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# THE HENKEL SQUARE HERALD

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VOL. 5

Henkel Square, Round Top, Texas, August 1864

NO. 8

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The Countryman says: "Three Yankee prisoners recently escaped from Camp Groce. One was treed by negro dogs. The others were still at large. Look out for them."

GALVESTON WEEKLY NEWS, August 3, 1864, p. 1, c. 5

### From the Rio Grande.

In the "News" we find letters from Laredo to the 26th, from which we condense as follows:

The Yankees are actually moving. Great excitement exists at Brownsville, in reference to the anticipated burning of that place. Families are removing to Matamoros, taking with them their goods, furniture &c. The renegades are especially uneasy. The excitement exceeds that of November last--so say passengers who left Matamoros on the 18th.

AUSTIN STATE GAZETTE, August 3, 1864, p. 2, c. 4

Walker's Division, Waterhouse's Brigade,  
17<sup>th</sup> Regt. Inf. Camp Fiacan, La., July 12, '64.

Ed. News.—I desire, through the columns of your invaluable paper, to convey to our friends, some information of our "whereabouts," health and condition.

At present this brigade is in camp on Bayou Fiacan, about 15 miles East of Alexandria. Our time is principally occupied in drilling, grumbling about poor beef and furloughs. The general health of the troops is very good, better than it has been for several months, but they are poorly clad, many of them are without necessary articles of raiment, others have on their only suit. To remedy this, several officers from the different brigades have been detailed to go to Texas to procure clothing, with what success is yet to be seen. But probably the most important item of news with us at this time, is a revival of religion now in progress under the supervision of Elder W. A. Mason, Missionary to the army from the Baptist State Convention. He arrived in this brigade about the 4<sup>th</sup> May last, and was welcomed by a hearty reception from the soldiers. Since that time he has been laboring night and day with much zeal and fervency, doing much good, and receiving many souls for his hire. The meeting has been progressing several weeks, and some twenty five or thirty have confessed and put on Christ in Baptism.

Elder Mason has also organized the "Christian Association of Waterhouse's Brigade," composed of the members of the different denominations, who, laying aside all sectarian prejudices, have convened at the altar to worship God, and do all they can for the promotion of the much neglected cause of Christ. Committees are appointed from the different regiments, whose duties are to visit the sick and procure every possible comfort for them. Its works, up to this time, promise much good.

Elder Mason has had no assistance whatever, indeed, the soldiers have been much neglected, there

having been only one chaplain in the brigade—Elder Hay, who has no superior as a chaplain. He has been promoted to the rank of Brigade Chaplain for his gallantry on the field at the late battles, and for his attention to and efforts in behalf of the sick and wounded. He is not absent trying to procure clothing for his old regiment, the 16<sup>th</sup>.

Elder Mason is, by resolution of our association, an authorized agent to procure religious literature for the army, which is very much needed and desired. Any one having pocket Testaments, hymn books, or any other benefit for the sick and wounded, which they can spare, and wish to contribute, will confer much good, and for which many soldiers will thank them, by sending them to Elder Mason, who will soon return to Texas for the purpose above named, and to attend the Baptist State Convention.

Most respectfully, I remain your obd't serv't,  
B., Co. A, 17<sup>th</sup> Regt. Inf.

GALVESTON WEEKLY NEWS, August 8, 1864, p. 1, c. 2

Orangeville, Fannin Co., Texas,  
July 10<sup>th</sup>, 1864.

