

*THE MARSHALL GUARDIAN*



**IN MEMROSY**

Dedicated to the memory of the **Sergeant William Williston Heartsill** Company F 2nd Texas Cavalry, C.S.A.

**Next Meeting...**

**Tuesday,**

**July 20th, 2021**

**6:30 P.M.**

**SPEAKER**

**Commander Bill Elliott,**

**SCV Movie Night**

**Dinner Belle Restaurant**

**4803 East End Blvd.  
South**

**Marshall, TX 75672**

**Phone:**

**903-923-9678**

**Bring a Friend**



**W. W. Heartsill**



Compatriots:

We are now starting a new fraternal year. You should have received your dues notice. Please send in your dues to Camp Adjutant Frank Crisp. If there is a reason or you need help with your dues, please let us know. We have the National Reunion at the end of the month in Kenner, LA. and I am looking forward on attending. We also have the 10<sup>th</sup> annual Civil War Symposium coming up on Aug. 7<sup>th</sup> at Jefferson. Good info, great speakers and a great lunch.

I had the honor to present some Awards to a few of our shining stars of our Camp. These brothers have been involved in our events this last year with several doing a lot of behind the scenes preparing for our events. Again I thank you all, for all you have done to help our Camp gain the ground that we did last year, and I ask you to help with gains for this year. I am proud to serve our Camp and to serve our ancestors. I could not do it with you pushing me down the road to success.

**Bill Elliott**



## Our June Meeting: Texas Division Awards



**Camp Awards**



**5<sup>th</sup> Brigade 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. Commander Joe Reynolds**



**Roger Opelia, Silver Cross**



**Tom Scarborough Bronze Cross**



**Dick Brassell, Bronze Cross**



**Pete Craig, Silver Cross**

## **The Powder Mill and Marshall importance to the CSA and ATM**

I have a subscription to Newspapers. Com. From time to time I get a chance to spend some time searching for old articles. Here is some info from some of them that I would like to share. I am not using everything in the articles just some highlights.

### **This is a reprinted article from the MNM 11/10/1963: Confederate Collapse Posed Problems:**

Many serious problems were raised by the sudden, sickening collapse of the Confederacy as May of 1865 dragged its way to an end in Marshall. Noting that “The war is virtually at an end” the editor of *The Texas Republican* called the attention of his readers in the task of caring for the returning soldiers. “The highways will be thronged for several weeks. They must be fed and housed, it will be impossible for those living immediately on public roads to bear this burden unaided. What then is to be done? We should advise neighborhoods meetings throughout the State. All then can participate.” Also a cause of concern was the powder mill north of Marshall, “which was broken open a few days ago by soldiers, since which time a great number of people have been crowding to it, gathering powder and carrying it off.” Noting a disagreement among local residents as to the danger this represented, the editor pointedly recalled the explosion of a powder mill at Mayville, KY., in 1858 which damaged several houses and killed a number of people.

### **Sunday August 29, 1965 MNM, Days Past:**

Two important matters bearing on the history of Harrison County moved into the picture this week. First was the discovery of death notices in the old Texas Republican of Sept. 8, 1865, of two Illinois soldiers as the result of burns sustained in the explosion of the old Powder Mill in Marshall. I found their names in the list of Harrison County in the Civil War. **Pvt. John M. Davis, Co. F, 8<sup>th</sup> Ill. Vet. Vol. Inf. age 39, and Cpl. Green Little, Co. H, 8<sup>th</sup> Ill. Vet. Vol. Inf. age 25 was the 2 victims.**

### **Sunday Dec. 16, 1973, MNM “Historic Powder Mill Resurrected”**

In 1863, Confederate forces built a massive powder mill complex in Marshall as major armaments for the Trans-Mississippi Department of the Confederacy. Sprawling over 240 acres, a number of structures were erected in a valley north of Marshall guarded by fortifications spread along a protecting ridge. Destroyed by explosion soon after the end of the war, the mill complex remains fell into ruin and have been buried under the encroaching years. Today state archaeologists are resurrecting the ghost of the historic mill.

