Robert Hodges, Jr.: Confederate Soldier

Maury Darst
ROBERT HODGES, JR.: CONFEDERATE SOLDIER
BY MAURY DARST

Robert Hodges, Jr., was so inspired by the plight of the Confederacy that he joined three separate military outfits, all mustered in Texas. During the four years of the Civil War he offered his services as a volunteer in John Salmon (Rip) Ford's expedition to Brazos Santiago, as third sergeant in the Eighth Texas Cavalry and as a second lieutenant in the Twenty-fourth Texas Cavalry Regiment.

A native Texan, Hodges was born on Galveston Island on May 13, 1836, while his parents sought refuge there during the events surrounding the Texas Revolution. His father, also named Robert Hodges, was born in South Carolina and later moved to Louisiana; and his mother was born at Bayou Sara, Louisiana. His parents came to Texas in 1829, first settling at Velasco on the Texas coast. On July 17, 1831, his father received a land grant in Brazoria County, Texas, and located his family there not far from the community of Damon.

Hodges' life as a Confederate soldier is unique. Although he served only three months in the Ford expedition, three months in the Eighth Texas Cavalry, also known as Terry's Texas Rangers, he had to wait until service with the Twenty-fourth Texas before tasting the fruits of battle. It was in the latter outfit the young Texan was taken prisoner at Arkansas Post.

When his outfit was captured, Hodges and other members of the Twenty-fourth were sent to Camp Chase, Ohio, where they remained until exchanged in April, 1863. After exchange, the Twenty-fourth was consolidated with similar remnants of the Seventeenth, Eighteenth and Twenty-fifth Regiments. This consolidation was broken up in March, 1864, when these parts of the Twenty-fourth and Twenty-fifth were united to form one field organization. As a member of the consolidated unit, Hodges was wounded near Atlanta, Georgia, July 22, 1864, but recovered sufficiently enough to remain with the group until its capture in April, 1865, near Greensboro, North Carolina.

His eagerness to wear Confederate gray came early in 1861, shortly before General David E. Twiggs surrendered the United States military posts in Texas. In mid-February, 1861, the Committee of Public Safety of Texas requested a military expedition be sent to Brownsville on the Rio Grande to receive the surrender of Major F.J. Porter. When three chartered vessels left Galveston on February 19 for Brazos Santiago, an island at the mouth of the Rio Grande, Hodges was among some 500 hurriedly mustered volunteers who made the expedition with Ford and Lieutenant Colonel Hugh McLeod. Two days later the vessels arrived; Brazos Santiago was secured for Texas and the way paved for eventual United States abandonment of Rio Grande military posts.

Following the expedition of the Rio Grande, Hodges returned to Fort Bend County where in September he joined fellow neighbors for the forty-mile trek to Houston to join the Eighth Texas Cavalry. On September 7, 1861, he was sworn into the ranks as third sergeant in Captain John T. Holt's Company H. From the Bayou City, the Texans marched, traveled by rail, cart and riverboat to New Orleans. There, the group journeyed by cattle car to Bowling Green, Kentucky, arriving October 3, 1861.
As a member of Terry's outfit, however, Hodges failed to see any real battle action. Shortly after his arrival in Kentucky, he was taken ill and sent to Nashville, Tennessee, to recuperate, spending most of his time at the home of a private physician. He was inactive from military duty for three months. On January 7, 1862, he received a discharge for having partial paralysis resulting from a "deep seated abscess" and found "unfit for further military service."

Returning to Texas following his discharge, Hodges enlisted in the Twenty-fourth Texas Cavalry Regiment in March, 1862. As a second lieutenant he remained with this outfit for the duration of the war. He was in North Carolina when the Twenty-fourth surrendered to United States General William T. Sherman on April 28, 1865.

After being paroled, Hodges returned to Fort Bend County where he was listed
in the 1870 census as a "stockraiser." In 1882 he resided at Bellville in Central Texas where he was employed as a carpenter, but by 1890 was again in Richmond, Fort Bend County, Texas. On August 17, 1899, he applied for a pension under an act passed by the Twenty-sixth Texas Legislature, stating he was unable to earn support by his own labor due to a disability caused by... "exposure and hardships during the war and since." The examining physician, Dr. A.A. Bailey described the veteran's disability as "organic heart disease." His pension was approved.

In early 1905, while residing with his sister, Susan, Robert Hodges, Jr., at the age of 67, dropped dead of an apparent heart attack. He was buried in an unmarked grave in the Snake Creek Cemetery near the present town of Needville, Fort Bend County, Texas.

During his four years in Confederate uniform, Hodges wanted to let certain members of his family know of his military experiences, the latest battle gossip, plus information on other boys from Fort Bend County serving in the same outfits. To do this, he wrote at least twenty-one letters from various camp sites in Texas, Arkansas, Georgia, Tennessee, and North Carolina. Of them, three are completely illegible. Attempts to authenticate locations, dates or other pertinent material on the badly faded letters were unsuccessful. Therefore, Hodges' letter describing his capture at Arkansas Post in January, 1863, and subsequent confinement at Camp Chase, Ohio, the Chattanooga and Chickamauga campaigns of late 1863, and suffering a wound at the Battle of Atlanta in 1864, are missing. Perhaps they are among the three that are unreadable, or they were lost during the 103 years they remained in possession of the family descendants.

The letters are interesting in that they present the feelings of a twenty-five year old man in the service of a Rebel nation. The fact he often expressed the desire to receive a letter from home - apparently woefully lacking - and that his correspondence mentions many persons, some of them difficult to identify, and in some instances, impossible, shows he had a true sense reporting the important facts home. Here, then, is the Confederate service as seen by Robert Hodges, volunteer, Eighth Texas Cavalryman and Twenty-fourth Texas Cavalryman Regiment lieutenant.

Brazos Santiago, Feb. 22 [1861]

Mr. Robert Hodges Sr.

My Dear Father,

I suppose Edd told how and when we left Richmond [Texas]. We arrived in Galveston the following morning. There we were furnished with the minnie rifles, left our shotguns and took passage on the "General Rusk" for this place [Brazos Santiago]. We arrived here yesterday morning [at] 10 o'clock, secured the fort and several field pieces. There was no resistance made. We were paraded in front of the fort, fired thirty-two guns, then the Stars and Stripes were lowered. Now the Lone Star flag flutters in the breeze. We do not know when we will leave this place. We anticipate a little fight at Brownsville. Some of the boys are keen for a fight. There is [are] about five hundred and fifty of us. Six companies, we all came over together, and some of the boys got pretty sick.

*The letters are printed as Hodges wrote them. The editor has added words in brackets for better understanding.
Since I got straight I do not regret it. We are acting in a good course. If I fall, my life is not worth much no how. We have the place of honor in the army. We have been praised all the way through as being the most orderly of the men in the company. We are called the shirt tail boys. As I have to go on guard, give my love to all the family and to enquiring friends and remember me as your affectionate son,

Robert Hodges

Bowling Green, Ky., Oct. 27, 1861

Mr. Jackson Stubbs.

Dear Jack,

I acknowledge that I have treated you rather shabily in writing to you, but I hope you will forgive me. You have heard from us occasionally I reckon as I and the rest of the boys have written pretty often to friends at home. But Jack you can't complain of me too much for not writing, as I have been treated badly myself in that respect. I have not received a letter from home or anywhere since I left, but I hope to receive a letter from home some of these days from some of my friends at home, nothing would afford me more pleasure than to hear from home at this time or anytime.

Jack, I can't begin to tell you all my ups and downs since I left home. We had some pretty rough times but none I reckon to compare with the time to come. We are here in Old Kentuck [Kentucky] and we are likely to remain here for some time to come. This if something don't turn up I don't know nothing about. We have been here just two weeks and no fight, yet. But we are not far from the camps of some of old Abe's followers. We are within about 40 miles of a large force of the enemy. We are about twenty thousand strong at this place, besides a large force near the Green River. If we do get into a fight it will be one of the old fights. Are boys are anxious for a fight. I myself am tired of lazing in camps and doing nothing and wouldn't mind a little brush with the Yanks, just for a chance if nothing else. Jack, I tell you what's a fact. This soldiring is a poor business. I don't think I ever would like it if I had to do as I have done heretofore, lay in camp. I have been on all the expeditions with the boys from our part of the country and have never been in a fight yet, but maybe it is well as it is, perhaps I would have been shot, but if it is to be my fate it matters little when or how soon it comes I reckon.