Ed. News.—Sir, I see in your number of June 29<sup>th</sup>, an inquiry for information how to manage the tobacco crop, whilst growing, to prevent it from having strong and sickening qualities. In the first place plant your tobacco in good strong ground, cultivate it just like you do corn. While small, be careful to keep the bud worm from cutting the top out, until the plant can be primed, that is, break off about four of the bottom leaves, and then leave as much as ten leaves still above, at that hight [sic] you will top the plants. After you top the plant, suckers will immediately commence growing out where every leaf leaves the stalk, and then you must sucker, that is, break off those suckers, once a week at least, and worm as often, for four weeks after you top it. And occasionally stir the ground, either with the plow or hoes, or both, putting the soil to the plant every time you stir the ground, until it is thoroughly ripe, which can be ascertained by the leaf curling up and getting very spotted and much thicker than when it was in a growing state. You must then cut the tobacco, split the stalk within two or three inches of the lower leaf, with a long and large knife; cut it in the evening or morning, when the heat of the sun will not burn it. Immediately after the plant you have cut wilts, remove it to a shade, and straddle the stalk over a stick some four or four and a half feet long, putting about 10 or 12 plants on one stick. After you get it all on the sticks, then hoist it in your house, prepared with bars, so your sticks will reach from one pole to the other. Be careful not to crowd it in your house after it gets yellow, which it will do in a few days—as yellow as the leaves of the forest

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Orangeville, Fannin Co., Texas,  
Continued from page 1

after a frost. Build small fires promiscuous, all over the floor of your house; keep these fires up every day—provided the weather is damp—until the stem and fibers of the leaf are cured. If the weather is dry, very little fire is required. After the stem, stalk, and fibers are all cured up, and look of a dark mahogany color, you then can strip the leaf off, separate the two lower leaves from the others, which is called, in Kentucky, Seconds. Put about seven or eight leaves together, and then take one leaf and bind the large end of the stems together. After we get the tobacco all stripped, we generally hang the tobacco on the sticks and raise it up in the house as when it was in the green state, and wait for the tobacco to come in case, that is, in pressing order, which it will do when the atmosphere becomes damp and heavy. The pressing stage is easily ascertained, when the point of the leaves are soft enough that you can press it in your hands as hard as your whole grasp and it will not crumble, and the large end of the stems, where you broke it off from the stalk, will crack when you bend them with your hands, it then is in good packing order; you then take your tobacco down, and bulk it with the leaf in, and the large end of the stem out, on both sides like racking oats. After you get it all put in bulk, lay straw and boards on the top and put heavy weights on them. Let the tobacco lay in these bulks until you want to use it for manufacturing. The sooner you bulk your tobacco, after stripping it, is the best; provided you bulk it in the proper order. Every time it changes from high case to dry, it loses strength and body. There is more tobacco injured by cutting it before it gets ripe, than any thing else. You never can give tobacco the body, nor make it have that palatable taste, when cut green. As for manufacturing, I can give you but little information, as respects the recent mode, by experience is merely this: I let the tobacco lay in bulk until the month of May, at which time all tobacco goes through a sweat, and will get in very high case. I then stem and plug it; put in a prige [sic?] without putting any composition of any kind, pack it very hard down in this way, and then give it age,—say 6, 12 or 24 months—it makes it still better.

I have given you my experience on the subject in the States of Kentucky and Tennessee.

Yours respectfully

Milton Draper.

GALVESTON WEEKLY NEWS, August 8, 1864, p. 1, c. 2

We have been shown a letter from Beaumont to Rev. Mr. Castleton, stating that since he left that town, a Soldiers' Home has been successfully organized in that place. This is the beginning of the good work. We expect soon to present our readers with a list of Soldiers' Homes, and will keep it standing for the information of the public.

GALVESTON WEEKLY NEWS, August 8, 1864, p. 1, c. 4

### Soldiers' Homes in Texas.

One in Houston, in charge of Sergt. C. A. Scales

One in Beaumont, in charge of Wm. Fletcher.

One in Millican, in charge of Wm. R. Ellis.

One in Rusk, in charge of \_\_\_\_\_

We hope our friends throughout the country will give us early information of the establishment of Homes in their respective neighborhoods, that we may add them to our permanent list, for the information of our soldiers. They will also please give us the names of such persons as may be placed in charge, and to whom application by the soldiers may be made.

GALVESTON WEEKLY NEWS, August 8, 1864, p. 1, c. 5

Jacksboro, Texas, July 11<sup>th</sup>, 1864.

