

Unceasing Fury

**Texans at the Battle
of Chickamauga**

September 18–20, 1863

Scott L. Mingus Sr.
and Joseph L. Owen



Savas Beatie
California

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“When the sable shades of night draped the hills of Chickamauga with a mournful pall of earth-like silence, and the weeping stars lit the firmament over this weird-like, ghostly scene, where the demon ghouls of death were reveling in their gory feast and many a corpse lay ghastly pale in the arms of eternal sleep, the bugle notes of victory recalled from pursuit the shattered cohorts of the Southrons.”

— Dr. John O. Scott, former Confederate surgeon,
in a speech before the Old Settlers Picnic at Sherman, Texas,
on Aug. 20, 1896. (Chattanooga Daily Times, Sept. 6, 1896)

Table of Contents

Foreword by David A. Powell

xi

Chapter 1: The Texans

1

Chapter 2: The Long Road to Chickamauga

21

Chapter 3: September 18—The Battle for the Bridges

48

Chapter 4: September 19, Morning—Ector's Brigade

70

Chapter 5: September 19, Early Afternoon—Gregg's Brigade

86

Chapter 6: September 19, Late Afternoon—Hood's Texas Brigade

99

Chapter 7: September 19, Evening—Deshler's Brigade

133

Chapter 8: September 20, Morning—Ector's and Deshler's Brigades

150

Chapter 9: September 20, Midday—Hood's Texans and Gregg's Brigade

174

Chapter 10: September 20, Late Afternoon and Evening

197

Chapter 11: Return to Chattanooga

211

Table of Contents (continued)

Chapter 12: The Gateway to the South Opens
240

Chapter 13: Legacy
253

Appendix A: Overall Casualties at Chickamauga
in Texas Commands
259

Appendix B: Individual Texas Casualties
at Chickamauga by Regiment
261

Bibliography
287

Acknowledgments
301

Index
305

About the Authors
320

List of Maps

Map 1: Tullahoma Campaign, June–July 1863	29
Map 2: Davis’s Crossroads, September 11, 1863	35
Map 3: Chickamauga, September 18, 1863	55
Map 4: Chickamauga, Reed’s Bridge, Afternoon, September 18, 1863	59
Map 5: Chickamauga, Ector’s Attack, 10 A.M., September 19, 1863	80
Map 6: Chickamauga, Gregg’s Attack, 3:45 P.M., September 19, 1863	93
Map 7: Chickamauga, Robertson’s Attack, 4:30 P.M., September 19, 1863	109
Map 8: Chickamauga, Cleburne’s Attack, 7:30 P.M., September 19, 1863	137
Map 9: Chickamauga, Cleburne’s Attack 10–11 A.M., September 20, 1863	160
Map 10: Chickamauga, North Dyer Field, 12:15 P.M., September 20, 1863	183
Map 11: Chickamauga, Snodgrass Hill, 2–6 P.M., September 20, 1863	203
Map 12: Chattanooga, Tunnel Hill, November 25, 1863	223

List of Illustrations

Chapter 1

West Chickamauga Creek	3
Gen. Braxton Bragg, CSA	4
Brig. Gen. James Deshler, CSA	7
Col. Roger Q. Mills, 6th-10th-15th Texas Cavalry	9
Brig. Gen. Matthew D. Ector, CSA	11
Col. Julius A. Andrews, 32nd Texas Cavalry	12
Brig. Gen. John Gregg, CSA	13

List of Illustrations (continued)

Brig. Gen. Jerome B. Robertson, CSA	15
Col. Thomas Harrison, CSA	18
Lt. Col. Gustave Cook, 8th Texas Cavalry	19

Chapter 2

Battle of Murfreesboro	22
17th and 18th Texas Cavalry flag	23
Maj. Gen. Patrick R. Cleburne, CSA	25
Wartrace, TN	26
Cleburne marker, Wartrace, TN	27
Maj. Gen. William S. Rosecrans, USA	28
Sgt. William W. Heartsill, 10th Texas Cavalry	30
Lt. Gen. D. H. Hill, CSA	31
Pvt. Lawrence A. Daffan, 4th Texas	41
Stephen's Gap on Lookout Mountain	47

Chapter 3

Brig. Gen. Bushrod Johnson, CSA	49
Wartime image of Lee and Gordon's Mill	50
Modern image of Lee and Gordon's Mill	51
Crawfish Springs, Chickamauga, GA	52
Maj. Gen. George H. Thomas, USA	53
Maj. Gen. John Bell Hood, CSA	56
Minty's Union cavalry crossing Reed's Bridge	60
"Confederate Artillery," Alfred R. Waud	62
Modern view of the Alexander-Viniard Road	69

Chapter 4

John Ross House	71
Brig. Gen. Nathan B. Forrest, CSA	74
Capt. Judson W. Bishop, 2nd Minnesota	76
Capt. Ryland Todhunter, assistant adjutant general, Ector's brigade	78
Capt. Constantine Buckner "Buck" Kilgore, adjutant, Ector's brigade	79
"CSA Line Advancing," Alfred R. Waud	85

List of Illustrations (continued)

Chapter 5

- Brig. Gen. Joseph Wheeler, CSA 87
Maj. Khleber Van Zandt, 7th Texas 89
Col. Hans C. Heg, USA 91
Kurtz and Allison print of a Confederate
firing line in the woods at Chickamauga 92
Iron marker commemorating position
of Bushrod Johnson's division on Sept. 18 95

Chapter 6

- Brig. Gen. Evander M. Law, CSA 100
Postwar image of Quartermaster Sgt. J. B. Polley, 4th Texas 101
Postwar image of Color Sgt. George A. Branard, 1st Texas 103
Postwar image of Sgt. D. H. Hamilton, 1st Texas 105
Pvt. John C. West, 4th Texas 108
Capt. James T. Hunter, 4th Texas 110
Maj. Jefferson C. Rogers, 5th Texas 115
Capt. Tacitus C. Clay, 5th Texas 121
Postwar image of Sgt. Val C. Giles, 4th Texas 122
Maj. Gen. Alexander McCook, USA 125
La Fayette Road at the site of the former Viniard Farm 127

Chapter 7

- Col. Franklin C. Wilkes, 17th-18th-24th-25th Texas Cavalry 136
Sgt. Benjamin F. Grady, 25th Texas Cavalry 139
Lt. Gen. James Longstreet, CSA 147

Chapter 8

- 2nd Lt. Oliver P. Bowser, 15th Texas 151
Maj. Gen. John C. Breckinridge, CSA 155
Mortuary monument where Brig. Gen. James Deshler was killed 169

Chapter 9

- Col. Van H. Manning, 3rd Arkansas 175

List of Illustrations (continued)

- Sgt. John C. Cox, 5th Texas 179
North Dyer Field looking north toward the knoll 180
“Kneeling Rifleman,” Alfred R. Waud 185
Capt. George T. Todd, 1st Texas 187
“Hood Wounded at Chickamauga,” *Illustrated London Times*, Dec. 26, 1863 191
Approximate location where General Hood was wounded 192
Pvt. J. K. P. Blackburn, 8th Texas Cavalry (Terry’s Texas Rangers) 195
The George Brotherton house was located along the La Fayette Road 196

Chapter 10

- Iron marker commemorating the position of
Deshler’s brigade on Sept. 20 198

Chapter 11

- Capt. George Littlefield, 8th Texas Cavalry (Terry’s Texas Rangers) 214
“A dead soldier,” Alfred R. Waud 215
Pvt. William Oliphant, 6th Texas 217
Pvt. Sam R. Burroughs, 1st Texas 227
Capt. Charles M. Winkler, 4th Texas 229
Confederate prisoners in Chattanooga awaiting
transportation to northern prisons 233
Lt. Jesse P. Bates, 9th Texas 234
Pvt. Henry W. Berryman, 1st Texas 238

Chapter 12

- “The Rebels Firing on Our Supply Train,” *Harper’s Weekly*, Jan. 9, 1864 241
Chattanooga, circa 1864 243
Cleburne’s Repulse of Sherman at Missionary Ridge, Nov. 25, 1863 245
“Rebel wounded coming in as prisoners on the field of battle,” Alfred R. Waud 247
Statue of Maj. Gen. Patrick R. Cleburne at Ringgold 248
Gen. Joseph E. Johnston, CSA 250