Jack, this is awful mean country. Nothing enticing that I have seen in it. Nothing but rocky hills covered with black jack hickory and post oak and occasionally a walnut, but I forgot there is plenty of apples you can get as many as you want at fifty cents per bushel. Everything else is very high. We have just half enough horses to mount the regiment. The first five-hundred of us that arrived have horses. We have some fine horses and some shabby ones. I drew a very nice horse and some boots. I wish, Jack, that you would tell Sam that Dan Davis traded me a beef and that I wish him to sell it for me. I will want a little cash when I get home, if I should be fortunate enough to get home. I am sorta like Chuck. He says if he ever gets home he intends to hang to his mammy's coattail, for awhile. Chuck has been sick nearly
ever since we left New Orleans. Sam Moore is sick in the hospital in Nashville. Chuck is going to see him tomorrow. Several in our company are there also. John Miller is pretty sick. He has the measles. There have been several cases in the camps. I am afraid that it will be a bind for poor John to make the trip as he has been in very bad health ever since he left home.

Jack, my paper is out and I must close. Give my love to Mary and respects to enquiring friends. Remember me as ever,

Your Friend,
Robert Hodges

Nashville, Tenn., Dec. 3, 1861

S. N. Hodges.

My Dear Brother Sam.

Just imagine a beautiful white house situated on the top of a hill, about ten steps to the right or in front of this house is another nice little house twenty by twenty feet square beautifully finished both inside and out, nicely papered walls inside and a nice carpet on the floor. Peep in Sam and you will see a young fellow rather shabbily dressed. Look close and you may see a hole in the knee of his pants and there is another hole in them but you couldn't see it unless he'd get up, but I am sorter like the gal that fell out of the basket, I am not goin to get up just yet, but Sam, come in and lets have a little chat its me that has the hole in the breeches. Sam I have been here about three weeks, I have written to Jane twice since I came here and I suppose that you will learn from those letters before you receive this where I am and what brought me here, but in case of accident I will say that some three weeks ago I took the measles and was sent back to Nashville with fifteen others of our company to a hospital. I stayed there four or five days, the sickest boy o lordy! as fast as the patients would get able to bear moving they would be taken to private houses in town or be taken into the country. Dr. Blackman came to me and asked me if I would like to go into the country he said he had fixed up a kind of country hospital. I told him anything to get away from that nasty place he brought Sam Jones and myself out together on the cars, we went to his hospital as he called it. The neighbors sent beds, bedding & c and the ladies of the neighborhood superintending. But I, Sam, while writing just this minute, I heard a knock at my door, I did not know who it was or who could be there. It [there] has been no one at home all day I said, come in. It was Mrs. Blackman. She said, Mr. Hodges are you not in need of some flannels? I told her that I certainly did need some but could make out until I could get to camp, but says she, 'you need them and here they are. I have been to town a [I] got them for you and you have got to take them, two pr. socks, two pr. drawers and two under shirts, all of the very best quality,' and as she went out said 'I got some bakers bread to make poultices for your shoulder', just so, I am treated just as if I was a brother. Sam how am I to repay this kindness? and now Sam since I wrote the above line Mrs. Blackman came in with a pair of nice wool socks sent me by an old lady nearly a hundred years old. Truly I am having a time of it this evening aint I? But I will now go back to where I left off. I improved for two or three days after I came into the country, I then took cold and it settled in the right side of my neck from that it worked down into my shoulder and threw me into
... a fever, the Doctor then moved Sam and I over to his house. (Sam left yesterday for camp). My shoulder kept getting worse, turned to a rising of the most painful character. The Doctor tried to scatter it but no go. He gave it a cutting this morning but didn't get to the good [core]. It is on my right shoulder consequently you must excuse bad writing. It is very painful to write stable but I have neglected you so long that I thought I'd first scribble you a few lines this evening to let you know that I had not quite forgotten you. Sam you cannot wait for me to write as I am poorly situated to write when at camp. I have received one letter from home and that from Jane. I would like to get letters every week or every month at least, from home. I have heard from camp but seldom since I left. I heard of several little snips the Rangers have got into with the Yankees, when they would be out scouting. Our boys always get some of them, one of the Rangers killed two one day out of seven with his double-barreled gun. He was standing picket guard and they came running along the road. He shot one and then the other took to their heels. He [the ranger] let fly the other barrel before they got too far. And down came another. I have not seen a Yankee yet except some prisoners. The Texians have seen sights from sickness a great many have died. I don't know but I can judge from what I learn, that near a hundred have died within the last month. All the Bernard Boys have been sick. I left Steve Etherton, Steve Gallaher I [in] Nashville with measels. Steve E. was up and knocking about when I left he said he was going to a private house in town. Chuck, John Miller and Tom Beeks came to Nashville sometime before I did. I could hear nothing of John but Chuck had been very low but was recovering. But Tom, poor fellow, I am afraid, died as he was extremely low when I heard from him. But I must tell you about old John Fowler. John got himself into a scrape in Bowling Green. He and another young fellow went to town and got tight [drunk]. They roared and snorted and fired off their pistols. The town was full of soldiers and officers, but all afraid to try to arrest them. Soon after they go to camp along came an officer with orders to arrest them from Gen. Bucner. They found Joh. Col. Terry had him arrested and put under guard but they could not indentify the other though they pumped him a dozen times. It was Jack Miles, but they did not get him. John was under guard [for over] a week. When I left there, he seemed to enjoy it hugely. I don't know what they did with him. As paper is getting scarce and my shoulder begins to pain me, I had better close. I give my love to all the family. Write soon and remember me as your fond brother.

Robt.

Nashville, Tenn., Dec. 9, 1861

Mr. Robert Hodges.

My Dear Father,

Though I wrote to Jane not long ago, I will drop you a few lines this evening to let you know how I am getting along. I told Jane in my letter of my having measels and also of a rising that made its appearance on my shoulder. I have had a time with that rising. Truly, it is now over two weeks since I was bothered with it and not until yesterday did I get it opened. I suffered a great deal of pain during those two weeks I assure you. About five days ago, Dr. Blackman, the gentleman with whom I am staying, tried to lance it. He made several attempts and failed. I told him he was too slow, besides I could not possibly stand to have him digging at it any longer.
The night before last a brother-in-law of Dr. B stayed all night with him and during the night Dr. B was taken very sick and yesterday morning I was told that Mr. Clark, (the above mentioned gentleman) was a splendid physician and having suffered all night with my shoulder, I sent him word to come to my room that I wanted to see him. He came and examined the place and said that it was in nice condition to lance. I told him if he could lance it quick that he might try it. He said that if that was all he thought he could please me and assured me that a pretty free incision would be necessary. I told him all right. He made the tryal and I don't think I ever knew anything done quicker or slicker. He made the incision about an inch and a half long and I never saw as much corruption come out of any place in my life. Today I feel much better. I think that I will be able in a few days to go to camp. I have not the least idea that I will be able to stand it this winter in camp or at least not be able to do anything and if I can possibly get a furlow until spring I will come home as soon as possible.

I was not aware when I commenced my letter that there was any of this kind of paper about the place, but I don't think I can afford to rewrite what I have written.

Pa, this place makes me think of the home and the many comforts I left behind. Dr. Blackman and his wife treat me as if I were a brother. In fact, I am supplied with every comfort and receive every attention anyone could wish. In fact, they are too kind. They put themselves to trouble really unnecessary.

Sam Jones came out the same time I did, but recovered his health and went back to camp about a week ago. Three other Texans were here when I came but all have recovered and gone back to camp, except one by the name of Lane. He is affected with neuralgia and has applied and obtained a discharge. He is here tonight but will leave in the morning for Alabama where he has relatives.

The Doctor brought out another Texian day before yesterday from Nashville where he has been sick a month. He looks very bad. His name is Holt, no relation to our Captain however.

Pa, the Texans have fare [fared] but poorly so far, we have had more sickness than any other Regiment in Kentucky. There is not more than three or four hundred in camp now. The balance sick or dead. There has been about a hundred died in Nashville since I left there. It is discouraging to think of it, but we have to die and perhaps one time is as good as another, but I prefer living awhile if it should meet the approbation of the divine master. If not, I will try and not complain. I am certainly not prepared to meet my judge. I hear from camp but seldom. They have moved the camp from Bowling Green ten miles on the road to Green River. There is no other regiment near them. I expect that some night the Yanks will step it up on them and eat the little handful of men, clean and smooth up, that is there. I think that Col. Terry is pursuing a very unwise course, in fact I think he has acted the saphead ever since he left home. Officers and privates are becoming more and more dissatisfied every day. We are from first to last the worst humbugged set of boys you ever saw. Terry is a humbug and a big one himself.