G. H. Bringhurst, Esq.—Sir:—I arrived at home on the 1<sup>st</sup> inst. I found all well. On the night of the 29<sup>th</sup> the Indians came into our town and stole about fifteen head of the best horses that were in the country. On the next day they went to near the house of a Mr. Fauner about six miles from town (no one at home except an old lady in her dotage), who, when they showed themselves, ran to the nearest neighbor. Upon examination it was found that after she left the house, they went in and stole all of their clothing, several bed quilts and a rifle gun, leaving some blankets unnoticed. On the 27<sup>th</sup>, (about daylight) they stole five or six good horses on Been's Creek about ten miles East from this place. On the same day late in the evening, another party supposed to be about ten or twelve, went into the farm of a Mr. S. E. Camp, on Kechi Creek ten miles Southwest from this place, gathered green corn as much as they wanted, destroyed the melons, &c. The family had been washing at the Creek about seventy yards from the house and had hung their clothing on the under brush and weeds. A young lady about fifteen years of age and four little boys from three to ten years old, went to the wash place after the clothing. The boys ran ahead of the young lady and were playing in the sand at the waters edge, when about ten Indians that had secreted themselves in the weeds, showed themselves, the boys ran towards the young lady except one, a child of Mr. White, that ran in a different direction and was captured and carried away. The Indians caught one of Mr. Camp's sons, but Miss Cap with her life in her hand, ran among them, and seized her brother, when she was shot through the right arm above the elbow and through the right breast, she then seized the gun, and a second gun was fired at her inflicting another wound through the left arm. The wound through her right arm and breast was inflicted by an ounce ball, that through left, by one about the size used for Colt's Navy six-shooter. The Indians were doubtless kept from murdering Miss Camp and the boys by the appearance of Mrs. White and Camp with guns in hand, when they struck her a severe blow on the arm with the gun and left them. One of the boys has a severe cut on the head caused by an arrow; the others were knocked down, but not hurt. Scouts started in pursuit of them as early as possible, and followed a part of them as far as Big Wichita about seventy miles from this place, but the rain had extinguished the sign so that it was impossible to pursue them further. Miss Camp is recovering slowly. Yours, &c., W. W. O. Stanfield.

GALVESTON WEEKLY NEWS, August 8, 1864, p. 1, c. 5

There are already four "Soldier's Homes" established in Texas, viz: one in Houston, in charge of Serg't C. A. Scales; one in Beaumont, in charge of Wm. Fletcher; one in Millican, in charge of W. R. Ellis, and also one in Rusk. Why can't we have one in Austin? If some of our patriotic citizens would take the matter in hand, it could soon be started. We will cheerfully contribute our mite towards so praiseworthy an enterprise, especially after hearing of a soldier being charged \$170 for himself and horse overnight, at a hotel not a hundred miles from here.

AUSTIN STATE GAZETTE, August 10, 1864, p. 2, c. 1

**Gardening in Texas for August.**--This is perhaps the most important month of the year in the kitchen garden. The crop is not only more valuable, both in an economic and pecuniary view, but the vegetables are of a better quality and endure longer in perfection. If the soil has not been already put in order, manured, dug or plowed, let no time be lost in preparing it. When rainy or dark weather occurs set out plants of Cabbage, Brocoli [sic], Cauliflower, Kale, Savoys, Brussel's sprouts, Celery, Endive, &c., and sow seeds of all these. Sow Turnips at two or three different times during the month; also Mustard, both on richly manured ground, by cow penning or otherwise, or in new land. A few Irish Potatoes may be planted; they will most commonly do well. Plant Sugar Corn for late roasting ears; Melons and Cucumbers for pickles; a few Snap Beans, Peas, and Broad Beans. Sow Radishes, Lettuce, Curled and Water Cress, Parsley, Onions, Parsnips, Spinach, Carrots, Leeks, Beets, &c. Radish, Lettuce, and Curled Cress must be sown in succession; the Turnip Radishes are the hardest, and will, many of them, stand the winter; the Brown Dutch and other hardy lettuce should be planted so as to be protected, somewhat, if the winter proves severe; parsley becomes well established before cold weather; onions and leeks will be drawn when large enough, and planted out to bulb and grow; carrots and parsnips both make growth enough before winter to stand uninjured, and are then in early spring in perfection; beets should now be sown for a main crop, growing well, and continuing in perfection till midsummer-- Affleck's Almanac.