Chapter 13

- State of Texas Monument at Chickamauga 257

List of Abbreviations

CCNMP: Chickamauga and Chattanooga National Military Park

CSR: Compiled Service Records

CV: Confederate Veteran

ETHJ: East Texas Historical Journal

GPO: Government Printing Office, Washington, DC

LOC: Library of Congress

LSU: Louisiana State University

MOLLUS: Military Order of the Loyal Legion of the United States

NPS: National Park Service

NARA: National Archives and Records Administration

OR: Official Records of the War of the Rebellion

RG: Record Group

SHQ: Southwestern Historical Quarterly

SHSP: Southern Historical Society Papers

THM: Texas Heritage Museum, Hill College

TSHA: Texas State Historical Association

UNC: University of North Carolina

USAHEC: United States Army Heritage and Education Center

UTSA: University of Texas-San Antonio

Foreword

The battle of Chickamauga lasted three days, involved nearly 130,000 combatants, thousands more non-combatants, civilians and soldiers alike, and produced roughly 35,000 casualties. In terms of violence and human suffering, it was the second largest battle of the American Civil War, trailing only the bloodletting at Gettysburg. While several other battles saw larger total numbers of men involved, Chickamauga excels in another grim way: virtually all the troops on both sides that met on those blood-soaked fields participated fully in that combat. Both the Union commander, Maj. Gen. William Starke Rosecrans, and the Confederate leader, Gen. Braxton Bragg, threw all their men into this fight. Few reserves were husbanded, and only a handful of regiments were assigned duties that took them away from the contest—it was “do or die” for the men of both sides from September 18 to 20, 1863.

Chickamauga was one of the most important battles of the war. It was also a struggle that both sides would assert as a victory. How can that be?

First, to its importance. As the summer of 1863 closed, the cause of Southern independence was looking increasingly unlikely. Robert E. Lee’s retreat from Gettysburg allowed the Federals to claim a decisive victory in Pennsylvania, no matter how close-run a thing the fighting had been. Though tactically Gettysburg might be deemed a draw, Lee’s decision to return to Virginia confirmed the Army of Northern Virginia’s operational defeat. Simultaneously, the loss of Vicksburg, Mississippi, could not be described as anything other than a wholesale Confederate disaster, with Lt. Gen. John C. Pemberton’s entire Rebel army of 30,000 men surrendering to Union Maj. Gen. Ulysses S. Grant.

Rosecrans's Army of the Cumberland, by contrast, drove Bragg's Confederates out of Middle Tennessee via a campaign of brilliant maneuver. Because that campaign did not culminate in a major battle, however, it passed unnoticed nationally, overwhelmed in the newspaper headlines by news of Gettysburg and Vicksburg. Then, in September, Rosecrans launched a new effort aimed at Chattanooga. As if to answer the Union's earlier successes, Bragg, after abandoning Chattanooga to Union forces on September 9, suddenly won a seemingly decisive victory of his own against those invading Federals at Chickamauga.

To all outward appearances, Bragg and his Army of Tennessee delivered a drubbing to the Army of the Cumberland. A third of the Union army was routed off the field in the middle of the last day's fighting. The remaining forces under Maj. Gen. George Thomas held on stubbornly for a time but were finally forced to retreat—albeit in a more organized fashion—just before dark. Several thousand Union prisoners, dozens of Federal cannons, and vast quantities of other equipment fell into Rebel hands. Rosecrans's defeat triggered a crisis response in the Union high command and bolstered Southern morale at a critical moment in the war, after the earlier battering to public opinion of the summer. The euphoric reaction to Bragg's success across the South, though slightly tempered with some dismay at the scope of his losses, seemed to confirm that the Confederacy had considerable life in her yet. The only question remaining to be answered was, could Bragg go on to seize the larger strategic fruits of that victory?

Which begs the second question: How could both sides claim victory? The answer was Chattanooga.

While the Federals had clearly experienced a severe reverse along the banks of West Chickamauga Creek, they suffered what can be termed a tactical defeat. The city of Chattanooga was the operational objective of the campaign, along with the two bridges that carried the Nashville and Chattanooga Railroad over the Tennessee River and a tributary at Running Water Creek. Chattanooga offered the Federal army the only water-level passage through the Appalachian Mountains for hundreds of miles, and hence, the only avenue of advance into the region which by 1863 had become the heart of the Confederate war machine: the growing industrial base of Georgia, Lower Alabama, and the Carolinas. With Chattanooga as their base, Union troops had a secure supply line extending toward Atlanta and the Deep South.

Outflanked to his south, Bragg abandoned Chattanooga on September 8, and the city fell to Rosecrans's men the next day. Even though Bragg's army besieged the town for a time in October and November, it would never return to

Confederate control. By 1864, with its rail connections restored, Chattanooga swelled with new construction, including massive new Union warehouses full of supplies for the next campaign.

Because Chattanooga remained firmly in Federal hands, Army of the Cumberland veterans insisted that though they lost the battle of Chickamauga, they won the Chickamauga campaign, since they took control of that campaign's most important objective. This theme is evident in defiant soldier correspondence starting immediately after the battle and would become only more evident over time, until it dominated Union post-war reminiscences and memoirs.

The fact that Chattanooga was never recaptured also explains the growing Confederate frustration that, within a month of the battle, had soldiers and civilians alike questioning the result of the battle. That frustration boiled over once Ulysses S. Grant arrived to break the Rebel siege in late November, a reversal of fortune that led to Chickamauga being seen as—in Daniel Harvey Hill's words—a “barren victory,” bereft of any real result. The post-war Confederate understanding of the battle came to be dominated by a harsh condemnation of the Confederate commander, Braxton Bragg, who supposedly threw away the fruits of the hard-fought victory by not pursuing the beaten Federals and retaking Chattanooga when the chance was there. This sentiment can be seen very strongly in this book, *“Unceasing Fury”: Texans at the Battle of Chickamauga, September 18-20, 1863*, in which the soldiers' criticism of Bragg runs deep, especially in the treasure trove of postwar accounts unearthed by Scott Mingus and Joseph Owen. As articulated in these pages, those sources bring the battle vividly to life, and they also shine a clear light on what came to be the agreed-upon wisdom about what went wrong for the Confederates at Chickamauga.

Which brings me to the point of this foreword. Mingus's and Owen's work is a delight to read, rich as it is with personal accounts and the individual details of so many of those Texans. In my own multi-volume study of the battle of Chickamauga, I tried to gather as many sources as possible in order to tell the story of the battle on an individual level while also covering its tactical, operational, and strategic aspects. I collected thousands of accounts, but I knew that I was a long way from finding all of them. In *Unceasing Fury*, I recognize several old friends from my own writing, but Mingus and Owen have also unearthed a host of new primary sources, and have used them very effectively here to describe the battle. What a treat it is to stumble upon fresh accounts.

Prior to the 1990s, there was a paucity of information in print on Chickamauga. Only a couple of tomes had been written on the battle, and a few campaign overviews described Chickamauga in the most perfunctory terms. While those

books were excellent for what they covered, they could not match the details and in-depth analysis lavished on other Civil War battles. Even in the 2000s, when I decided to write about Chickamauga, a quick survey of titles revealed almost nothing in print on the battle. With the writing this foreword in 2020, however, I am happy to state that there are in fact multiple titles exploring the subject, including works on specific facets of the battle—detailed tactical monographs on aspects of the engagement that make deep use of primary source material.

And that source material is rich indeed. Chickamauga was an intense experience for the nearly 130,000 men who fought there, and collectively, they left thousands of accounts recounting their individual experiences—far more material, in fact, than can be used in any single volume. Ergo, it is with great pleasure that I welcome focused works like *Unceasing Fury*, which can narrow the lens sufficiently to let more material see the light of day. I have no doubt that every state that sent troops to Chickamauga could produce a similar outpouring of source material, and the study of the battle could benefit from this approach. What follows are dozens of stories from average Texans, caught up in the great battle. In the future I hope to hear from Indianans, Ohioans, Tennesseans, Illinoisans, and more.

It is also fitting that so many of the rank and file are given voice, since for the veterans of Chickamauga, that fight was the quintessential “soldiers’ battle,” a nasty brawl in the woods, shrouded by smoke and dust; where nothing went according to plan and generals had little influence on the outcome. When Chickamauga and Chattanooga National Military Park was formed in 1890, the committee appointed to oversee its design agreed that, unlike Gettysburg, they wanted no individual statues to generals placed on the field. Instead, regimental monuments would dominate the park, and a detailed narrative of the battle was presented on the iron war department tablets erected for every brigade and battery engaged there. In *Unceasing Fury*, Mingus and Owen have given us a tremendous collection of those voices from the ranks, the soldier’s-eye view of the action.