Capt. Holt and I are sorter at outs. About six weeks ago, Gustave Cook, our orderly [orderly] Sargt. started to Richmond, Va. on business for the Regiment and I being 2nd Sargt. thought as a matter of course I could have to act in Gustave's place. But the first thing I know Capt. Holt had appointed Ben Callaway as orderly
[orderly]. I was advised by nearly all the boys to resign, and in fact my own feelings on the subject prompted the same. I went to Capt. Holt and told him to appoint another Sargt. as I did not under the circumstances think that I was doing myself justice to act further. He replied very roughly that he would do no such thing, besides he said he had no authority to appoint one in my place as my name had been sent up to the war department as second sargent and he had no authority to appoint one. I asked him what authority he had to appoint one in Cook's place. He said it was only for a short time. I told him it made no difference it was my duty and my right to fill that place and if I proved not competent then I had no business with the position which I held. I went to the ranks that night and remained in the ranks for several days before I left there. I don't know what he will do with me nor do I care much. If they discharge me it will be all right with me. I am very much deceived in Capt. Holt, he is not the man by a long shot that I took him to be.

Pa, I have written a great deal more than I expected I would when I commenced and what I have written will be of little importance to you as I have to tell you simply nothing. The war news is very scarce. No fighting going on except little brushes between scouting parties occasionally that happen to meet. The Texas boys have had several little skirmishes. They nearly always get a few Yanks, but the Yanks can't get them. It seems as none as yet have been hurt.

Pa, I am sorry that you are so nervous that you can't write as I would be very much pleased to receive a letter from you as I never did receive one from you, by one anyhow I think you can make the trip with one anyhow. Give my love to Ma and all the rest of the family and to enquiring friends. Remember me as ever your affectionate son,

Robt. Hodges

Write soon and tell Jane to write.

Nashville, Tenn., Dec. 25, 1861

Miss Susan Hodges:

My Dear Little Sister

I received your letter of 29th Nov. a few days ago. My Dear Sudy; I have long wished to receive a letter from you, - you can't imagine the gratification and real pleasure your letter afforded me. I knew that you would not forget your poor brother, who is ever grateful for any news from home. Sude you write a splendid letter for your practice you must write often to me and rest assured that your letters will meet with a hearty welcome and be duly answered. Tell pa [sic] I am much obliged to him for the lines sent in your letter, the first I have received from him. I received a letter from Jane yesterday. I will defer writing to them until I go to camp which will be soon, I hope. I have written to Pa one letter, two to Jane, one to Sam and one to Edwin, besides several to friends in the neighbourhood, therefore I doubt not you have heard where I am and what I have been doing for the past month. I am still at Dr. Blackman's & have been here for about five weeks. My shoulder is nearly well. I think one more week will find me all right. Pa spoke of having sent some things to me by Weston. He had not arrived when I left camp, though I suppose
he arrived since I left. As Capt. Holt has gone home, I received a few lines yesterday from Stephen Gallaher, from Nashville where he has been some time, in fact he came there with measles the same day I did. He stated that some ten or twelve of our company had died but did not have time to tell me their names as he was about starting to camp. He also stated that Chuck, John Miller and Steve E. would start home as soon as they could to get their discharges. I want to go and see them before they start, one of them will perhaps be the bearer of this. I have not been of the place since I came out here except to go out with the Doctor’s little boy – bird hunting, and to go out and kill a turkey occasionally for Mrs. Blackman (tame turkeys). I have killed about fifteen for her. She made me a present of a new pair of pants this morning (Christmas present). Sudy, I have had quite a dull time out here. I have been treated as if I were a brother here. Sudy, this was Christmas day and the dullest Christmas I have ever experienced. We, however, sent up a few skyrockets and had a nice egg-nog. The Doctor and his lady are very pious people and do not participate in the amusements of the more worldly people. The people of this vicinity nearly all make some pretensions toward religion principally baptists. The country is very thickly settled around here. You can find a house in every valley and I assure you they are quite numerous.

Sudy, my paper is so small I will have to appropriate another sheet & the last one I have at that. I was very much grieved to learn the sad fate of poor Bill, though I have heard of so many deaths I believe I am becoming hardened to it, as there is hardly a day but brings the news of some of the Rangers having rendered their final “account” though I seldom learn their names. I am long miles from town. You will have heard doubtless [by the time] this reaches you of the death of our gallant and beloved leader Col. Terry. It would be useless for me to write an account of the fight. You will know as much or perhaps more about it than I do by the time you receive this. Jane stated in her letter that Edd had got home and did well with his beeves. I was glad to hear it is some pleasure to know that some of our family are doing well, but I fear he will not be content until he gets his foot in it, about his luck. Sudy, I have had a time to reflect and have reflected seriously on my past life since I left home on this trip. I find that I have acted a foolish part, but the scales have fallen from my eyes and if I am spared through this struggle and am permitted ever to return home my future conduct it will be far different to what the past has beene and shall to the best of my poor ability try in future to shake some atonement for my past follies. You said you wished I would make haste and come home. Oh, Sudy, you can’t be more anxious for me to come than I am to come. If I could be at home but one day with you all I could return to the seat of war more content and meet the enemy with a hearty good will that I hope to do anyhow. I will have an opportunity & that soon, as they are looking for the Yankeys at Bowling Green. Sudy, we have had a few days of bad weather lately. Rain, sleet and a light fall of snow, but today has been very pleasant. The people tell me it has been an unusually mild fall. There has been very little bad weather. This is a great country for apples. Sudy, if you will come up I will give you an apron full to carry home, besides as many as you can eat. We never see any good apples in Texas.

But my sister I will not tire you quite to death with my first letter, I reckon you are tired of it long ago. Give my love to all the folks. Tell Pa and Jane that I will answer their letters as soon as I get to camp and get sorter straightened up. Give my love to Ma, Pa & all the family & retain a large share yourself from your affectionate Brother.
P.S.
Sude this letter will have to be my Christmas present to you, fare well. Write soon.

Nashville, Tenn., Jan. 27th 1862*

My Dear Father

Yours and Sude's letter of 11th arrived yesterday. I hasten to reply. I left Dr. Blackman's soon after I wrote to Sude, for camp. I remained in camp a few days and finding my health would not permit me to remain I applied for and succeeded in getting a discharge. When I arrived in Nashville which was some two weeks ago, I found Chuck. He insisted that I should stay with him until he got a discharge. Sam Moore was then attending to it as he was not able to do so himself. I promised him to wait. I went out to Dr. B's where I had left my saddlebag and I remained there two days and then returned thinking to find Chuck ready to start but found him to my great disappointment worse than he had been for sometime & the poor fellow begged me to stay with him. I as a matter of course could not think of refusing him. He has began to recover again though he is very weak. I think if he continues to mend we will be able to start in a week or ten days, not sooner. I was very sorry to hear of the death of poor John. Poor fellow, he had a hard time of it & I fear from what you say of Steve, I shall never have the pleasure of meeting him again on earth. I hope, however, that he will recover.

Chuck had been staying for a long time at the house of a Mrs. Watkins but since his last attack has been sent back to the State Hospital where he could have the advantage of medical aid. I have been with him over a week, he has a very severe cough. I know very little about the Rangers or what is left of them has been sent to Columbus, Ky. There has been some war news of late but as I have sent you the "Union & American" the best weekly paper in the city, besides I sent two war copies of the "Courier," which contained all the news afloat. Tell Sude as I expect to start home soon I will defer writing to her until I hear something of the contrary. If something happens, more than I know of at present. I will answer her letter in person very soon. I was sorry to hear that Ma has troubled with that nasty old pain. I was in hopes that she would be troubled with it no more.

Give my love to all & in the hope that I shall soon meet you all. I remain your ever affectionate son,

Hodges

P.S.
Pa, I write you to let you know I am doing & c & c excuse bad writing and c as I am using a chair for a writing desk.

Robt.

*On January 7, 1862, had received a discharge because of physical disability.
Mr. R. Hodges Sr.