AUSTIN STATE GAZETTE, August 10, 1864, p. 2, c. 4

### **Cotton Cards!**

Wanted, a Steam Engine, from 4 to 8 horse power. Address, with description of Engine and terms, Eubank & Co., Circleville, Williamson Co., Texas.

AUSTIN STATE GAZETTE, August 10, 1864, p. 2, c. 5

"Soldiers Homes" have been established in the following places, where they are now in successful operation, viz: Houston, Beaumont, Millican, Rusk, Crockett, Hemstead [sic], and Navasoto.

DALLAS HERALD, August 13, 1864, p. 1, c. 2

If people will not keep their hands and faces clean after reading the following, it is not our fault. We therefore publish a receipt for making soap out of materials that can always be obtained in spite of the blockaders, and thus wash our hands from further responsibility:

First boil a ley [lye] from oak and hickory ashes, strong enough to eat a feather; put the ley into tubs until it settles, and then strain through a coarse towel.

Put about three gallons of this ley into a large wash kettle or pot, and after boiling a few minutes add eight pounds of clear lard; boil briskly four or five hours, adding frequently several gourds full of weak ley, until a good soap is made entirely free from grease. Now draw the fire away from the pot and stir into the soap salt until the soap becomes thin and runs off of the paddle like buttermilk; it is then turned. Put the fire under again, and after boiling the soap for fifteen minutes, pour into it about two quarts of weak brine, and take the pot immediately from the fire, the soap which will rise like foam to the top must be skimmed off immediately into wash-bowls.

You may then perfume it with oil of bergamot, cinnamon, lemon, sassafras, or any other perfume, as your taste directs. It may be colored by stirring into it a small quantity of vermilion, Spanish brown or Venetian red—I use vermilion.

If you desire to marble the soap, you must mix the coloring matter with only a small portion of the soap and after pouring a thin layer of white soap into the mould, stripe it over with the color, again pour on white, color again, pour on white, color again, and so on until the pan is full. I use stove pans for moulding, and when hard, cut it by the square into cakes of desirable size; let these dry for about a week, then smooth them off with a plane. The trimmings may all be melted and moulded over so that nothing will be wasted.—Telegraph.

BELLVILLE [TX] COUNTRYMAN, August 16, 1864, p. 1, c. 1

**A Yankee Surgeoness.**—Among the recent captures of Johnston's army was a female yankee surgeon. A correspondent of the Macon Confederate thus describes her:

She is apparently of about twenty eight or thirty summers; a little worn, but still passably good looking. Hair dark and gathered under a silk net; figure about five feet six and rather thin.

Her costume is as novel as her position. Bloomer costume of blue broadcloth trimmed with brass buttons; yankee uniform hat, with cord tassels; surgeon's green silk sash, worn over the right shoulder and across the breast, fastening on the left side. Over her front she wore a blue military overcoat and cape. Lastly she wore boots, (and let me say that, in respect to feet there was more of her person parallel to the earth than strict rules of beauty would require,) plain calfskin boots over her dress.

When taken she was near our picket lines with the purpose, as she states, of sending some letters through our lines. She was mounted on a small and rather indifferent looking horse (if you have any tears to shed, prepare to shed them now.) Yes, sir, I say it—I say she was riding a man's saddle, with—one foot in each stirrup.

The Doctor, along with her stirrups, got her boot into it this time. She appeared a little embarrassed—to her credit be it said—but answered promptly and intelligently.