Additionally, one of the strongest aspects of this work is its comprehensive nature. Often in popular Civil War parlance, the term “Texans” has come to refer primarily to the famous Texas Brigade of the Army of Northern Virginia, long associated with John Bell Hood and James Longstreet’s First Corps. Certainly those Texans have earned undying fame for their role on many battlefields, and I do not begrudge them their time in the sun here. But Mingus and Owen have also delved deeply into all the other Texans who fought at Chickamauga; the 7th Texas in Gregg’s Brigade, the 9th Texas and 10th, 14th and 32nd dismounted cavalry in Ector’s brigade, as well as the 6th & 10th Texas and 15th, 17th, 18th, 24th & 25th Texas dismounted cavalry in Deshler’s brigade. Rounding out the list are the 8th

and 11th Texas cavalry and Douglas's Texas battery. In all, there were another fourteen regiments and one battery of Texas troops whose service was at times overshadowed by the soaring fame of those Eastern Theater Texans. Here, the research into their legacy matches that invested in Hood's more famous command.

As you read the words of these Texans at Chickamauga, bear in mind that they present what is indeed a soldier's-eye view of the battle, often colored by decades of hindsight. Not every nuance of their recollections will be technically correct. Time has a way of blurring men's memories, and as I read through the manuscript, I recognized details in their versions of their experiences that were not particularly accurate. Perhaps time and memory blended their recollections with those of friends, or facts were gleaned from their own readings on the great battle. For instance, I was struck by Capt. George Todd's recollection of seeing so many of the senior generals of the army of Tennessee assembled in one place on the morning of September 21: "Bragg, Longstreet, Breckenridge, Buckner, Forrest and Wheeler were all there present with us."

In reality, we know from other sources that a single gathering of all these men at the same place and time on that specific day was very unlikely. Though there were individual meetings—well-documented accounts of Bragg and Longstreet conversing on September 21 somewhere near the Dyer Farm, and of Bragg and Breckenridge reconciling in a triumphal ride up the La Fayette Road near the Kelly cabin, to name two such events—Bragg never held a full-scale commander's call or council of war to discuss options on September 21. Further, Todd's failure to note the presence of other senior commanders who would very likely have been present at such a meeting is also noteworthy—Polk, Hill, and Walker, to name three. Was Todd mistaken, or was his account correct? I don't know, but I still like the story he tells, and I think it very likely that he saw combinations of these officers (and others) during the days following the battle. Of course, Todd published his account of the 1st Texas Infantry about 1909, and by then time likely distilled such memories into a single event.

The truth is that any narrative based on recollections will inevitably run up against such discrepancies, and the best thing any author can do is let the men who penned them speak for themselves. Mingus and Owen have done a superb job in allowing just that. The material is rich, vivid, and simultaneously tinged with humor and horror—the way any narrative of such a bloody, awful, and awe-inspiring event should be.

My hope is that each book published on Chickamauga helps to inspire the next author or researcher to bring more such projects to fruition, revealing as they do new facets about this amazingly complex event. Above all, I hope this work

inspires more people to visit Chickamauga and Chattanooga National Military Park, where they can follow in the footsteps of the men who so movingly described their unforgettable experiences at that place and time. Chickamauga was our very first national military park, created to preserve the unique landscape of the battle so that future generations could both study and remember the struggle that raged there.

David A. Powell

Chapter 1

The Texans

Some Confederates who fought at Chickamauga, Georgia, in mid-September 1863 lived before the war on the sparse, windswept plains north of Austin or the oft-sweltering areas around Houston. Before joining the military, they lived in strange-sounding places such as Nacogdoches, Sulphur Springs, Quitman, Flo, and Ferris. Several came from San Antonio, home of the famed Alamo mission. More than a few men traced their ancestry to rebellious Tejanos and Texans who fought Santa Anna and his Mexicans to gain independence. Some were bold, loud-talking adventurers, skilled with knife and gun; others were weather-grizzled farmers and cowpunchers or humble store clerks unused to violence. Some men made their living quietly fishing along the Gulf Coast while their comrades-in-arms came from the region along the Rio Grande or the vast bluebell-bedecked prairies. Some had Hispanic surnames; the rest were a mix of European ethnicities, most notably English, Scots-Irish, and German.

Now, they engaged in a bitter struggle for their independence and rights, a foundational fight to protect their homeland and way of life. Many in the ranks called themselves patriots and proud sons of Texas; hundreds wore a symbolic metal “lone star” on their weathered hats. To most Northerners, these men were wayward rebels who needed to return to the Union. To ardent abolitionists, they were traitorous pawns of an elite plantation class intent on preserving their slave-based economy, no matter the cost. Anxious family members considered

these Southern soldiers loved ones far away from home with no return in sight and their destiny unknown.

They were Confederates. They were Texans.

Few soldiers in the Confederate Army of Tennessee were born in Texas, which had been a state for less than 18 years. Most had migrated there before the Civil War from other Southern states in the now-fractured Union. By 1860, the Lone Star State boasted a population of 604,000; almost a third of them were enslaved black individuals. A statewide referendum on secession in February 1861 resulted in a fourth of the voters saying no to leaving the United States. Governor Sam Houston, who was so instrumental in defeating Santa Anna and securing Texan independence in 1836, lost his office after refusing to swear allegiance to the new Confederate government. Lieutenant Governor Edward Clark replaced the legendary Houston, whose eldest son and namesake later joined the Confederate army. The sharp division in loyalties across Texas had severe consequences. Hundreds of pro-Union residents fled the state; some died in their efforts to escape. Tens of thousands of pro-secession men and boys of military age flocked to recruiting offices to enlist in the Confederate army.¹

By the summer of 1863, just two years after secession, the lack of consistent Confederate military success had cooled the early ardor and optimism. Diseases had killed or debilitated thousands of Texas soldiers; thousands more lay in unmarked battlefield graves. In July, news of the Union victory at Gettysburg, Pennsylvania, and of the surrender of the besieged Confederate army at Vicksburg, Mississippi, tempered hopes for independence. The oft-fluctuating morale on the home front declined. Drought threatened the corn crop upon which many wives relied for sustenance and income while their husbands were off soldiering. That summer's scant rainfall affected the once-luxurious pastures where cattle grazed, impacting ranchers and beef contractors for the Confederate Army. The persistent Union naval blockade created shortages of many imported goods and negatively affected shipments of cotton, a vital cash crop.

Governor Francis R. Lubbock emphasized the "absolute necessity" of allocating additional funds to support servicemen's families. The legislature gave

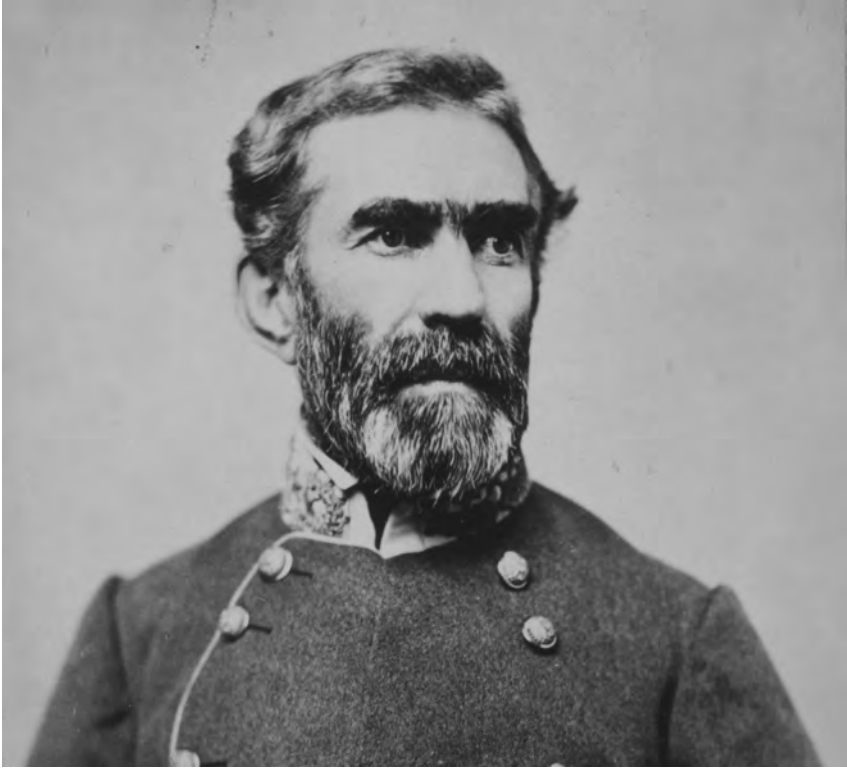
1 For a good general study, see Kenneth W. Howell, ed., *The Seventh Star of the Confederacy: Texas During the Civil War* (Denton, TX: 2009). Francis R. Lubbock narrowly defeated Clark in the gubernatorial election of 1861.