## **Sunday June 26, 1977: MNM “Marshall Site of Powder Mill”**

About one and half miles north of Marshall, off of North Franklin street at the intersection of Macedonia Road-still known as Powder Mill Road – is the which is a part of the estate of Mercer M. Rains. This particular parcel is the site of the Powder Mill – Marshall’s first war industry which was activated here in 1863. Traces of this Civil War powder mill are still visible. A number of outpost location and gun emplacements were found when Col. Mercer Rains cleared the tract of 230 acres some years ago. The center of the installation was oblong on East-West Creek, which still flows and which must have been the water supply. It is said that the plant employed some 150 people. Edmund Key, who was a boy of about 12 years at that time, worked in the powder mill. In those days the cartridges were rolled by hand out of waxed paper in much the same manner as a homemade cigarette is rolled. The shot and ball were inserted at the same time and both ends were tied with string. These were made up in bundles of 50, placed in a canvas bag and were ready to issue to the troops. On the field of battle the soldier would bite off the end of the cartridge containing the powder and would pour the entire contents down the muzzle of the gun. This was then rammed home with a wad of cotton on top and after priming the gun was ready for firing.

In material written by Hobart Key Jr., is a paragraph that reads: “When I was a boy we used to visit the site of this old powder mill and explore a cave dug in the bank of the stream nearby. There was at that time still lying around some old and rusting pieces of the machinery. The shot for these cartridges was made by heating lead and dropping it from the top of the White Boys College in lieu of a shot tower. This old building stood on the site of the present high school grounds and it was there that I attended grade school. At that time it was still possible to pick up a handful of bullets most anywhere on the school ground and quite a brisk trade was established in these relics. One Minnie ball being worth one glass marble, six round shots would purchase a clay marble. This old building was also used as an arsenal for the storage of the products made at the powder mill or collected from other small ordnance works throughout the state.”

In the center of the whole area of the powder mill site is a commanding ridge which the garrison tied into its defense plans by means of a large G shaped digging which Col. Mercer Rains said was called “The Fort” in the days of his youth. Collapse of the Confederacy brought about destruction of the Powder Mill, which Federal columns were unable to achieve says one account. The mill was destroyed by its defenders before it had a chance to fall into the hands of the Union forces.



## **Col. Alexander:**

Col. George D. Alexander was assigned to duty at Marshall in 1863 where he manufactured all the powder ammunition for the department. He filled the office of Chief of Ordnance of the Trans- Mississippi Department and Gen. E. Kirby Smith assigned him to this post. He was a native of Virginia, and moved to Marshall in 1848. He was leading educator of Harrison County. During the war he was with Stonewall Jackson and his Pomney-Raney Expedition and lost an arm in that engagement. In the Texas Republic in May 1865 stated it concerns for the unsecured powder magazines here that people were caring off as it was powder for cannons and therefore useless for hunting or target use. In 1869 during a rain and hailstorm a large brick house owned by Mr. Burris located at the powder mill and constructed by the Confederate government for not less than \$15,000 was blown down, trees uprooted and fences blown down. This was a bad storm.

## **A CSC Center**

Marshall was the focal point for much governmental activity. It was the seat of the Missouri Government –in – Exile. The Quartermaster General operated a hat factory here. It was sufficiently inland from the port cities of Jefferson and Shreveport to be protected, yet accessible by road to either, where river transportation offered prompt shipment facilities. Marshall was chosen for the Trans-Mississippi Confederate headquarters, located at Col. B. F. Holcomb's home that was later to be used for many years as Bishop College. This shift to Marshall was made in 1863 when Vicksburg and Port Hudson fell. It became necessary for various departments to be established here. These included the post office in the West End School with General Hugre as Postmaster. This department was also said to have been located a part of the time in Col. Holcombe's home. The Treasury Department set up its headquarters in the Masonic Female Institute between Wellington and Franklin on West Burleson St., with Dr. James H. Starr as treasurer.

