to me
 that I have not and never will forget
 her. You must tell all our relations
 to write and write often Tell
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 and chickens are thriving Tell my
 boy to write me a letter as soon as
 you receive this You must write often
 or you will please write often and
 you will be doing afford me a
 great deal of pleasure I remain you
 affectionate husband until death
 (I send this by Van (Stiggen) D. M. Milford

Camp Near Saltillo Aug 23/62
 Dear wife
 Again I am favored
 with an opportunity of communicating
 you a few more thoughts in regard
 to how I am getting in the army.
 I am still in good health and enjoying
 myself as well as one could under the cir-
 cumstances. Never is there a day passes
 over my head but I think my boy and
 Thee and the pleasant scenes and
 endearments of home and things
 around about. I have nothing
 of interest to communicate only the
 same old camp news. The boys are
 all in very good health and in great
 spirits on account of their being re-
 mounted and I hope Capt. Coaker
 will succeed in getting our horses
 here soon with them and I will
 give you a list of the things which
 you would send to me if they are
 convenient for you to obtain In the
 first place I want a horse Old Henry
 if you have not sold him if you have.

Tell Fetter to send or bring me
a good poney a good saddli saddle
bags and bridle on pe spurs.

Send me two overshirts and six good
home made boots and some socks
I have three of the shirts I started
from home with two pr pants
two pr drawers which are gone
yet except the pants which are
getting thread bare in some places
about the breech and scrot. But I
am in hopes they will last me
until I can get a chance to come
home though that may be a
long time as Old Abe has ordered
out six hundred thousand more
troops he gives half the privilege
to volunteer and is drafting the
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own territory. Gen. Bragg is making
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in Kentucky Tennessee and Missouri
And Vallandigham is making
stump speeches in the north against
the men volunteering and trying to
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Nellie I have not received but two
letters from you since I left the
City of Memphis. I suppose the
reason of this was that you supposed
that we could not get them by
mail. Now let me entreat you
to write once every week and
start them whether we get
them or not they will come
through after while and they
will give me great satisfaction
I have been very uneasy about
home ever since the 17th being
the time that I did receive
a from A^m Fruit dated Aug 3
which informed us Mrs Peacocks
death and others and she also said

REVIEW OF CIVIL WAR LETTER

Who wrote this letter and what was the occupation?

What side of the Civil War did the writer support? Provide evidence.

What was the purpose of the letter?

What important details are provided in this letter?

What is the mental state of the writer? (ex: anger, despair, empathy, joy, sympathy)