West Chickamauga Creek from the modern Reed's Bridge. (Scott Mingus)

\$600,000 for relief, but that amount proved insufficient. Many wives sent letters to their soldier husbands complaining of difficult circumstances. Those dire messages dampened morale within the Army of Tennessee as it slowly retreated from Murfreesboro, Tennessee, through Chattanooga, and into north Georgia. Few Texans realized that the army commander, Gen. Braxton Bragg, had recently decided to reverse course and was now going after the Yankees.²

² Howell, *The Seventh Star*, 136, 251, 289.



Confederate Gen. Braxton Bragg commanded the Army of Tennessee.
(Library of Congress)

Thousands of soldiers from Texas headed toward West Chickamauga Creek, a sluggish, steep-banked watercourse just south of the Georgia-Tennessee border. “The impression is of almost unbroken forest,” one Confederate chronicled, “of a rather flat, thinly peopled, poorly tilled, wooded region . . . here and there a field of Indian corn, then just ripe, and occasionally an opening of glade-like, treeless land not under any crop, and straggling along on the [Chattanooga–La Fayette] highway, at intervals of a mile or half a mile, small farmhouses with their stables and corncribs.” Chickamauga would be a difficult place to maneuver tens of thousands of soldiers with accompanying artillery and ponderous supply wagons into position for a pitched battle.³

3 Archer Anderson, *The Campaign and Battle of Chickamauga* (Richmond, VA: 1881), 22. Some period accounts use the spelling “LaFayette” or “Lafayette.” West Chickamauga Creek empties into South Chickamauga Creek, which in turn is a tributary of the Tennessee River.

Mystery shrouded the distant origins of the evocative name “Chickamauga.” Some wartime observers claimed it to be a hard-to-pronounce Cherokee word meaning “River of Death,” or perhaps “Bloody River.” After the war, others said, no, Chickamauga meant the “dwelling place of the chiefs” in a Creek dialect. Several modern scholars and linguists disagree and cite other possible Native American etymology. In any case, the rolling woods and hardscrabble farms near West Chickamauga Creek soon would become a dwelling place of the dead, including scores of Texans.⁴

Texas Troops at Chickamauga

The Army of Tennessee, under the overall command of 46-year-old Braxton Bragg, consisted of four corps as the battle of Chickamauga opened on September 18, 1863. Lieutenant Generals Leonidas Polk and Daniel Harvey Hill and Maj. Gens. Simon B. Buckner and William H. T. Walker led the respective corps, each of which contained at least two divisions. In turn, the divisions had two or three brigades of individual state or national Confederate regiments. Artillery battalions and batteries rounded out the organizational structure, with two small corps of mounted soldiers under Brig. Gens. Nathan Bedford Forrest and Joseph Wheeler. As the battle progressed, Maj. Gen. John Bell Hood took command of the portions of Lt. Gen. James Longstreet’s corps (transferred from the Army of Northern Virginia) and other troops that trickled in via rail to reinforce Bragg.

On paper, Braxton Bragg’s army at Chickamauga included seven regiments of Texas-designated infantry, 10 of cavalry, and a single Texas battery. Several commands consisted of returning prisoners from more than a dozen different regiments who were rejoining the ranks after their paroles. Bragg scattered the Texas cavalry units among various brigades in the Army of Tennessee’s organizational structure. All except the 8th and 11th Texas Cavalry had permanently dismounted, campaigning as standard rifle-wielding infantry. The collection of Texas soldiers had diverse backgrounds, experience levels, and

4 “From the Battle Field,” *Georgia Journal and Messenger* (Macon, GA), Sept. 30, 1863; “Chickamauga, or River of Death,” *Richmond Daily Dispatch*, Oct. 2, 1863; Randy Golden and Col. Samuel Taylor, “Chickamauga—An Introduction,” *Our Georgia History*, accessed Nov. 1, 2019, www.ourgeorgiahistory.com/wars/Civil_War/Chickamauga/chickamauga_01.html. West Chickamauga Creek forms the southeast border of the Chickamauga section of the modern Chickamauga and Chattanooga National Military Park.

leadership qualities. All would see their fair share of action in the late summer and early autumn of 1863.⁵

Churchill's/Deshler's Brigade

Brigadier General James Deshler's brigade served in Irish-born Maj. Gen. Patrick R. Cleburne's division of Lt. Gen. D. H. Hill's corps. The 6th and 10th Texas Infantry had been consolidated into a single new regiment along with the dismounted 15th Texas Cavalry for a combined 700 men under Col. Roger Q. Mills. The consolidated 17th-18th-24th-25th Texas Cavalry, Dismounted (767 men initially under Col. Clayton C. Gillespie but serving under Col. Franklin C. Wilkes by the time of Chickamauga) and the combined 19th-24th Arkansas under Lt. Col. Augustus S. Hutchison rounded out the new brigade. In total, Deshler had 1,783 men in his ranks at Chickamauga. Recently paroled prisoners of war from Fort Hindman in Arkansas made up these consolidated regiments. They had surrendered en masse at Arkansas Post on January 11, 1863, after a three-day battle when an overwhelming Union force under Maj. Gen. William Tecumseh Sherman surrounded the fort. More than 30 percent of the Texas prisoners had perished of illness in the cold Northern winter. After their release in April and return to duty, the parolees returned to duty in late May 1863 in a brigade under Brig. Gen. Thomas J. Churchill. Many of the combat-tested veterans in Bragg's army openly resented the new additions and branded them as cowards because they had surrendered.⁶

Thirty-year-old Brig. Gen. James Deshler commanded the brigade at the opening of the battle of Chickamauga. Confederate artilleryman E. Porter Alexander, Deshler's classmate in West Point's class of 1854, described him as "a

5 Office of the Quartermaster General, *The Battle of Chickamauga, September 19–20, 1863: Organization of the Army of the Cumberland and of the Army of Tennessee* (Washington, DC: 1932), 20, 22, 28, 29, 31.

6 O. P. Bowser, "Notes on Granbury's Brigade," in *A Comprehensive History of Texas 1685 to 1897*, 2 vols. (Dallas, TX: 1898), 2:741. For a history of this brigade throughout the war, see Danny Sessums, *A Force to be Reckoned With: A History of Granbury's Texas Infantry Brigade 1861–1865*, 2 vols. (Cactus Rose Press: 2017 and 2019). Strength numbers and details are from David A. Powell, *The Chickamauga Campaign: Barren Victory: The Retreat into Chattanooga, the Confederate Pursuit, and the Aftermath of the Battle, September 21 to October 20, 1863* (El Dorado Hills, CA: 2016), 274. Being scorned for surrendering was not unique to Churchill's brigade. For example, other regiments branded Col. George Willard's New York brigade as the "Harpers Ferry Cowards" after its surrender to Stonewall Jackson in September 1862.

Brig. Gen. James Deshler commanded a brigade in the Army of Tennessee. (*Library of Congress*)



rather small but very well built, active, energetic, & fine looking fellow with very attractive manners & qualities.” After graduation, Deshler served in Kansas, Nebraska, and Colorado, as well as in the Utah War. Like many other Southerners, he resigned from the U.S. Army after the bombardment of Fort Sumter and joined the Confederate service. A bullet penetrated the 30-year-old Alabamian’s thighs during the December 1861 battle of Allegheny Mountain in northwestern Virginia. After recovering, Deshler rose to brigade command as a colonel before Fort Hindman’s garrison surrendered at Arkansas Post. He was the last brigade officer to lay down his arms, preferring to fight to the death until General Churchill ordered him to surrender. General Sherman approached the crestfallen Deshler. “Wishing to soften the blow of defeat,” the bewhiskered Buckeye recalled, “I spoke to him kindly, saying that I knew a family of Deshlers in Columbus, Ohio, and inquired if they were relations of his. He disclaimed any relation with people living north of the Ohio, in an offensive tone.” Exchanged and then promoted to brigadier general in late July, Deshler replaced Churchill in command of the so-called “Arkansas Post Brigade” a month before Chickamauga.⁷

The 6th Texas had mustered into service in mid-November 1861 at Camp Henry C. McCullough near Victoria, some 30 miles inland from the Gulf Coast. Several German immigrants dotted the ranks, along with a few men from France, Norway, Scotland, and other European countries. These volunteers included Pvt.