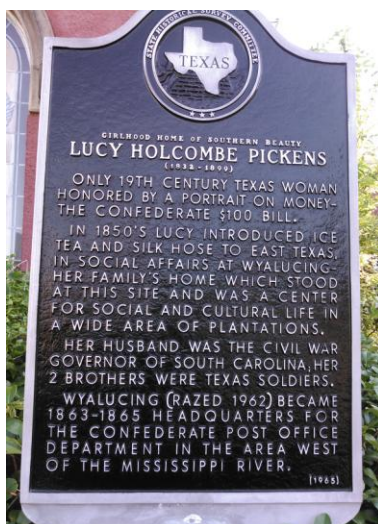
## **Ordnance**

The Ordnance Department with Major Alexander as chief set up headquarters at Locke's Mill on West Fannin where the old ice and electric plant is located now. This was a two story frame building to which a large two story brick building was added and in this was the hat, shoe, saddle, harness and cartridge departments. The hat department (factory) was under direction of Ruben Knight, father of the late Mrs. T.P. Young and Mrs. Milton Lothrop. Calvin Locke from whom Locke's Mill was named came to Marshall in 1856 and operated a lumber mill on the site.

William Umbdenstock was also in the hat, saddle, harness and cartridge department. The leather department was under W. H. Carter. Ammunition was in charge of Col. W.M. Bruce and the Commissary was directed by G. G. Gregg. Supplies were stored in the basement of the First Methodist Church and the Odd Fellows Hall.

## Hospital Site

A large frame building was erected 100 feet south of the present High School (West Houston). This was used for a hospital. About thirty seven soldiers from Missouri and Arkansas died in this hospital and are buried in the north east corner of the Old Marshall Cemetery. Their graves are marked by a handsome monument erected by the Marshall Chapter of the United Daughters of the Confederacy. Also a local commissary was established to collect for widows, wives and children left destitute and D. Baldwin was in charge of this work. Major William Bradford's stagecoach ran daily from Shreveport to Marshall to Crockett. This for four years was the only way of getting news and the reports of men who had died in service. A wagon train consisting of six mule teams, eight or ten yokes of oxen and a two wheel Mexican cart was established between Marshall and Mexico which was loaded with cotton and returned with army supplies and medicine. The Rev. J.T. Riggs was in charge of this wagon train.