Dear Pa,

As we will probably not leave here [Hempstead] for some time, I wish you would tell Sam to try and get a saddle for me & if you can raise a little money for me I wish you would do so, for I am certain that the bounty money is all a humbug, if so I shall if possible get a transfer to Terry’s Regt. I don’t like the appearances of things at this time here. We are under very strictest rules and the Col. says that those that start as Calvary [Cavalry] & their horses give out or get away, will be put into infantry companies. If I should happen to be one of the unfortunate ones I shall certainly object to walking. Pa, I sent my horse to the care of Mr. E. Ryon at Richmond [Texas]. I wish you would see to getting him home. Give my love to all & remember me as your affectionate son.

Robt.

Camp Carter May 10th 1862

Mr. Robt. Hodges Sr.

Dear Pa.

I arrived in camp about two hours ago. The first Regt. has gone & all the 2nd except our company and one other. It leaves this evening. We start tomorrow. From what I can learn we are going to Crockett for what purpose I am unable to say but to lay in camp for six months I reckon. I found Edd’s letter, I sent it that you may see what he has to say. I received one also from Steve Gallaher. He gave no particular news. I have no news to write as I have heard nothing since I arrived in camp. I will write again as soon as we all get fixed up & started.

Give my love to all.

Your Affectionate son,
Robt.

Camp Wilkes June 1st 1862

Mr. Samuel Hodges

Dear Brother,

I write you a few lines this morning not that I have any news to write but have an opportunity of sending a letter. I am in tolerable health. I have written home several times. I suppose, therefore you have heard before now when we left Hempstead where we are, what we intend doing and ec. We leave here either this

*Hodges had reenlisted in the Twenty-fourth Texas Cavalry in March, 1862.
evening or tomorrow morning. Corn and provisions has all gone up. The [illegible] in this country we had to haul corn fifteen miles yesterday. We have had plenty up to this time, however. We will rendevou [sic] at Lourissa, [Larissa] 66 Cherokee County, for what length of time I am unable to say. I think that we will rowe around over the country until we eat up all we can get. Then go back to Hempstead. This brigade has been a mixed up affair from the beginning. I am getting awful tired of it, but have got my foot in it. I'll have to sweat it out. From the news we received I think there is a prospect for peace. The good Lord knows I don't care how soon it may come. There is some sickness in camp. Some measles, some chills and fever, besides other little diseases. Capt. Mitchell67 has been very sick for some time with measles [sic]. There has been eight men discharged from our company. John Pickens68 has been discharged and a fellow that drove cattle for Col. Wyron69 [sic] starts home this morning. I want you to write to me and let me know whether you have heard from Edd. I have not since the letter I received from him. Write me all about the gals and boys, what they are doing. If anybody's dead or married and tell me if the conscript has got to you yet or not. I have nothing to write this morning & but a little time to write it, so I will close. Write to me at Laurissa [Larissa] Cherokee County, Texas, care of Capt. T. W. Mitchell, Co. F, 2nd Regt., Texas Lancers. Write immediately if not sooner. Give my love to All. Tell all to write. I have not heard a word from home since I left. I will write the first opportunity after I leave here.

Your brother,
Robt.

Mount Enterprise,70 June 8th 1862

Miss Jane Hodges.

Dear Sister

As it is Sunday and I have nothing else to do I will write you a few lines. Though I ought not to do it as you all have treated me very shabbily. I think by not writing to me I know you have more time opportunities & means to write than I have, yet I have not received even a scratch of a pen from any of you and I am getting awful mad about it too. I have neglected no opportunity to write, I think I have at least a half a dozen letters home if not more. When I wrote last we were at Camp Wilkes, Nacogdoches County.71 We are now in Rusk County our encampment is in half a mile of the little town of Mount Enterprise. We have been here five or six days. The 1st Batallion, 2nd Regiment started yesterday for Shreveport. We are going to the 2nd it starts today. The first Regt. has gone on. I am staying at a private house with a sick friend J.C. Eason,72 about two miles from camp. I will remain with him until he is able to travel [sic]. He has a very interesting case of measles. It will be several days before he is able to travel [sic]. There is one other case in the same house & lots of them in camp. There is a good deal of sickness in our Regiment. The people with whom we are staying are seemingly very clever, just two old folks and a great big whopping gal. I think that she would weigh at lease 290 lbs. Pretty tolerable good looking too. I am a little afraid of her, she is so large. There is one soldier here however pretending to be sick. He wings around her. Takes her to dress parade nearly every evening. There is no pretty girls in this country at least I have seen none. There is very few pretty or ugly. We have no news up here. We heard yesterday that there had been a large battle fought in very [sic] recently in which the federals were badly
whipped, besides we took a thousand prisoners.73

I want you to write to me as soon as you receive this. Direct your letter to me at Shreveport. Give my love to all & tell all to write for I am getting anxious to hear from somebody. Remember me as your ever affectionate

Brother
Robt.

Paper is getting awful scarce.

Mt. Enterprise, June 11th/62

Mrs. Susan Hodges,

Dear Ma,

As I never did write you a letter or receive a letter from you, I will tonight write you a few lines. I have written to all the family I believe since I left & have not received the scratch of a pen, from any of them, besides I have written letters to a good many friends, but all seem to have forgotten me. Why is it I can't receive letters when all the boys have received more or less, but I guess it will be right in the course of human events. The reason why I have never written you is because I knew it would be considerable trouble for you to answer them & there are enough others who had as soon write as to do anything else. It is ever a source of great pleasure to me to hear from you all once and a while. I am poorly situated to write most of the time but I manage to scribble a line occasionally, but I am getting awful tired of writing & not getting paid for it. The first thing they all know shall quit, but enough grumbling. I am at a private home waiting on a young man - one of my friends. He has been sick about ten days ago with measles. The Regiment has gone & left as I think that if he continues to mend that we will start tomorrow or next day for Shreveport where the Regt. will stop for some time. His name is Eason.74 He has a dreadful cough. There are a great many sick in the hospital at Mount Enterprise. Measels principally. The 3rd Regt. is encamped near here. The 4th is somewhere not far off but I don't know exactly where it is. Our Regt. is ahead, Col. Wilkes says that he is going to keep it ahead. He, Col. Wilkes, has command of the whole Brigade, four companies have taken a stand and they say they will not move from Shreveport until they get their bounty. It looks rather bad but it is nothing but right we should have all taken that stand at Hempstead before we left there, not that we care anything particular about the bounty although some of us need it. I do, but we ought not to have promised it had they not intended to fulfill that promise.

I have not had a days sickness since I left home except the mumps but they did not last long. I have had plenty to eat since I have been here, but I don't think it agrees with me as well as the meat bread I cook myself. I relish the vegetables. I tell you I have buscuit [biscuits] every morning. I don't eat but a few buscuits, just five or six to stay my appetite, you know. The people with whom we are staying are seemingly very [sic] clever more so than the generality of the people that I have seen since I left the Brazos. The gal is a right clever trick too, but goodness, she is so fat. I do pity her from my heart. I had her tell my fortune tonight. She says I can get just who I want. If she had not been so fat I think I should have told her that I wanted
her, but I couldn't stand it. The old man is in tolerable circumstances and they have plenty at least.

Tell somebody that I will pumble somebody's head when I get home if somebody don't write to me that quick.

Your affectionate son,
Robt.

Arkansas Post Nov. 10, 1862

Mr. Robert Hodges Sr.

Dear Pa,

As we have had candles and good news rescued to us, I will write you a few lines tonight. I will write you a few lines tonight though I have not received letters lately, but I look anxiously for letters every mail, but in vain, it seems that you have become tired of writing to me. If you knew how anxious I am to hear from you all you would write often, but perhaps I blame you wrongfully — if so forgive me. We have news is if true the best we have heard since the war commenced and I think there is something of it as it comes from a good source. It is this. Lincoln had asked for an amistice of four months & that Davis had excepted and agreed upon it. At the end of four months France and England will open the blockade if terms of peace are not entered into. It was reported that, [illegible] was ordered to Richmond, Va. to settle up the business of the Regt. & Col. Swearingen was ordered to go ahead of the Regt. to Texas to prepare subsistence & that we would go to Hempstead there be furloughed. I doubted verry much our going to Texas. So soon, we have another and I think a more probable report, it comes from Col. Swearingen, it is that we are ordered to take up the line of march for Boston Mountain or to Fort Smith to reinforce troops. I am afraid it is so & I don't want to take that trip this winter. If we start there we will be compelled to leave nearly all our clothing as there is only one wagon allowed to each company and the roads are so bad it will be impossible for me to . . . get them there . . . if I lose any of my clothing I think I'll go up the Spout.