She has in her face and manner the 'unrectified yankee,' but her manners are better than those of a majority of her tribe.

BELLVILLE [TX] COUNTRYMAN, August 16, 1864, p. 2, c. 1

**Atlanta.**—A correspondent of the Mobile Advertiser, writing from Atlanta on the 11<sup>th</sup> of July, gives the following description of that place:

"I can give you no idea of the excitement in Atlanta. Everybody seems to be hurrying off, and especially the women. Wagons, loaded with household furniture, and everything else that can be packed upon them, crowd every street, and women, old and young, and children innumerable, are hurrying to and fro, leading pet lambs, deer and other little household objects of affection, as though they intended to save all they could. Every train of cars is loaded to its utmost capacity, and there is no grumbling about seats, for even the fair ones are but too glad to get even a standing place in a box car. The excitement beats anything I ever saw, and I hope I may never witness such again. But in the midst of all this, the soldiers are cool, and cheerful, and sanguine."

GALVESTON WEEKLY NEWS, August 17, 1864, p. 1, c. 3

### **The Fight at Diamond Grove, Arkansas.**

Camp 20 miles south of Fort Smith, July 28<sup>th</sup>, 1864.

An event has at last occurred in this most uneventful of military districts—though scarcely sufficient to terminate the war, yet it has caused quite a ripple in our stagnant "way of life," and inspired your correspondent to give you and your readers an account of it.

Brigadier-General R. M. Gano reached our camp and was enthusiastically welcomed by his brigade on the 24<sup>th</sup> inst. Becoming tired of inaction, in a couple of days he organized a scout, composed of 500 men from his own brigade, a detachment from Lieutenant-Colonel Wells' battalion and a few Indians, and at 3 o'clock in the evening of the 25<sup>th</sup> inst. took up the line of march for Fort Smith. One of Gen. Cooper's scouting parties had reported a party of 200 Yankees encamped in a prairie, six miles from Fort Smith, doing out-post duty. This party was supported by another party of 400, with two pieces of artillery, encamped two miles nearer the Fort.

We marched through Sculleyville, a deserted Indian village; then took a road leading in a north easterly direction, and got on finely until nightfall. Through the incompetency of our guides and the multiplicity of Indian trails, the brigade then got lost. We blundered about until midnight, finally found the road, crossed the Poteau river, and marched to within four miles, as our guides informed us, of the position of the enemy. It was the intention of Gen. Gano to attack them at daylight. At 6 o'clock we were again in our saddles, but instead of finding the Yankees in four miles, we had to march ten. About six o'clock in the morning we reached Mazzard Prairie (Arkansas) and drove in their pickets. Riding out on the prairie, our advance of Indians had a miscellaneous skirmish with a few adventurous Yankees.

In the centre of the prairie stood a beautiful grove, called Diamond Grove. There the general ascertained the enemy to be encamped. Ordering the Indians and Lieut. Col. Well to the right, the General, with the detachment of his own brigade, proceeded to the left of the grove in a sweeping gallop. Arriving within three or four hundred yards of the encampment, the General ordered Capt. Welch, of the Gano Guards, to dash into the timber, and, assisted by

Capt. Hard's company and a detachment of the 29<sup>th</sup> Texas cavalry, under Major Carroll, to drive the enemy into the prairie.

He then placed the remainder of his command in position to secure the game when roused. These movements were promptly executed. The enemy, 6<sup>th</sup> Kansas, were drawn up in line of battle in front of their tents. Immediately a hot fight began in the timber. It lasted but a few minutes, when the routed enemy abandoned the timber and fled to the prairie—our fellows at their heels. They fought with desperation under the impression that the Indians would murder them if they surrendered. The fight was kept up on the prairie some fifteen or twenty minutes, when the entire party was either killed or captured, with the exception of 150 mounted men who effected their escape before the grove was surrendered.