7 John H. Eicher and David J. Eicher, *Civil War High Commands* (Stanford, CA: 2001), 594; Gary W. Gallagher, ed., *Fighting for the Confederacy: The Personal Recollections of General Edward Porter Alexander* (Chapel Hill, NC: 1989), 298. Though Deshler retorted that he did not know any Northern Deshlers, his father was a native of Lehigh County in eastern Pennsylvania, and he still had relatives in the Allentown area. On July 9, T. J. Churchill requested a transfer back to the Trans-Mississippi Department, where he was serving at the time of the surrender of Arkansas Post. In 1881, Churchill became the 13th governor of Arkansas.

James Ramsay. Born in Perth, Scotland, the staunch Presbyterian had emigrated to Charleston, South Carolina, in the 1830s. He moved to Gonzalez, Texas, in 1840 and fought against native Indians at Salado, Plum Creek, and other engagements. Ramsay enjoyed a reputation as a “brave and fearless old soldier.” The original 58 men of Company D, the “Matagorda Coast Guards,” had signed up to patrol the waters of Matagorda Bay, hence their unusual nickname. The ladies of the small South Texas town hand-sewed the volunteers’ first Confederate uniforms.⁸

After serving in the Western and Trans-Mississippi theaters, the 6th Texas surrendered at Arkansas Post in January 1863 and was paroled that April. The regiment briefly served in the Richmond, Virginia, area before being shipped back to the Western Theater and consolidated with the 10th Texas Infantry and 15th Texas Cavalry.

The 10th Texas had formed in the winter of 1861-62 with recruits from Freestone, Grimes, Houston, San Augustine, Tyler, and Washington Counties. The infantrymen spent most of the latter part of 1862 at Arkansas Post before surrendering. Kentucky-born Col. Roger Q. Mills commanded the 10th Texas. Mills, a Democratic attorney from Corsicana, served in the Texas House of Representatives in 1859-60 before enlisting as a private in the Confederate Army.

The 15th Texas Cavalry had been organized in McKinney in the summer of 1862 with recruits from Fort Worth and several counties throughout the area. Because of a shortage of fodder for its horses, the regiment dismounted later in the year. It then transferred to Arkansas Post, surrendered, and received paroles in May 1863.⁹

Clayton C. Gillespie’s consolidated regiment had a similar story. The 17th Texas Cavalry’s companies primarily came from Cherokee, Nacogdoches, Red River, and Smith Counties. They had mustered into Confederate service in the spring of 1862 and then dismounted in July. After participating in the Corinth campaign in October, the regiment served in various departments before being assigned to Arkansas Post. The 18th Texas Cavalry had formed in the spring of 1862 with recruits from the vicinities of Dallas, Denton, and Belton. They soon dismounted and transferred to Arkansas, where they served in Deshler’s original

8 *The Galveston News*, Jun. 15, 1861, and Aug. 16, 1893.

9 C. Alwyn Barr, “The Making of a Secessionist: The Antebellum Career of Roger Q. Mills,” *The Southwestern History Quarterly*, no. 79, Oct. 1975, 129-144 (SHQ); Joseph M. Lance, III, *Patrick R. Cleburne and the Tactical Employment of His Division at the Battle of Chickamauga* (Auckland, New Zealand: 2015), 43.

Col. Roger Q. Mills commanded a consolidated regiment in Deshler's brigade. (*Library of Congress*)



brigade before surrendering to Sherman. The 24th and 25th Regiments, formed in April 1862 in Hempstead in southwestern Texas, were also known as the 2nd and 3rd Texas Lancers. Both dismounted regiments surrendered at Arkansas Post. Gillespie, an antebellum Methodist minister, had led the 25th Texas Cavalry since its inception. His counterpart in the 24th Texas, Colonel Wilkes, was also a Methodist preacher, and had once supervised the Waco Female College. Several members of the 24th, including recruiting officer Lt. Frederick W. "Fritz" Neuhaus, were natives of Germany. Neuhaus had graduated from a college along the Rhine River before emigrating in 1852 to Lavaca County, where he was a Texas Ranger and successful cattle rancher.¹⁰

Captain James P. Douglas's Texas battery supported Deshler's brigade at Chickamauga. The command traced its origins to June 1861, when recruits from Dallas County and Smith County each formed a half battery of some 50 men apiece to be attached to the 3rd Texas Cavalry. Known variously as the 1st Texas Battery, the Dallas Light Artillery, and the Good-Douglas Battery, the reorganized command took the name Douglas's Battery in July 1862 after the men elected Lt. James P. Douglas captain. The 27-year-old Tyler newspaperman, a South Carolina native, had raised the original Smith County contingent. His soldiers considered him to be an experienced, levelheaded officer. Although the command originally carried six field pieces, it had only two 6-pounder smoothbores and two

10 John C. Rigdon, *Historical Sketch and Rosters of the Texas 18th Cavalry Regiment* (Cartersville, GA: 2018), 1-10; Lance, *Patrick R. Cleburne*, 43-44; *Hallettsville (TX) Herald*, Oct. 17, 1907; "Wilkes, Franklin Collett," *Handbook of Texas*, Texas State Historical Association, accessed Nov. 3, 2019, www.tshaonline.org/handbook/online/articles/fwi13.

12-pounder howitzers after its reorganization. Captain Douglas nicknamed one of the guns “Sallie” in honor of his girlfriend, Sallie White, back home in Tyler.¹¹

Ector’s Brigade

Ector’s brigade of Walker’s Reserve Corps included the 9th Texas and 10th, 14th, and 32nd Texas Cavalry, all dismounted. The non-Texas units in 41-year-old Brig. Gen. Matthew D. Ector’s 1,200-man brigade were the 29th North Carolina, Maj. Thomas O. Stone’s so-called sharpshooter battalion from Alabama, and Capt. Merriman Pound’s Mississippi sharpshooter battalion. Years later one of the Alabama officers recalled, “When we first joined the brigade the Texans made all manner of sport of us—called us ‘yellow hammers,’ and ‘mud turtles,’ etc., and never let an opportunity pass to tease and worry us—frequently asking if ‘our mothers knew we were out.’” By the fall of 1863, the relationship was changing. “We had been with Ector’s brigade for nearly seven months,” Capt. Samuel H. Sprott said, “and with all their wild reckless ways had become very much attached to both officers and men—especially Gen. Ector and his staff.”¹²

Born in Georgia and educated in Kentucky, Matthew Duncan Ector served the Georgia legislature for a single term before turning to farming. After his wife died in 1848, he traveled to California, but returned to Georgia to settle affairs. He moved to Texas in 1850, practiced law, and edited a newspaper in Henderson. In 1855, his neighbors elected him to the state house of representatives. His second wife died in 1859. When the war erupted, he enlisted in the 3rd Texas Cavalry and later became colonel of the 14th Texas Cavalry. He was promoted to brigadier general in mid-August 1862 and handled his brigade well at the battle of Murfreesboro (known to the Federals as Stones River after the battlefield’s most prominent terrain feature) at the end of the year. “General Ector’s wife is dead and, like most old widowers he is foolishly fond of women,” one of his staff officers,

11 Lewis Newton Fitzhugh, ed., *Cannon Smoke: The Letters of Captain John J. Good, Good-Douglas Texas Battery, CSA* (Hillsboro, TX: 1971); Andrew F. Lang, “Lone Star Pride: The Good-Douglas Texas Battery, CSA, 1861–1865,” *East Texas Historical Journal*, vol. 45, issue 2, article 8, Oct. 2007, 26-32.