I tell you Pa, I have not had a good nights sleep for two weeks for want of bedding. This climate does not agree with me. I have had tolerably good health since we left Pine Bluff. But as I said it will not last for long, for there is a great deal of pneumonia in Camp. They bury [bury] from three to seven a day in the regiment. There are other diseases, also which is proving fatal in many cases. Something like black tongue and some other cases. We lost a young man from our company last week of the last named disease. Seven white men and three Negroes from the company since we left home. It is alarming. (I assure you, we can hear the dead march nearly at all times of the day and sometimes in the night.) I wish Pa, you would see or write to Capt. Perkins, see if he will receive me into his company and if he will get him and Sam to write to Capt. Mitchell requesting him to transfer me to his company. I am tired of this service and tired of this Regt., officers and all. I think in fact I am pretty certain that even our company officers have thrown off on us. I do believe that they knew when we were at Shreveport that Carter's Brigade was a lost affair. But the love of office prompted them silence on the subject, for a great many of them knew if
they were disbanded they would never be reelected. It looks to me that we have the very [sic] best of Texas elected to office in this regiment. We are shortly to receive a months pay & the long looked for bounty. I will then settle up my debts in the co. and if there is any left I will send it home.

Please give all my love to the family and enquiring friends.

Remember me as ever your affectionate son,

Robt.

Arkansas Post Nov. 12th 1862

Mr. Robt. Hodges,

Dear Pa,

As Lt. Mitchell starts home tomorrow I will write you a few lines notwithstanding. I have written you several letters recently. I know this will reach you. The others I am not sure if you will get them or not as I have written so many letters and have received no reply.

I have nothing new to write except that we are losing men every day. It looks as though we are all doomed to die in this detestable country. One of our best men died last night, Mr. Jasper Pharr, eighty that have died in our company though we have lost as many as eighteen others or nearly as many. It is truly alarming [sic] I assure you to see many passing from Earth.

There is a great deal of sickness, among us, there are one or two of our Co. now in the hospital that I think will die & one in camp. We cleared off a new camp ground day before yesterday, but the weather has been so bad that we have not moved. I hope that the health of the Regt. will be benefitted by the change. I have been in good health since we left Pine Bluff, but am expecting every day to have an attack of pneumonia, as I have felt symptoms of it several times lately. I dread the coming of winter. I think from the present prospects that we will have a bad winter. There is no prospect of our leaving here before Spring, unless we have peace. It has been confirmed that the report of four months that there is an armistice of four months. I say confirmed, that's the report. It may turn out as everything else to be nothing. But should it prove true which God knows I hope it is.

I think we will have peace soon. I will close as I want to attend the burial of Pharr. Give my love to all, respects to inquiring friends.

Your affectionate Son,

Robt.

Arkansas Post Dec. 17

Mr. Robert Hodges

Dear Pa,
I wrote several days ago to Jane but have not yet sent the letter. Mr. Lowther starts for Fort Bend perhaps tomorrow and I thought I would write you a few lines. We were paid of this morning with three months pay. I cannot send any money home as I will need all that I have, which is only sixty-five dollars, hardly enough to pay up my little debts in camp.

I sent fifty dollars by John Mitchell and will perhaps send more when we receive pay again. If you will go to Brown's battalion you can perhaps find some one there who would be willing to exchange with me as I have no doubt. There are many there who would prefer this service to that of Texas and Col. Wilkes [said] that I can exchange or get a transfer in that way. Do try to get me out of this, it is out of my power to do anything, except just to stay here subject to inhumanity of the most detestible old villans on earth. I do say that Wilkes is the most unfulfilling old scamp on earth.

There is not many in the regiment but who is in the same fix I am, there would not be three men in the regiment if there was any.

We have had a great deal of rain lately. It is clear and pleasant now. There is no news in camp.

Write to me soon. Tell all to write. I have not received a letter in many a day. Give my love to all. Farewell — your affectionate

Son, Robt.

Camp near Dalton, Ga. Mar 3/63

Miss Jane Hodges

My Dear Sister

In my last letter I told you not to write to me until you heard from me again that I had an idea of making another attempt to get my command on the west of the Mississippi. Since then I have changed my mind. I now think I can be of as much service to Texas and probably more here than if I were there. Not only those of our old command that are there officers and privates are ordered here, but we are working now to break up the present consolidation & reconsolidate, making two regiments of the present one, to form four battalions, each regiment to be to itself except in battle or drill.

When the four battalions are to form two regiments commanded by the senior officer until the men from that side arrives. Then each regiment draws out & is to act each as a separate regiment commanded by its own officers. About two weeks ago we were in comfortable winter quarters. Since then we have travelled considerable, the Yankees started to Mobile through Miss. nearly all of this army started to meet them. Our brigade got as far as West Point, Ga., when we received orders to return; that the Yankees were marching in heavy force on Dalton. We came back faster than we went. We found them within three miles of Dalton, with what force that we found.
here and apart of our division we drove them back. I don't think they intended to make anything like a fight. It was only a test to draw our forces back from Miss., but they were defeated in Miss. too. The Yankees are no doubt going to make a desperate attempt when the spring campaign opens. I suspect we will see warm times, but our generals seem confident of success, our army is in better condition & better spirits than it has ever been, yet, and I have no doubt if all hands will do their duty, that twelve months will bring the peace, the Yankees are getting mighty tenderfooted.

Nearly all of our troops have reenlisted for the war. That too has a great effect on the enemy. Jane I would [like] you to tell Pa to send me some money, but by the time I could get it here it would be of very little value as all of the old issue has to be refunded very [sic] soon. Men are being furloughed now, one from each company for 60 days to go to Texas. It is to be kept up all the time, maybe I'll get one some day. J.W. Lowther86 starts tomorrow he lives near Pittsville.87 You must send me a letter and something nice by him when he returns.

I thought when I commenced this letter that I would write you a long letter, but I have about run aground so I'll close. I think it rather doubtful whether you can read what I have written. Give my love to all and tell all to write for I have not had a letter from anywhere in three months. Give my respects to enquiring friends.

Farewell, your affectionate,

Brother,
Robt. Hodges.

Turners Station88 Aug. 7, 1863 (Tennessee)

Mr. Robert Hodges Sr.

My Dear Father,

I write you this morning hoping to find an opportunity of sending my letter by private conveyance. If I am not fortunate to find such an opportunity I will be compelled to commit it to the uncertainties of the mail as I have often done heretofore. I hope you will get some of them. I shall continue to write at any rate until I hear something of what is going on at home. Tom McGee89 received a letter from his sister this morning dated April — others are receiving letters constantly. Why is it that I am debarred that privilege and pleasure? Whose fault is it?

Pa, I think if you will send your letters to the editor [E.H. Cushing] of the Houston Telegraph [Telegraph and Texas Register] with the request to forward them the first opportunity, they would be more apt to come through safely, as I have seen several letters forwarded by him. If I could only get just one letter I would be more satisfied.

Aug. 8th —

I commenced writing yesterday [when] it commenced raining so I had to quit. I will try it again. I wrote you both before and since retreated from Wartrace.90 I will therefore not say much on the subject of retreating as it is no interesting subject.
Suffice to say about the 25th of June the enemy attacked us at "Hoovers Gap" some 8 or 10 miles from Wartrace. After skirmishing two or three days with them we fell back to Tullahoma. The Yanks would not attack on [the] front at that place but made the attempt to cut us off or flank us on the right. Consequently we were compelled to retreat. We were some six or seven days on the road before we reached Chattanooga. I assure you I never want to retreat across another mountain. We were on top of the Cumberland mountains. On the 4th of July since arrival we have done nothing – just laying inactive. I can't say how long we will remain here. I don't think that we will be attacked here. Not until the weather gets cooler at least and I would wonder if we were attacked here if Brag [Bragg] would put off on another one of his retreats for which he is so famous and if he does I think that his whole army will refuse to act under his command or the greater portion of us will desert.

I will tell you a little of this country. It is a very hard country to live in. At this time at least, provisions are very high. It is difficult for us to get anything except what is issued to us & I assure you that's not much. Two Lb. of old bacon for seven days, the balance the poorest beef you ever saw. Corn meal we get plenty, flour enough. We occasionally get vegetables by paying enormous prices. Watermelons are selling from ten to twelve dollars apiece. Peaches from $1.50 to 2.00 pr. dozen. Irish potatoes $10.00 per bushel. Other things in proportion. We have but one suit of clothes and one blanket, no tents, consequently we are not troubled much. I am apprehensive that we will suffer greatly from cold this winter.

