

Texas Brigade captured by 9th Penn.
Reserve, Sept. 17, 1862.

11-June-1914

From: The Adjutant General,

To: Mr. John T. Callaghan, Washington, D.C.

Subject: Historical data with reference flag 17th & 17th Cavalry

1. Receipt of your letter of the 8th inst with copies of letters from Messrs. McClure, Hopkins, Laforge & Clark is acknowledged, and same have been transmitted to Honorable E. W. Winkler, State Librarian for filing with the flag.

2. I thank you for this interesting correspondence.

Henry H. H. H.

Correspondence

concerning flag

17th or 18th Car. C. S. A.

STATE OF TEXAS
ADJUTANT GENERAL'S DEPARTMENT
AUSTIN

11-June-1914

From: The Adjutant General.

To: State Librarian, Capitol.

Subject. Correspondence with reference to Flag 17th & 18th Cav.

1. I enclose correspondence in reference to above subject for filing with the flag.

Henry F. Fulbright

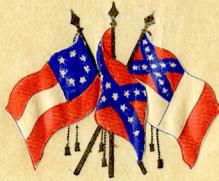
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Confederate Veterans' Association

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA



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Camp No. 171, U. C. V., Harry Heth Camp No. 119, Grand Camp, Virginia

1322 Vermont Avenue, Northwest

LOVICK PIERCE
 ADJUTANT

Washington, D. C., June 8th 1914

Adjutant General Hutchings,
 Austin Texas,

Dear General:

In connection with previous correspondence with regard to the loss of the flag of the 17th & 18th Tex Cav. Rgt (reconsolidated and dismounted), which was forwarded to your office recently through the courtesy of Mrs. Laura Clark, widow of Genl. Wm. P. Clark, you will please find herewith inclosed some additional copies of papers on the matter, which will prove of much historic interest and value.

1. - A letter from Joseph McCleure, of Ft. Worth, Tex., who served in Co. A, 17th & 18th Tex Rgt, who held the colors at the time when he was shot down and taken from him by the Sgt. Maj. (Andrew La Forge) of the 15th Mich. Infy. Rgt.

2. - An account of the struggle by La Forge, who was in the front line at time of the charge on and over the earthworks.

3. - A letter from late Genl. Wm. P. Clark as to how he came by the flag, and thanking and complimenting Lt. Col. F. S. Hutchinson of the 15th Mich. Infy. Rgt. for presenting him with the flag, and at the same time complimenting the Rgt. for the gallantry of the men.

4. - An interesting letter from Capt. R. H. Hopkins of Co. G, 17th & 18th Tex. Rgt, written from Denton, Texas, fourteen years ago, to La Forge, when he learned from a friend (McCleure) that La Forge was the party who first got possession of the colors.

All these all grew out of the publicity that your office gave to the episode, all of which may prove of historic value to those who care to read its pages when we have passed away.

Yours, very truly and respectfully
 John T. Callaghan
 The Columbian

*Joseph McClure the flag
which he held
when taken by 18th Texas Cavalry*

(Copy)

Fort Worth, Texas.

Apr. 30, 1914.

Mr. John T. Callaghan,
Washington, D. C.

Dear Comrad:

I am glad to meet you. I as a comrad, C. S. A. of Company A. 18th Texas cavlry have bin trying to get holt of the Redemental flag of the 17th and 18th Texas that fel with me at Atlantta Ga. July 21 and 22, 1864 near wher Gen. Mcferson was killed. I suppose this flag was latly given to you by Mrs. Laura Clark wide of Gen. W. T. Clark of Mcferson's staff. I wish to here from you at once all you can tell of this flag and when I can find it and the wherbouts of Mrs. Clark as I want to compliment her for her kindness. I at times have carried this flag and fell with it, and if you read the National Tribune of Washington you saw some time back my leter to the National Tribune of how an Illinois boy drifted to the Confederate army and wil you please call on Mr. Lawrence Wilson, M. D., Division bureau of Pensions at Washington, and he is a friend of mine and can tel you of wher he has met my flag with Pat Cleburne.

Yours truly, answer at once,

(signed) Joseph McClure
Box 270 Fort Worth, Texas.

*E. H. Hopkins
of Denton, Tex. 1864
who served in 1864
as Comdr of Co. G.
writing to LaForge*

(Copy)

Office of
R. H. Hopkins,
Justice of the Peace,
Precint No. 1.

Denton, Texas,
August 2, 1900.

Andrew LaForge, Esq.,
Elk Rapids, Mich.