**Marker located at 302 W. Burleson St. Moved away from Bel Air Apartments?**



**Located at 201 W. Grand Ave. in front of Appraisal District's building**

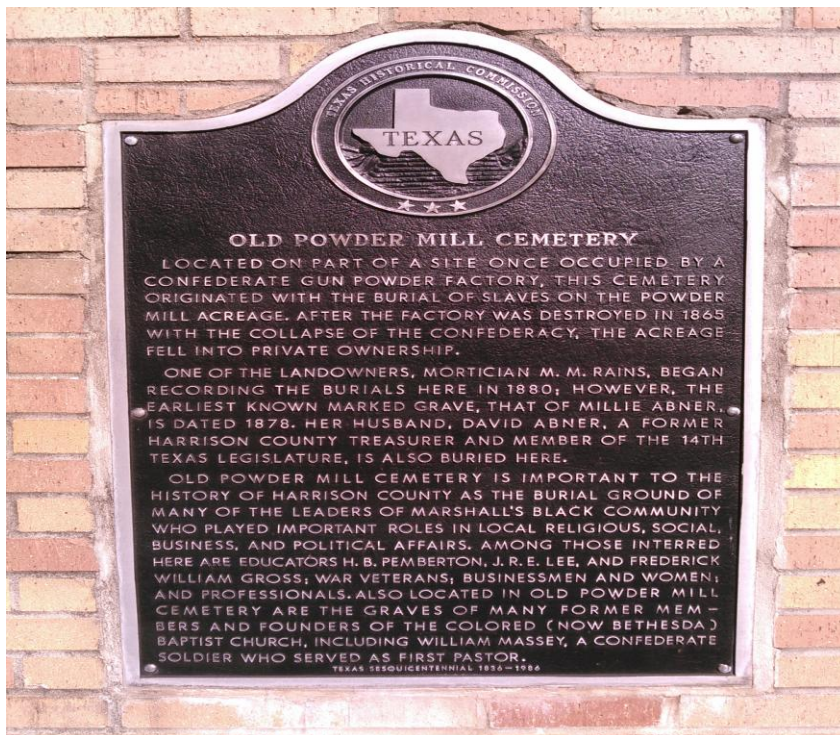


**Located on Loop 390 just West of Sue Belle Lake Rd. and Snider Lumber**





**If you can find it, this is where the Powder Mill Marker is at**



**Powder Mill Cemetery on George Gregg St. Or FM 1997**



# In Memory of the Confederate Companies from Harrison County, Texas

2nd Texas Cavalry Co. F “Walter P. Lane Rangers”	Captain Sam J. Richardson
3rd Texas Cavalry Co A “The Texas Hunters”	Captain T. W. Winston
1st Texas Infantry Co. E “The Marshall Guards”	Captain F. S. Bass
7th Texas Infantry Co. D “Bass Greys”	Captain K M Van Zandt
7th Texas Infantry Co. H “Texas Invincibles”	Captain W. B. Hill
17th Texas Cavalry Co. E “Hendricks Company”	<b>Captain S. B. Hendricks</b>
17th Texas Cavalry Co. K “Clough Rangers”	<b>Captain Gil McKay</b>
14th Texas Infantry Co. B “Clough and Hill Avengers”	Captain W. L. Pickens
14th Texas Infantry Co A. “Marshall Mechanics”	Captain N. S. Allen
14th Texas Infantry Co. H “Cypress Tigers”	Captain John Miller
28th Texas Cavalry Co. F “Harrison County Lancers”	Captain Phil Brown
1st Cavalry Regiment Partisans Rangers	Captain Hec McKay
1st Cavalry Regiment Partisans Rangers	Captain S. W. Webb





### Upcoming National and Texas Division Reunions

**2022 Texas Division Reunion: June 3-5, 2022 at McKinney Texas. Info can be found on the Texas Division Website SCV TX Div.**

**2021 SCV 126<sup>th</sup> Annual Reunion: July 21-24 at Kenner, LA. Info can be found on the SCV website or at the Beauregard Camp 130 site,; WWW. SCV-BCAMP130.org**

**We will be passing the Bucket at our meeting for the Flag replacement fund as they will be needing changing soon.**



### 2021 Camp Leadership

**Bill Elliott**  
**Camp Commander**  
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**Pete Craig**  
**1st Lt Commander**  
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**Robb McMahan**  
**2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. Commander**  
(310) 490-4341  
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**Frank Crisp**  
**Adjutant**  
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**Dick Brassell**  
**Chaplain**  
479-544-3717  
Pennyb2@hotmail.com

**T.J. Henigan**  
**Sgt. at Arms**  
(903) 407-2185

### How Do I Join The Sons of Confederate Veterans?

The SCV is the direct heir of the United Confederate Veterans. Organized at Richmond, Virginia in 1896, the SCV continues to serve as a historical, patriotic, and non-political organization dedicated to ensuring that a true history of the 1861-1865 period is preserved. Membership in the Sons of Confederate Veterans is open to all male descendants of any veteran who served honorably in the Confederate armed forces. Membership can be obtained through either lineal or collateral family lines and kinship to a veteran must be documented genealogically. The minimum age for full membership is 12, but there is no minimum for Cadet Membership.