It is believed by a great many that the Confederacy would go up the spout shortly, though we have met with many reverses lately. I am not despondent. I learn that reconstruction meetings are being held in portions of the states of Alabama and Miss.

There is something going to happen certain. Our regiment was paid twelve months wages a few days ago. I think something wonderful will happen on the strength of it. I received $260.00. I didn't have it long however. I paid all my debts. Now I am without a dollar. There is due me in the company five hundred and thirty-eight dollars, but it seems I can't get a dollar of it. It is good, however & will come some day, maybe when I most need it.

Bryant Perry is trying to get a discharge. I am afraid he will not succeed. He ought to be discharged for he is not fit for duty. He has encepsiasis [elephantiasis] in his leg. Pa, among the curiosities I have seen since I left home, one I must mention, a female lieutenant! I had heard of her deeds of bravery in several battles and a few evenings I was at a point near the station about a quarter of a mile distant from the camp. I discovered quite a crowd. Approaching, I enquired what was up. One of the soldiers directed my attention to a youth apparently about seventeen years of age well dressed with a lieutenant's badge on his collar. I remarked that I saw nothing strange. He then told me that the young man was not a man but a female. It is said that she volunteered with her husband as a private, fought through the Battles of Shiloh where her husband was killed. She performing the rites of burial with her own hands. She then continued with Bragg's army in Ky. fighting in ranks as a commissioned soldier, until she was twice wounded in the ankle and then in the breast. When she fell prisoner into the hands of the Yankees her sex was discovered by the Federals and she was regularly paroled as a prisoner of war, but they did not permit her to return until she had donned female apparel [sic]. She has since her
There is a man here proposing to take letters. I will send it by him. I will try it as he has been through & knows all the ropes. He charges a dollar apiece for letters. The boys are all well. I received a letter from Addy [Addie] Moore\textsuperscript{98} not long since his command is at Rome, Ga. All the boys are well, except Archie Ferris.\textsuperscript{99} He was trying to get a discharge. Addy thought that he would probably succeed in getting it. Another of our old company died not long since. A young man by the name of Felts.\textsuperscript{100} That makes 26 deaths in the company. I believe I will close for the present time. My love to all, remember me as ever your affectionate son,

Robt. Hodges

You must write often and tell Jane to write. I will certainly get a letter some day. I'll think that I am in mighty poor luck if I don't & Sude might write me a letter occasionally. Direct your letters to me at Little Rock, Ark. Care of J.H. Palmer.\textsuperscript{101}

Robt. Hodges

Tunnel Hill, Ga.\textsuperscript{102} Jan.? 1864

My Dear Sisters,

I have written you once since the battles of Missionary Ridge and Ringold.\textsuperscript{103} I have not received an answer. I will write you just a few lines this evening to let you know what I have been doing since I wrote. You will no doubt be surprised when I tell you that I left (our company with thirteen others of our old company) for our command on the west side of this Miss. but am sorry to say that we did not make the trip. We were absent twenty-one days. We were arrested in Middle, Ala.\textsuperscript{104} We were brought back to our old company. Some persons may call it desertion. But to prove to you that this exploration is a legal affair, we were returned to this command. We were reinstated in the company, just as we were before we left.

Jane, I have been imposed upon until I have become desperate, I take no interest in anything that is going around here. I am determined to cross the river at all hazards. I would not be surprised if I were not in the Trans-Mississippi Army, the next time I write.\textsuperscript{105} The weather is very unfavorable for such an expedition for I will be compelled to woods it through. Say nothing to no one except Ma and Pa. I want them to know my intentions. You know Jane that I would be the last one to desert my country's cause. What I am doing I do not consider desertion nor do I think any sensible mind can view it in that light. Rest assured that when I see you & explain everything that you will not think that I have done wrong. There is no war news. Our army is lying here doing nothing. I said nothing. All is quiet in winter quarters. I will close. Give my love to all and remember me as ever your affectionate

Brother,
Robert Hodges
March 25th, 1865

Mr. Robt. Hodges:

My Dear Father,

I have got so far from home that it seems almost impossible or useless to try to communicate with you, I will continue to write as I have heretofore done by every possible opportunity. I have written several letters (since I left Tupelo, Miss.) to you and Jane. I received a letter about three weeks ago from Edd. Dated 1st Jan. the only letter I have had from home in several months. In this I will not attempt a lengthy description of our trip through from Miss. to this country as it was fraught with no event of interest. Besides I wrote you several short letters while on the way. Our brigade arrived at Smithfield on the 18th instead on the 19th we started on foot to the front distant 20 miles southwest. Some fighting had been done when we arrived that evening at the scene of action. Our boys had charged & taken two lines of the enemy's work & seven pieces of artillery. Our Brig. took position on the right and threw up the works. About the time they finished, a special order came from Genl. Johnston to report at his Hd. Qrs. immediately, which we did. He placed us in rear of a Brigade of S.C. reserve State Cadets which he thought rather unable to trust in front. We remained there one night. The next day we were ordered to the extreme right to protect the flank. We remained there until the evening of the 20th when a raid was made on the left flank. We were ordered to that point immediately. When we arrived there the 8th Texas Cav. had charged and repulsed the enemy. We were then sent out some two miles to guard a bridge. Fighting had been kept up during the whole time. The enemy charged our lines several times, but were repulsed handsomely each time. Fighting was kept up 'til the late hour of the night of the 20th. That night Johnson fell back about one mile. The next morning it was discovered that Sherman had fallen back also. He [Johnston] returned to Smithfield yesterday. We are now encamped about five or six miles north east of Smithfield on the Halifax road, awaiting, I suppose for Sherman to make his move. It is reported that Sherman has a force of 60 thousand men. What our forces are I am unable to say, but I suppose about 40 thousand. Johnston is in command of the entire forces. Buregard [Beauregard] is second in command. Stewart is in comd. of the Army of Tennessee.

Some of the command has been consolidated. Our brigade has not, but I suppose it will be very soon.

This is not very good country to soldier in. The country is very poor, Marshy and thinly settled. Very little timber except pine. We are all nearly as black as negroes from the pine smoke. The whole country has been burned of since we came here. Everything is as black as tar.

Pa, I would not be suprised to hear in less than two months time of the evacuation of Richmond, Va. Sherman has accomplished so much that I am beginning to believe that he is sufficient for almost any emergency. He is in my opinion the best general of the age. Grant and Lee not excepted.
March 27th. – We are still encamped at the same place that we were when I commenced my letter. Our regiment was on picket yesterday. No news from Sherman. It is rumored however that Sherman is laying still in camp at Goldsborough [Goldsboro] 35 miles below here, doing nothing. I think he is waiting for reinforcements for the roads. To try and then move forward for the Va. Railroad it does seem to me that Sherman being so far from his base of supplies, will have to transport rations, ammunition and etc. through by wagons, that we can certainly use him up after a while. He lost a good many men in the late engagement 25 miles from here. That I have spoken before, our loss was comparatively small.

Pa, I received $25 in gold, that you sent me sometime last fall. Stelle told me that he had rec'd. also $400 in Confederate money, old issue. He could not at that time learn of my whereabouts & the old issue would have soon be out of date and was depreciating every day. He took the liberty of using the $400 from which he realized $200. He had not the money with him when I saw him, but would pay it the next time we met. I have not seen him since. I suppose that was all the money you sent. I rec'd no letter from you stating the amount. In fact I have not had a letter from you since last Spring, now about a year ago.

Our rations are rather scarce here Pa. But plenty of the best razzum [resin] you ever chewed. I will close for this time with love to all. I remain your affectionate son,

Robt. Hodges

P.S.

Write soon and often tell Jane to write also for I am getting anxious to hear from home.

RBT.

March 29th

I have learned since I wrote my letter that scouts report Sherman loss in the recent engagement at Bentonville was 15,000 in killed and wounded & missing. As I said before our loss was light.

Your son,
Robt.
FOOTNOTES


2Ibid.


5 Twenty-one letters from Robert Hodges, Jr., to members of his family 1861-1865, hereafter cited as "Hodges Letters." In possession of the author.

6Mamie Yeary, *Reminiscences of the Boys in Gray* (Dallas 1912), 338.


8W. J. Hughes, *Rebellious Ranger* (Norman, 1964), 194.

9Day, "Leon Smith," 34.

10"Muster Roll" for Robert Hodges, Eighth Texas Cavalry, original in the National Archives, Washington, D.C. Photostat in possession of the author.


12Ibid.