My dear Sir:

It was my fortune or misfortune to command Co. G-17 & 18 Texas dismounted cavalry during the war between the States on the 22d day of July, 1864, near Atlanta, Ga. The greater part of our Regiment surrendered, I suppose, to the 15th Michigan. About the time of the surrender and before I was aware of a surrender a Federal Soldier jumped upon the breastworks and seized our flag. Our ensign refused to give it up and a scuffle ensued between said Federal and our Ensign. Seeing that the Federal was about to get the best of our Ensign, I ran to his assistance and took hold of the Flag staff, calling to the ensign not to give up the Flag, when the soldier in blue remarked to me that "You have surrendered." Looking around and up our line, I saw that our men had thrown down their arms to my astonishment.

I am informed by Geo. W. McBride of Grand Rapids, Mich., that you are the man that captured our flag, and participated in the scuffle referred to. If you will please so inform me and tell me where the flag is at this time, and whether or not you would assist me in having the flag returned, and any other incidents of the battle and the surrender of our Command. Our survivors meet in reunion on the 14th instant at Lancaster, Texas, and would, if possible, be glad to hear from you before that time in order that I can show your letter to the few remaining members of that Regiment that will be at the reunion.

With respect and esteem,
Am your Obedient Servant,

R. H. Hopkins.

*How Sgt Maj La Forge
got possession of the
flag*

(Copy)

M. B. Land, President,
Harry Hirshberg, V. Pres. C. D. Towne, V. Pres.
Charles B. Carver, Cashier.

ELK RAPIDS STATE BANK.

Elk Rapids, Mich.

May 25, 1914.

Mr. John T. Callaghan,
Washington, D. C.

Dear Sir:

Yours of the 16th received, and it was indeed a surprise and pleasure to hear from you. I had no idea that my name was mentioned in the matter of the capture of the flag which was given to the Regiment as a body. Of course I got the flag being the first man in the column as I was Sergeant Major at the time as the regiment was marching left in front. Our regiment was on the left of the Brigade and that position brought me the "first man on the job."

As we halted I looked up and saw what I supposed was a signal of surrender and supposed it was a picket post wanting to surrender. I called the attention of the Colonel to this signal and asked if I might go and bring it in. He said "Do not go up there as you might get hurt" as both sides were shooting over the top of the breast-works. The Colonel left me to see to the formation of the regiment and, while he did so, I started up the hill to secure my prisoners whom I supposed wanted to surrender.

Imagine my surprise when I found the supposed signal of surrender to be a regimental flag! With a revolver in my hand, I jumped upon the breastworks and demanded the surrender of the flag, at the same time reaching for the top of the flag staff. In the meantime, our regiment came to the rescue and we captured the flag and took a number of prisoners ----- . We also captured at the same time the flag of the Fifth Confederate Regiment, Major Pearson commanding the regiment. If Major Pearson is still living, I should like to hear from him.

The flag of the 17th and 18th Texas was given to General Clarke by the Colonel of our Regiment, Col. Hutchinson acknowledging the receipt of this flag. The other flag was sent to Michigan to be kept in the archives of the State at the state capitol in Lansing, where it still is.

I also enclose a letter which I received from R. H. Hopkins of Denton, Texas, who was commanding Co. G. of the 17th and 18th Texas, and who participated in the events of that day as his letter will show. I wish you would return this letter to me as I prize it very highly.

Tell Comrade McClure I should be glad to hear from him.
I do not expect to attend the reunion at Deproit as I am
in feeble health, and am not able to leave home.

Shall be glad to hear from you again at any time.

Sincerely yours,

(signed) Andrew LaForge.

*How like
General Clark
came to get the
flag*

C O P Y

HEADQUARTERS DEPT. AND ARMY OF THE TENNESSEE,
BEFORE ATLANTA, GEORGIA, Aug. 6, 1864.

Lieut. Col. F. S. Hutchinson, Commanding 15th Regiment
Michigan Veteran Volunteers.

Colonel:

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of the rebel flag captured by your gallant command from the 17th and 18th Texas in the battle of the 22nd of July. Words fail me to express my appreciation of the delicate compliment thus paid me, as you well say "the best that can be devised by soldiers in the field." I know the 15th Michigan and am proud to testify to their brilliant record. I knew them on the bloody field of Shiloh, where they first met the enemy. I was with them at Corinth, when they held at bay the advance of Van Dorn till the commanding General could make such disposition of his troops as resulted in the decisive victory of October 4th, 1864; and during the present campaign, so glorious to the Army of the Tennessee, the 15th Michigan has been in the thickest of the fight, winning for themselves a place among the first of the veteran heroes of the war. I have watched your career with a personal interest, and shall ever feel a pride in being identified with a command made up of such regiments - an honor to their State and country. History will give you an honored place in the records of this war, a war distinguished beyond any other, in any age, for bloody conflicts and deeds of valor.

With assurance of high esteem, I have the honor to be

Very respectfully your obedient servant

(signed) Wm. T. Clark

Lieut. Col. and A. A. General.

B&H: FLAG, CONFEDERATE FOR 17th AND 18th CAV.