12 Billy Kurtz West, Jr., *Ector’s Brigade in the Civil War* (Lubbock, TX: 1987); W. C. Dodson, “Errors Concerning Ector’s Brigade,” *Confederate Veteran*, vol. 13, no. 10, Oct. 1905, 457 (CV); Samuel H. Sprott, *Our Southern Home*, June 8, 1899. Companies A, D, and I of the 40th Alabama made up Stone’s battalion. Like Pound’s battalion, the parent regiments were taken captive when Lt. Gen. John C. Pemberton’s army surrendered at Vicksburg. They were not trained or equipped as sharpshooters, although they took the name.

Brig. Gen. Matthew D. Ector commanded a brigade in the Army of Tennessee.
(*The State Preservation Board, Austin, Texas*)



Capt. William H. Smith, complained upon being invited to a large party a few weeks after Murfreesboro. “He drags me out, very much against my will, to a serenade every few nights.” The forced entertainment notwithstanding, Ector remained popular with his men.¹³

Many veterans in Ector’s 9th Texas had fought at Shiloh, Perryville, and Murfreesboro. In mid-1863, the regiment, under 25-year-old Col. William Hugh Young, participated in Gen. Joseph E. Johnston’s unsuccessful attempt to relieve the beleaguered Confederate garrison at Vicksburg. Young was born in Missouri in 1838. Three years later, his family moved to Texas, where his father became a judge in Grayson County and a general in the state militia. William graduated from the University of Virginia in June 1861, returned home, and volunteered as an aide-de-camp to Governor Clark. After serving as a captain in the 9th Texas, he received an appointment as a colonel in April 1862. One admirer characterized him as “a very gallant and efficient officer.”¹⁴

Ector’s three dismounted cavalry regiments had experienced considerable combat over the past year. The 10th Texas Cavalry was organized in the late summer of 1861 with 900 volunteers from Quitman, Tyler, and several counties in East Texas. In April 1862, the regiment dismounted and served in the Army of the West and then the Department of East Tennessee. After the battle of Richmond,

13 Ezra J. Warner, *Generals in Gray: Lives of the Confederate Commanders* (Baton Rouge, LA: 1959), 133; David V. Stroud, “Odessa History,” accessed Feb. 2, 2020, www.odessahistory.com/ectora1.htm; W. H. Smith to My Dear Cousin, Jan. 26, 1863, Shelbyville, TN, “Civil War Letters of William Harlan Smith,” *East Texas Family Records*, vol. 6, no. 1 (Spring 1982), 4. After transferring from Ector’s staff back to the 7th Texas in Gregg’s brigade, Captain Smith was killed at the battle of Raymond in May 1863.

14 Warner, *Generals in Gray*, 80-81; “Ector’s Brigade in the Chickamauga Campaign,” *The Standard* (Clarksville, TX), Nov. 7, 1863.



Col. Julius A. Andrews commanded the 32nd Texas Cavalry, Dismounted. (*DeGolyer Library, Southern Methodist University, Lawrence T. Jones III, Texas Photographs*)

Kentucky, in August 1862, the 10th Texas joined Ector's brigade. Lingering effects of a wound suffered at Murfreesboro forced Col. Matthew F. Locke, commanding the regiment, to resign in March 1863. Lieutenant Colonel Cullen Redwine Earp, an Alabama native and Mexican War veteran, therefore led the regiment at Chickamauga. Before the Civil War, Earp had farmed a 600-acre estate in Upshur County in East Texas.¹⁵

The 14th Texas Cavalry dated from the fall of 1861, when wealthy Tarrant

County planter Middleton T. Johnson organized a regiment of volunteers from the eastern and northern parts of the state. It first served in Arkansas, losing more than 100 men to illnesses before first experiencing combat. The 14th dismounted in March 1862 at Little Rock and then served as infantry in Mississippi. In May of that year, the unit reorganized with John L. Camp of Gilmer, Texas, as its colonel. Camp, a prosperous cotton planter, was also one of the most successful lawyers in East Texas.¹⁶

The 32nd Texas Cavalry had organized in May 1862 at Corinth, Mississippi, with former members of Maj. Richard P. Crump's early-war cavalry battalion. Many fresh recruits filled out the new regiment. Twenty-four-year-old Julius A. Andrews, a Georgia native who had resettled in Jefferson, Texas, became colonel. One of his men called Andrews "a gallant and chivalric officer," and many regarded

15 Matthew K. Hamilton, "Tenth Texas Cavalry," *Handbook of Texas*, accessed Nov. 24, 2019, www.tshaonline.org/handbook/online/articles/qkt13. For more on Earp and the rediscovery of his long-forgotten grave site, see the *Longview (TX) News-Journal*, Apr. 24, 2008.

16 Tim Bell, "Fourteenth Texas Cavalry," *Handbook of Texas*, accessed Nov. 24, 2019, www.tshaonline.org/handbook/online/articles/qkf14; Thomas W. Cutrer, "Camp, John La Fayette," *Handbook of Texas*, accessed Nov. 24, 2019, www.tshaonline.org/handbook/online/articles/fca29.

Brig. Gen. John Gregg commanded a brigade in the Army of Tennessee at Chickamauga.

(Library of Congress)



him as a “thorough tactician” despite the fact that he was one of the youngest full colonels in the Confederate Army. Several of his soldiers were veterans of the late-1861 fighting at Chustenahlah in the Indian Territory (modern-day Oklahoma) and at Pea Ridge, Arkansas, in March 1862. He efficiently led the 32nd in the fights at Murfreesboro and Jackson.¹⁷

Gregg’s Brigade

At Chickamauga, the 7th Texas was one of the regiments in Gregg’s brigade, as were the 3rd, 10th, 30th, 41st, and 50th Tennessee Infantry; the 1st Tennessee Battalion; and Bledsoe’s 1st Missouri Battery. After a long, tiring train ride from east-central Mississippi, the soldiers arrived in northern Georgia the day before the battle. Their commander, Brig. Gen. John Gregg, had been a mathematics professor and lawyer in Alabama before moving to Fairfield in Freestone County, Texas, in 1852. He was a district judge and newspaper editor before serving as a delegate to the state’s secession convention in Austin in January 1861. A month later, he represented his district in the Provisional Confederate Congress. He returned to Fairfield and organized the 7th Texas, serving as its first colonel. After surrendering at Fort Donelson in February 1862, he spent six months incarcerated in gloomy, dank Fort Warren in Boston Harbor. After being exchanged, he received a promotion to brigadier general and command of a 3,000-man brigade in the Army of Mississippi. One of his soldiers deemed him a “magnificent soldier and a splendid man, whom we all loved dearly.” Another characterized him as “a

¹⁷ Tim Bell, “Thirty-Second Texas Cavalry,” *Handbook of Texas*, accessed Nov. 24, 2019, www.tshaonline.org/handbook/online/articles/qkt32; “Ector’s Brigade,” *The Standard*.

grand scholar, able lawyer, brave and skillful soldier, and a simple-mannered gentleman.”¹⁸

After the fall of Fort Donelson, the Federals sent most of the men of the 7th Texas to prison camps in the North until their exchange in September, and Colonel Hiram Bronson Granbury took command of the 7th Texas after Gregg’s promotion to brigadier general. Born in Mississippi in 1831 to a Baptist preacher and his wife, Granbury moved to Waco, Texas, in the early 1850s. After studying law at Baylor, he became an attorney and district judge in McLennan County. He married an Alabama woman and settled in Fairfield, where he was a judge and newspaper editor. He organized an infantry company at the start of the war and later became major of the 7th Texas. Granbury surrendered at Fort Donelson and was exchanged in October. In March 1863, his 25-year-old wife, Fannie, died at age 25 in Mobile, Alabama, of ovarian cancer. Granbury, unable to afford a headstone, buried her in an unmarked grave in Magnolia Cemetery.¹⁹