The killed and wounded between fifty and sixty, captured one hundred and twenty-seven prisoners, sixteen wagons, and a great many sutlers stores. The tents, wagons, etc., had to be burned as they could not be brought out by our tortuous and difficult route. The prisoners are now in camp. Our men had a fine opportunity to supply themselves with pistols, overcoats, and all the luxuries of the Yankee Sutler's establishment. Your correspondent is even now solacing himself with the unwonted luxury of a good cigar.

We had scarcely begun a retrograde movement before the enemy, in large force, from Fort Smith made their appearance on the prairie. They had a battery with them. Gen. Gano did not think it prudent to fight them without artillery, fatigued as the troops were, so we very, very leisurely retired before them. They followed us very cautiously a few miles, occasionally firing on our rear, but soon drew off. At night we encamped on Poteau river and this morning reached camp.

Gen. Gano was in the thickest of the fray, directing and cheering the men, and his coolness and gallantry is the theme of the entire brigade. You can always tell his whereabouts by the cheering of the troops. Maj. Stackpole, Cap. Matthews, Lt. Adams and Lieut. Wall of the staff were on the field and rendered valuable assistance. Our loss was 6 killed and 15 wounded.—Dallas Herald.

GALVESTON WEEKLY NEWS, August 17, 1864, p. 2, c. 1

We are indebted to Jas. Burke of Houston, for a package of Garden Seeds, for fall planting. Now is the time to purchase Seeds, and those who wish to plant can be supplied from the largest and best selected stock in the State, by writing to Mr. Burke.

AUSTIN STATE GAZETTE, August 17, 1864, p. 2, c. 2

We are glad to see that our citizens are about to establish a Soldier's Home in Austin. A meeting is to be held at the Cumberland Presbyterian Church on Saturday evening next, for the purpose of taking preliminary steps in this praiseworthy undertaking. The meeting will be addressed by Col. S. M. Baird, and we hope there will be a good attendance present.

AUSTIN STATE GAZETTE, August 17, 1864, p. 2, c. 2

The Crockett Quid Nunc of the 9<sup>th</sup> inst., gives a full account of the destructive fire that destroyed so large a portion of that town on the Thursday previous. Mr. Rusk Simpson's two store rooms were consumed with all their contents including over 10,000 pounds of government bacon, Capt. Cox's hotel was next consumed, and only about half the furniture saved. Mr. L. E. Downes' store house, A. Corly's drug store, Capt. A. T. Munroe's store house, ware rooms, &c., with John H. Pott's office and bedroom and Messrs. Aldrich & Zimmerman's brick store were all consumed with many of the contents of immense value. Next Messrs. Blair & Wingfield's store and ware-house including the post office, Stubblefield's saddle tree shop, Willingham's shoe shop, T. E. Garner's law office, W. P. Simpson's silversmith shop, John McConnell's blacksmith shop, Box, Jones & Vernadore's blacksmith and woodshops, McNey's wood shop, Zimmerman & Frederick's tin shop and Wm. Johnson's two store rooms, (in one of which Col. Brazier had goods and the other was used as a shoe shop) all were consumed. The Quid Nunc office caught on fire several times, but was finally saved. The total loss is said to exceed one million in currency exclusive of the large amount of goods and furniture. The Quid Nunc office suffered a good deal from the breaking of presses and damage done to material in attempting to remove it. It is believed that the fire was the work of an incendiary.

GALVESTON WEEKLY NEWS, August 17, 1864, p. 2, c. 2

**Valuable Information.**—For the information of our friends who have cultivated the sorghum, says the Charlotte Times, we have obtained permission to publish the annexed letter on the mode of manufacturing sugar from syrup, which has been successfully done by the author of the letter, a large and very successful planter, residing in an adjoining State:

June 4<sup>th</sup>, 1864.