14"Certificate of Disability for Discharge" issued to Robert Hodges, Eighth Texas Cavalry, January 24, 1862, on file in the National Archives, Washington, D.C.

15Hodges was assigned to Captain John T. Holts Company F, Hiram Granbury's Brigade, Patrick Cleburnes Division, William J. Hardees' Corps Army of the Tennessee. The Twenty-fourth Texas Cavalry Regiment, also known as the "Second Texas Lancers," along with the Fifteenth, Seventeenth, Eighteenth and Twenty-fifth Texas Cavalry Regiments, and the Nineteenth Arkansas Regiments, composed Granbury's Brigade. Most of this outfit was captured at Arkansas Post January 11, 1863. When the group was exchanged in April, 1863, the Seventeenth, Eighteenth, Twenty-fourth and Twenty-fifth Cavalry regiments were combined and assigned to Deshler's Brigade. Cleburnes Division, Army of the Tennessee, which fought in Tennessee and Georgia during 1863 and 1864. It also participated in John Bell Hood's Tennessee campaign of October-December 1864. Yeary, *Reminiscences*, 338; Harold B. Simpson, ed., Marcus J. Wright, *Texas In the War 1861-1865* (Waco, 1965), 117-119; "Muster Roll" Twenty-fourth Texas Cavalry Regiment of Robert Hodges, Jr., on file in the National Archives, Washington, D.C.
Yeary, Reminiscences of Boys in Gray, 338.

Ibid., 338.

Ninth United States Census, Fort Bend County, Texas, 1870. Microfilm in the archives of the Rosenberg Library, Galveston, Texas.

Robert Hodges, Jr., to Susan Hodges Darst, December 2, 1882. “Hodges Letters.”

“Pension Application No. 1487,” dated September 28, 1899, approved by the State Comptroller’s Office, Austin, Texas. Original on file in the archives division, Texas State Library, Austin, Texas.

Ibid.

Hodges’ youngest sister, Susan (Mrs. William Moore Darst), mentioned her brother’s death in a letter to her sister-in-law (Mrs. Samuel N. Hodges) dated February 8, 1905. She did not state where Robert Hodges, Jr., died or where he was buried. There is no record of his death included in the “Index to Death Records 1903-1940,” XXIV, Bureau of Vital Statistics, State Department of Health, on file in the Archives Division of the Texas State Library, Austin, Texas. His death also is not listed in the “Vital Statistics” of 1903, 1904 or 1905 for Fort Bend County, Texas or the “Record of Membership, Marriages, Baptisms and Burials 1897-1910,” St. Pauls Methodist Church, Richmond, Texas. A check of all tombstones contained in the Snake Creek Cemetery near Needville, Texas, failed to show a Robert Hodges, Jr., buried there. He also is not buried in the Morton Cemetery, Richmond, Texas. Mrs. William Moore Darst to Mrs. Samuel N. Hodges, February 8, 1905; Interview with Miss A.L. Ogilvy and Mr. and Mrs. J.F.D. Moore, Richmond, Texas, July 5, 1968; F.H. Heard to William Maury Darst, July 5, 1968.

This is based on the fact Hodges was living with his sister at the time of his death. The home was not more than ten miles from Snake Creek Cemetery. The same cemetery contains the graves of his father, mother, infant brothers and sisters. Only his parents graves are marked “Hodges Family Bible.”


Jackson Stubbs was a neighbor of the Hodges, yet he is not listed in the Seventh and Eighth United States Census 1850 and 1860, Fort Bend County, Texas. Microfilm in the archives, Rosenberg Library, Galveston, Texas.

Some 300 Rangers were in the Confederate camp. Federal troops were estimated at 5,000. “Article,” Galveston Daily News, LI, No. 267, Galveston, Galveston County, Texas, Friday, December 16, 1882, 8.

Samuel N. Hodges, brother of Robert Hodges, Jr., “Hodges Family Bible.”


“Sam” was probably a nickname for C.A. Moore, a member of Terry’s Rangers.

John Miller, member of Company H. “Muster Roll,” Eighth Texas Cavalry.

Mary, the wife of Jackson Stubbs.

Jane Hodges, a sister of Robert Hodges, Jr. “Hodges Family Bible.”

Unable to identify. Although Blackman families were prominent throughout the Nashville area, no member was found to be a physician according to records in the municipal library at Nashville.

Sam Jones, member of Company H. “Muster Roll,” Eighth Texas Cavalry.

“Bernard Boys,” the name probably given to young volunteers who lived near the San Bernard River in Fort Bend County, Texas.

Steve Etherton, member of Company H. “Muster Roll,” Eighth Texas Cavalry.

Steve Gallaher, member of Company H. “Muster Roll,” Eighth Texas Cavalry.

Many of the members of the Eighth Texas Cavalry were seriously ill from measles and pneumonia, many of whom died. L.B. Giles, Terry’s Texas Rangers [Brasada Reprint] (Austin, 1967), 20.

John Miller, member of Company H, “Muster Roll,” Eighth Texas Cavalry.

Unable to identify.

John Fowler, member of Company H. “Muster Roll,” Eighth Texas Cavalry.
General Simon P. Buckner.

Colonel Benjamin F. Terry.

Jack Miles, member of Company H, “Muster Roll,” Eighth Texas Cavalry.

Unable to identify.

Sam Jones, member of Company H. “Muster Roll,” Eighth Texas Cavalry.

Unable to identify.

Unable to identify.

Gustave Cook, First Sergeant of Company H, Eighth Texas Cavalry “Muster Roll,” Eighth Texas Cavalry.

Ben Caloway, member of Company H. “Muster Roll,” Eighth Texas Cavalry.

Colonel Benjamin Terry was killed December 17, 1861 at Woodsonville, Kentucky. After his death the group continued to participate in many engagements, some of which were Shiloh, Chicamauga and Knoxville. The group surrendered to United States General William T. Sherman at Greensboro, North Carolina, April 28, 1865. *Handbook of Texas*, II, 928.

Unable to identify.

Unable to identify.

Unable to identify.


The *Nashville Courrier*.

Camp Carter was the name given the mustering site of the Twenty-fourth Texas Cavalry Regiment near Hempstead, Waller County, Texas, after Col. G.W. Carter of the Twenty-first Texas Cavalry Regiment. When first organized, it was known as First Texas Lancers or Second Regiment, Carters Brigade. “Twenty-fourth Texas Cavalry Records,” in the Confederate Section, National Archives, Washington, D.C.

Colonel Franklin Catlett or Collett Wilkes, former Lieutenant Colonel with the Twenty-first Texas Cavalry Regiment. The Twenty-fourth was dismounted by order of Major General Thomas C. Hindman. “Twenty-fourth Texas Cavalry Records,” in the Confederate Section, National Archives, Washington, D.C.

Ed Ryan, a Fort Bend County resident, member of Eighth Texas Cavalry Regiment. “Muster Roll,” Eighth Texas Cavalry.

Edwin Hodges, brother of Robert Hodges, Jr.
A camping site named for Colonel Franklin C. Wilkes.

Larissa is an abandoned town ten miles from Jacksonville in Cherokee County, Texas. At the time Hodges speaks of the community, it had four stores, a salt works, a college and two dormitory buildings. A meningitis epidemic in 1875 hastened its decline. By 1968 Larissa had disappeared. Webb, et al., Handbook of Texas II, 30.

Captain T.W. Mitchell, Company F, Second Regiment, Twenty-fourth Texas Cavalry Regiment.

John Pickens, Jr., son of John H. Pickens of Fort Bend County, Texas. Clarence L. Wharton, A History of Fort Bend County (San Antonio, 1939), 127.

Colonel William M. Ryon, a leading stockman and rancher in Fort Bend County. Wharton, History of Fort Bend County, 49.

Mount Enterprise, Texas, is located in southern Rusk County between Nacogdoches and Henderson. Webb, et al., Handbook of Texas, II, 243.

Probably located in northwestern Nacogdoches County due to the route being followed by the Twenty-fourth Texas and its next camping site at Mount Enterprise.

Unable to identify.

Hodges is probably referring to the Battle of Shiloh of April 6 and 7, 1863, in which 1,754 Federals were killed. There were 2,885 Federals reported captured or missing. Albert Dillahunty “Shiloh: National Military Park, Tennessee” (National Park Service Historical Handbook) Ser. XI, 20.

Again referring to J.C. Eason. Unable to identify.