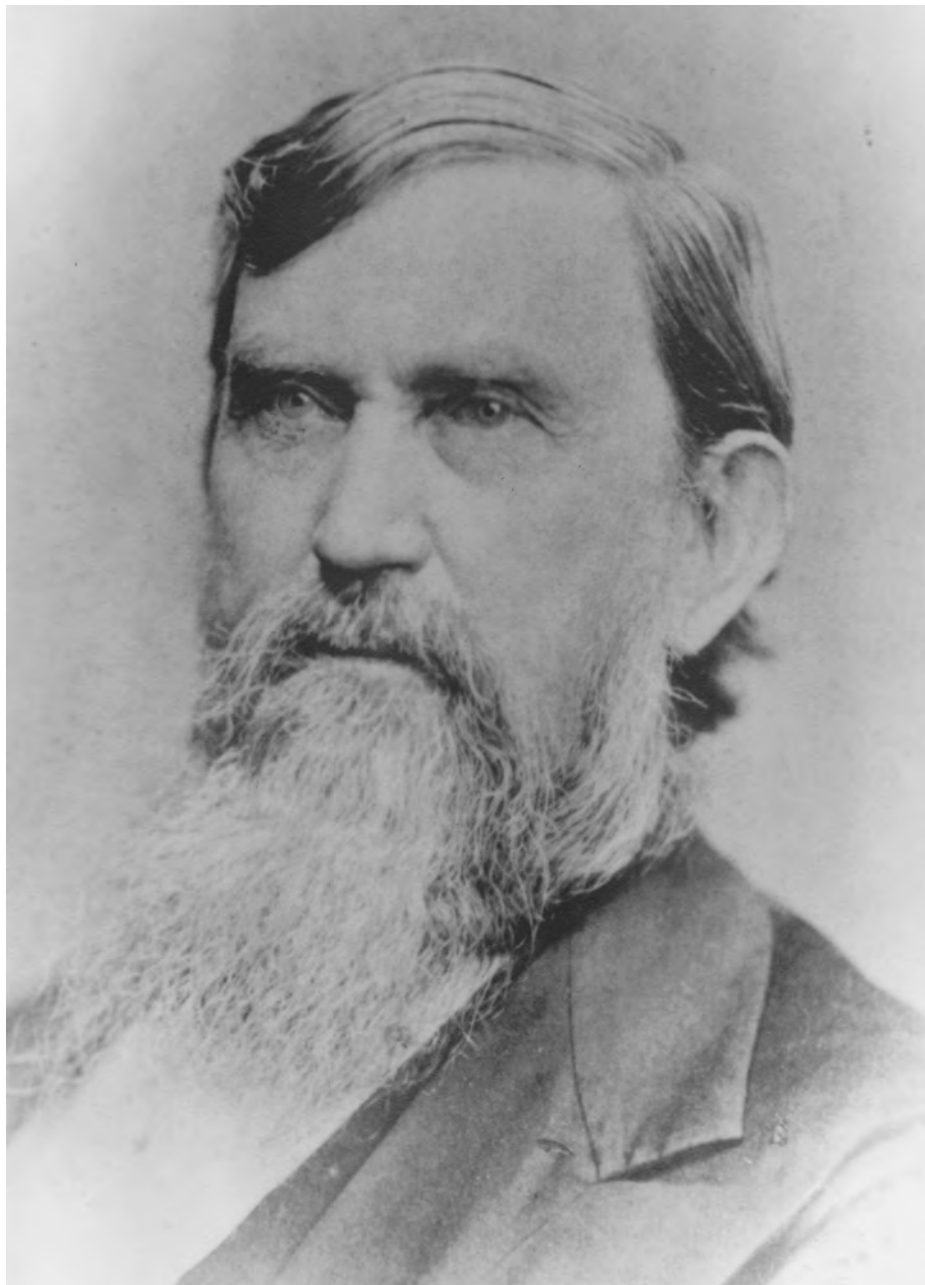
Military officials had reconstituted Granbury’s 7th Texas with scores of fresh recruits in early 1863. The Texans, as part of Maj. Gen. William H. T. Walker’s division of the Army of Mississippi, then fought well at Raymond and Jackson, Mississippi, in May. But at Raymond, Granbury lost half of his 300 men, including his lieutenant colonel and several experienced officers. To refill the depleted ranks, Confederate officials added more recruits, as well as returning convalescents, to the regiment.

Robertson’s Brigade

The 1st, 4th, and 5th Texas and 3rd Arkansas Infantry, detached to Tennessee from Gen. Robert E. Lee’s Army of Northern Virginia in early September 1863, made up Brig. Gen. Jerome B. Robertson’s famed 1,300-man Texas Brigade. Sergeant David H. Hamilton of the 1st Texas bragged that the brigade was “a great fighting machine, always ready and willing to fight, from the day it was organized until the day when the ragged half-starved remnant of a few hundred men surrendered at Appomattox.” Many observers agreed; Hood’s Texans (named for the previous commander, John Bell Hood) had deservedly gained widespread renown. Most of the men were veterans of Gettysburg, the Civil War’s bloodiest

18 Eicher and Eicher, *Civil War High Commands*, 267; John Berrien Lindsley, *The Military Annals of Tennessee. Confederate. First Series*. (Nashville, TN: 1886), 285; S. A. Jonas, “As to Gen. Gregg,” *National Tribune*, Jun. 30, 1892.

19 Warner, *Generals in Gray*, 114, 118-119.



Brig. Gen. Jerome B. Robertson commanded a brigade of Texans and Arkansans temporarily transferred from the Army of Northern Virginia to the Army of Tennessee.

(Texas Baptist Museum, Independence, Texas)

battle. The bulk of the brigade arrived in northern Georgia via rail from Virginia the day before the battle of Chickamauga began.²⁰

Jerome Bonaparte Robertson had volunteered for military service during the Texas Revolution in 1836, but arrived in the Lone Star State too late to see combat. He briefly returned home to Woodford County, Kentucky, where he married. He and his in-laws settled in Texas in 1837, where he gained a reputation as an adept physician and occasional Indian fighter. A long-time politician, he served in the state legislature and at the 1861 secession convention. When war erupted, he raised a company in what became the 5th Texas. He progressed through the ranks, culminating in November 1862 with a promotion to brigadier general in charge of the Texas Brigade. The 48-year-old replaced the popular John Bell Hood when Hood ascended to divisional command. Robertson's men affectionately nicknamed him "Aunt Polly" for his concern for their welfare.²¹

The 1st Texas (popularly known as the "Ragged Old First") contained companies from 12 different counties. It had suffered staggering losses at Sharpsburg (Antietam) and Gettysburg, but it was still a capable, veteran fighting force. Shortly before Chickamauga, its commander, Lt. Col. Philip A. Work, departed because of illness, and Capt. Richard J. Harding replaced him. Harding, a Richmond native, had attended the Virginia Military Institute for three years. While still a cadet, he witnessed the hanging of abolitionist John Brown, who had led the failed raid at Harpers Ferry in October 1859. Chickamauga was Harding's first battle in command of a regiment.²²

The 4th Texas also marched to Chickamauga under a new leader, Lt. Col. John P. Bane. Like Harding, the 27-year-old Bane was a Virginian by birth. He had moved to Texas in 1860, and when the war began, he formed a company of volunteers as its captain. Rising to the rank of major, he took temporary command of the 4th Texas after Col. John C. G. Key and Lt. Col. Benjamin F. Carter suffered wounds at Gettysburg. Colonel Key briefly returned to duty after a short recovery

20 D. H. Hamilton and W. H. Morrison, eds., *History of Company M, First Texas Volunteer Infantry, Hood's Brigade* (Waco, TX: 1962), 31. For primary accounts of Hood's men at Gettysburg, see Joseph L. Owen and Randy S. Drais, *Texans at Gettysburg: Blood and Glory with Hood's Texas Brigade* (Stroud, UK: 2016).

21 "Robertson, Jerome Bonaparte," *Handbook of Texas*, accessed Nov. 1, 2019, www.tshaonline.org/handbook/online/articles/fro28.