Arkansas Post was also known as Fort Hindman and located on the Arkansas River about twenty-five miles from its intersection with the Mississippi River. At the Battle of Arkansas Post, January 9-11, 1863, United States General John A. McClemand assaulted the fort with naval and land bombardments. When the post surrendered, Confederate losses were estimated at 60 killed and 80 wounded. Hodges was among the 4,719 men taken prisoner and sent to the infamous compound at Camp Chase, Ohio, west of Columbus. The prisoners were exchanged during April and May, 1863. When exchanged, the Twenty-fourth was combined with the Seventeenth, Eighteenth and Twenty-fifth Texas Cavalry Regiments to form one regiment. Although Yeary reports Hodges was sent to Camp Chase, records in the Confederate section of the National Archives, Washington, D.C., show he was received at Camp Butler near Springfield, Illinois. Simpson, Seaton. Bugle Softly Blows, 82; “Muster Roll,” Twenty-fourth and Twenty-fifth Texas Cavalry regiments, on file in the Confederate section, National Archives, Washington, D.C.: Yeary, Reminiscences, 338.

Although there were attempts by President Lincoln to readmit states into the Union that had withdrawn, there was no armistice signed or agreed until Lee surrendered at Appomattox in 1865.

The Battle of Antietam near Sharpsburg, Maryland, September 17, 1862, all but ended any blockade or intervention in the Civil War by England or France.

Boston Mountains, Arkansas, highest section in the Ozark chain. This was the area in which Brigadier General James G. Blunt, commander of the Army of the Frontier, pushed Confederate forces back near Maysville, Arkansas in October-November, 1862. Rossiter Johnson, *Campfires and Battlefields* (New York, 1967), 232.

Jasper Pharr died while serving in the Twenty-fourth Texas Cavalry Regiment. Wharton, *History of Fort Bend County*, 234.

Unable to identify.

Unable to identify.

Brown's Battalion, also known as the Thirty-fifth Texas Cavalry Regiment, was organized in late 1863. At the time Hodges speaks of "Brown's Battalion" it was then known as Twelfth Texas Cavalry Battalion, serving in Texas and Louisiana. Simpson, *Texas In The War*, 121.

Hodges did not get his wish. He remained with the Twenty-fourth for the remainder of the war.

West Point was located on the east bank of the Chattanooga River. Harold B. Simpson, ed., Benjamin Seaton, *The Bugle Softly Blows* (Waco, 1965), 89. This action was in connection with the drive toward Missionary Ridge and the eventual battle of Lookout Mountain in the fall of 1863.


Pittsville was the name of the community near present day Kendleton in Fort Bend County, Texas where residents received their mail, prior to the establishment of Kendleton in the 1870's. "County Auditors Report to Fort Bend County Commissioners Court for the Year 1939," mimeographed copy in possession of the author.

Tyner's Station was a depot on the East Tennessee and Georgia a few miles east of Chattanooga, Tennessee. Simpson, Seaton, *Bugle Softly Blows*, 85.

Tom McGee, a resident of Fort Bend County, Texas, and member of the Twenty-fourth Texas Cavalry Regiment. Wharton, *History of Fort Bend County*, 234.

Wartrace located about twenty miles northwest of Tullahoma, Tennessee, was a depot on the Nashville and Tennessee Railroad.

Hoovers Gap, Tennessee is where a road pierces the Cumberland Plateau and was the scene of a skirmish on June 24-26, 1863 in which 146 Confederates of 650 engaged were killed, wounded or reported missing. After the fight, the Rebels withdrew to Tullahoma. Henry M. Lazell, *The War of the Rebellion: Official Records of the Union and Confederate Armies* (Washington: Government Printing Office, 1880-1901), Ser. I, Vol. XXIII, 611; James R. Sullivan *Chickamauga and Chattanooga*
Hodges was right, the Confederates did fall back to Tullahoma. Confederate forces were comprised of General Braxton Bragg's defense lines under Lt. General Leonidas Polk on the left at Shelbyville and a right wing under Lt. General William Hardee at Wartrace and Fairfield. Bragg eventually evacuated Tullahoma. The Twenty-fourth at this time was in Hardee's Corps. Sullivan, *Chicamauga and Chattanooga Battlefields*, 5; Yeary, *Reminiscences*, 338.

Bragg established his headquarters at Chattanooga after evacuating Tullahoma where he strengthened his defensive position. Sullivan, *Chicamauga and Chattanooga Battlefields*, 6.

Hodges is referring to Lookout Mountain which the Twenty-fourth crossed enroute to Chattanooga. Unfortunately, Hodges' letter describing the battles of Lookout Mountain and Missionary Ridge and Ringgold, Georgia is lost. However, it may be one of the three completely illegible letters. Lookout Mountain was fought November 24, 1863 and Missionary Ridge the next day. The Twenty-fourth, as a part of Cleburne's Division, later covered Bragg's retreat to Dalton, Georgia. Simpson, Seaton, *Bugle Softly Blows*, 89.

Reconstruction had already begun in Louisiana and Arkansas to some extent as early as 1862. Reconstruction did not actually begin in Alabama until after May 29, 1865 when the amnesty edict was signed. J.G. Randall and David Donald, *The Civil War and Reconstruction* (Boston, 1961), 562.

Bryant Perry was a member of the Twenty-fourth Texas from Fort Bend County. Wharton, *History of Fort Bend County*, 234.

After correspondence with several Civil War historians and researching the one hundred twenty-eight volume *War of The Rebellion: Official Records of the Union and Confederate Armies*, it could not be determined who this particular individual was.

Addison (Addie) Moore, member of the Twenty-fourth Texas from Fort Bend County. Wharton, *History of Fort Bend County*, 234.

Archie Ferris of Fort Bend County, died while in the service. Wharton, *History of Fort Bend County*, 234.

Unable to identify.

Unable to identify.

Tunnel Hill, Georgia, where Cleburne made a stand against Federal forces in November, 1863, following the Battle of Chattanooga.

This letter is not included in the twenty-one in possession of the author.

No information could be found on Hodges' temporary departure.

In March, 1864, four regiments that were consolidated into the
Trans-Mississippi Department were separated. The Seventeenth and Eighteenth formed one regiment and the Twenty-fourth and Twenty-fifth another. The regiments were mustered separately in the reorganization of Joseph E. Johnston's Army. In April, 1865, the Twenty-fourth was consolidated with other skeleton regiments of Granbury's Texas Brigade to form Company I. "Twenty-fourth Texas Cavalry Regiment Records," on file in the Confederate Section, National Archives, Washington, D.C.

106 This is the last legible letter in the Hodges collection. Hodges apparently did not write his parents about the Battle of Atlanta, July 22, 1864, in which he was wounded, or the letter has been lost. According to information provided by his sister for Yeary's *Reminiscences of the Boys in Gray*, he was wounded in the charge at Atlanta, but was back in the ranks within two weeks. Hood's Tennessee campaign a failure, the Confederates retreated to Tupelo, Mississippi, arriving there in January, 1865. Yeary, *Reminiscences of the Boys in Gray*, 338; Simpson, Seaton, *Bugle Softly Blows*, 95.


108 General Joseph E. Johnston.

109 This was one of the last campaigns of the Eighth Texas Cavalry (Terry's Texas Rangers), Giles, *Terry's Texas Rangers*, 95.

110 Hodges was right. Sherman did have a force of 60,000 men. Simpson, Seaton, *Bugle Softly Blows*, 98.

111 This is a reliable estimate for Johnston's tattered army.

112 Johnston was commander of the Confederate Army. Seaton, Simpson, *Bugle Softly Blows*, 95.

113 General P.G.T. Beauregard.

114 Alexander P. Stewart was promoted to Lieutenant General in June, 1864 and placed in command of the Army of the Tennessee. Encyclopedia Americana (Americana Corporation, New York, 1967) XXV, 642.

115 On April 3, 1865, Richmond was occupied by United States General Godfrey Weitzel. Randall, Donald, *Civil War and Reconstruction*, 528.

116 Unable to identify.

117 Federal losses were not quite this high. The number was 1,604 in Federal dead with Confederate losses far from light at 2,342. Johnson, *Campfires, Battlefields*, 441. Bentonville was one of the last battles of the Civil War. By April 13, 1865 Sherman had occupied Raleigh, North Carolina. On April 13-18 Johnston and Sherman met in conference to discuss terms of surrender. On April 26, 1865, Johnston surrendered at Durham Station, North Carolina. Randall, Donald, *Civil War
and Reconstruction, 528, 529; Johnson, Campfires and Battlefield, 446; Simpson, Seaton, Bugle Softly Blows, 99.