22 *Clarion-Ledger* (Jackson, MS), Feb. 13, 1903. In his official report, Robertson credited Capt. David K. Rice as the initial commander at Chickamauga. After the war, Harding claimed he was in charge the entire time.

but still was unwell. Bane was promoted to lieutenant colonel and assumed command of the regiment. His ranks included Cpl. Robert H. Clements, a veteran of the navy of the former Republic of Texas.²³

The soldiers of the 4th Texas came from a diverse mix of counties when the regiment formed in April 1861. After the forced resignation of its unpopular original colonel, John Bell Hood assumed command. Hood, a Kentuckian, served in Texas with the U.S. Army before the war. The 1853 West Point graduate was wounded while fighting Comanches in 1857. He enlisted in the Confederate army in April 1861 as a Texan because of Kentucky's official neutrality. Hood initially commanded cavalry before being named colonel of the 4th Texas in September. In February 1862, he took command of the newly formed Texas Brigade.²⁴

The 5th Texas, the third of Robertson's Lone Star regiments, was recruited in October 1861 in 11 counties throughout the state. The original recruits included Pvt. Sion Record Bostick, one of three scouts who had captured Santa Anna after the battle of San Jacinto in April 1836. He was no longer in the ranks of the "Bloody Fifth" by Chickamauga, having received his discharge after Sharpsburg. Privates Albert and William Cooper also had ties to the Texas Revolution. Their father had survived the Goliad Massacre, in which Santa Anna's soldiers executed most of Col. James Fannin's unarmed Texian prisoners. Thirty-nine-year-old Maj. Jefferson C. Rogers, a Mexican War veteran originally from Tennessee, led the regiment. In 1852, he moved to Milam County, Texas, where he was the sheriff for several years. He followed that with stints as a district clerk and a Texas Ranger.²⁵

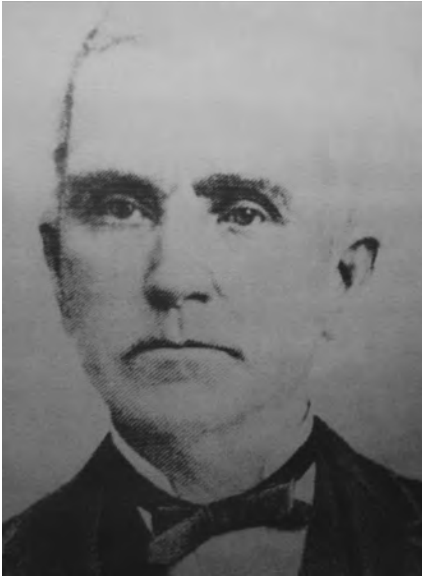
Harrison's Cavalry Brigade

Joseph "Fighting Joe" Wheeler's cavalry corps included the 8th and 11th Texas Cavalry Regiments in the 2nd Brigade of Brig. Gen. John A. Wharton's division. The Tennessee-born Wharton had been a wealthy attorney and plantation owner in

23 "Bane, John Pierson," *Handbook of Texas*, accessed Nov. 1, 2019, www.tshaonline.org/handbook/online/articles/fba54: "The Old Tom Green Rifles," *Austin American-Statesman*, Jun. 6, 1897. For an excellent early, first-person history of the 4th Texas, written by its chaplain, see Rev. Nicholas A. Davis, *The Campaign from Texas to Maryland, with the Battle of Fredericksburg* (Richmond, VA: 1862).

24 For a detailed account of Hood's life, see Stephen M. Hood, *John Bell Hood: The Rise, Fall, and Resurrection of a Confederate General* (El Dorado Hills, CA: 2013).

25 Bill Stein, "Consider the Lily: The Ungilded History of Colorado County, Texas," *Nesbitt Memorial Library Journal*, vol. 7, no. 2, May 1997, 79; "Rogers, Jefferson Carroll," *Handbook of Texas*, accessed Nov. 1, 2019, www.tshaonline.org/handbook/online/articles/froao.



Col. Thomas Harrison commanded a cavalry brigade in Wharton's division. (*Library of Congress*)

Brazoria County, Texas, before the war. In 1861 he enlisted in the 8th Texas Cavalry as the captain of Company B. Colonel Benjamin F. Terry, a prosperous sugar planter and veteran of the battle of Manassas, Virginia, had organized the regiment in August 1861. He suffered a mortal wound in December 1861 in an engagement in Kentucky, but his men retained the name "Terry's Texas Rangers." Wharton succeeded Terry in command and led the 8th Texas until he

was promoted to brigadier general. He commanded a division under Wheeler at Chickamauga. Colonel Thomas Harrison, a former Waco attorney, now led what had previously been Wharton's brigade. In turn, Lt. Col. Gustave Cook oversaw the 8th Texas Cavalry. The Alabama-born Cook was a prewar attorney and judge in Fort Bend County. He had enlisted as a private in the Rangers; now, he was its senior field officer.²⁶

Mexican War veteran and former U.S. marshal William C. Young organized the 11th Texas Cavalry in early October 1861 with men from the former 3rd Texas Cavalry and fresh recruits from several counties in North Texas. Their unorthodox training regimen included frequent marksmanship contests, horse riding competitions, and other frontier exercises, all liberally spiced with whiskey, women, and music. The regiment, sent to the Indian Territory, fought at Chustenahlah on December 26, 1861, and was at the battle of Pea Ridge the following March. The regiment was reorganized in May 1862 after the conscription act brought in fresh manpower. After fighting dismounted in several battles, including Murfreesboro, the regiment remounted and transferred to the cavalry corps in January 1863. The 11th's commander at Chickamauga was Col. George R.

26 Warner, *Generals in Gray*, 331-332; Bryan S. Bush, *Terry's Texas Rangers: History of the 8th Texas Cavalry* (Nashville, TN: 2002), 2-10; William Wharton Groce, "Major General John A. Wharton," *SHQ*, vol. 19, no. 3, Jan. 1916, 271-278.

Lt. Col. Gustave Cook commanded the 8th Texas Cavalry (Terry's Texas Rangers) at Chickamauga.
(*The State Preservation Board, Austin, Texas*)



Reeves, a wealthy landowner and former sheriff of Grayson County. At the start of the war, he had donated the land for Camp Reeves, the regiment's original training site.²⁷

In addition to the designated Texas troops, scores of individual Texans served at Chickamauga in various regiments or batteries credited to other states. Marshall resident Dr. Nathaniel A. Morgan, for example, served in the 1st Georgia Volunteers because the Texas regiments had filled their quota of surgeons. Some recruits, like Pvt. Samuel Houston Hargis, were working or living outside the Lone Star State at the time of their enlistment. Born in 1842 in Nacogdoches County, Hargis enrolled in the 2nd Arkansas Mounted Rifles at Bentonville in July 1861. Other men traveled back to their birth states to sign up with family members and old friends. Douglas J. Cater, an Alabama-born violinist and pianist living in Rusk County, Texas, enlisted as a bugler in the 3rd Texas Cavalry at Dallas in 1861. He transferred to the 19th Louisiana on June 29, 1862, to be with two of his brothers. He was the 19th's chief musician at Chickamauga, where his sibling Lt. Rufus Cater was killed.²⁸

A few soldiers with Texas ties enlisted because of the promise of bounty money or other inducements. Many left their wives and children, or elderly parents, to fend for themselves on the home front. The longer the war dragged on, the more these men missed their loved ones. Chickamauga offered a rare chance for a significant victory in the Western Theater, one that might bring the soldiers a step

27 Tim Bell, "Eleventh Texas Cavalry," *Handbook of Texas*, accessed Nov. 25, 2019, www.tshaonline.org/handbook/online/articles/qke11; *The War of the Rebellion: A Compilation of the Official Records of the Union and Confederate Armies*, 128 vols. (Washington, DC: 1880-1901), Series 1, vol. 4, page 95 (Hereafter cited as OR. All references are to Series 1 unless otherwise noted.); *Dallas Herald*, Sept. 25, 1861.

28 Samuel H. Hargis, *Anecdotes and Incidents of the Civil War* (Ardmore, Indian Territory: self-published, 1894), 1-123; Compiled Service Records (CSR) of D. J. Cater, National Archives and Records Administration (NARA) Record Group 109, M320 (Louisiana, roll 0302) and M323 (Texas, roll 0018); Charles David Grear, *Why Texans Fought in the Civil War* (College Station, TX: 2012), 52-53. Two other brothers died of disease; D. J. Cater survived the war.

closer to returning home. That prospect provided enough motivation for them to fight hard enough to whip the Yankees once and for all. “Statistics show that the Lone Star State, though sparsely settled during the War between the States, contributed between fifty and sixty thousand men for military service to the Confederacy,” a Texas newspaperman noted, “and we all know that Texas soldiers fought on battlefields from Missouri to Kentucky to the Gulf of Mexico and from Pennsylvania to the Rio Grande.” Now, many of them headed toward Chickamauga.²⁹

²⁹ *Marshall (TX) News Messenger*, Mar. 9, 1923. According to Stephen B. Oates in “Texas Under the Secessionists” (*SHQ*, vol. 67, no. 2, Oct. 1963, 187), Texas raised 58,000 cavalymen and 30,000 infantry and artillerymen for Confederate service. Conversely, more than 2,100 Texans joined the Union Army.