Dear Sir:--Yours of the 29<sup>th</sup> of May, desiring information for making sugar from the sorghum syrup is received. In the first place, the cane must be fully ripe, so much so that the cane must look yellow, and also the juice after it is expressed. Boil the juice down to a very thick syrup, until it bubbles like a pot of soap when it is done. Before you commence boiling, dissolve one pint of lime into two quarts of the juice, pour it in about one hundred gallons, boil as fast as you can without running over; as for the time, you must judge by the bubbles and by holding up your dipper, it will fall in sheets instead of drops. Let it cool in large trays or open troughs before you pour into your barrel where you expect it to granulate. Before pouring into the barrel, bore three holes in the bottom sufficiently large to insert three cane stalks. The object of the cane is for the syrup to drop down through the bottom of the barrel when the cane shrinks—the cane should be moved occasionally until it commences dripping freely. I think, if your cane is thoroughly ripe, by following the directions above you will be successful.

Respectfully Yours,

GALVESTON WEEKLY NEWS, August 17, 1864, p. 2, c. 2

Independence, August 14<sup>th</sup>, 1864.

Ed. News:--Will you allow me to make a statement as to the condition of affairs east of the Mississippi river, for the information of your many readers, who are, to a great extent, cut off from all means of information. And as I visited most of the troops, I can speak with certainty as to their condition.

. . . I visited the hospitals [in Atlanta], and was gratified to find they were so well kept; everything that can be done for the sick and wounded is done, by both the army surgeons and the citizens, especially the ladies who are as untiring in their devotion to the soldiers as they were when the war first broke out. Nothing that will contribute to the comfort of the sick and wounded is left undone. On the route from Richmond, along the railroad, at every depot, I found ladies with baskets of provisions for the soldiers, or else long tables set for them, and in some instances, when citizens found it difficult to get something to eat, the soldiers had more than they could eat. All this kindness and devotion is not wasted—the soldiers are not insensible to such kindness, and will never lay down their arms while the homes of such women are in danger. I found the feeling of the people to be hopeful and cheerful everywhere, the money very day, strange as it may seem, in those districts that have been over run by the enemy and where every thing was destroyed; for the Yankees left their trail in fire and ruin; every village burnt, every cow, hog, sheep and chicken killed, the horses and mules taken, and the provisions that could not be carried away were burnt, yet among these people I found more kindness, patriotism and liberality than in any other section. This contrasts strangely with our people at home, for if they would only charge Yankee batteries with half the unrelenting, savage ferocity that they charge wounded, sick and furloughed soldiers coming home or returning to the army, my deliberate opinion is that the Yankees wouldn't have a cannon left in their army in a week.

And why it is in our State that there are not soldiers' homes all through the country, I am at a loss to imagine. Texas is overflowing with provisions, has never been invaded, (thanks to the soldiers,) and our people have both the means and the time to do this much for our soldiers, and it is their duty. It is humiliating to think that a man who has returned wounded, a cripple for life, should be charged a *month's wages* for a bed to sleep on and a little bread and meat to eat. . . .

I visited Dr. Bryan's Hospital, at Auburn, where there are four hundred sick and wounded soldiers. The Dr. kindly showed me through the different wards, and even the kitchen. I found it far ahead of the other hospitals, and the people of Texas ought to contribute liberally to that hospital, for it is for Texas soldiers, and contributes greatly to the comfort of our unfortunate sick and wounded. The ladies at and in the vicinity of Auburn are doing all in their power to aid in taking care of our men, and they deserve the thanks of our people for their devotion to our wounded and sick soldiers. Dr. Bryan has done his part nobly, and deserves the gratitude of our State.

I will not trespass upon your space any further, Mr. Editor, and hope you will pardon me for sending so long a communication, but hope you can make room for it for the information it will give those whose sons are in the armies east of the river.

Respectfully,

Jno. R. Baylor.

GALVESTON WEEKLY NEWS, August 17, 1864, p. 2, c. 3

We see the Houston papers still harping about the Cotton Cards and Percussion Caps, voted by the Legislature for their own benefit, and must confess we cannot see that importance in the subject which seems to be attached to it, hence we have never even alluded to it before. A member writing the "News" in justification of this act of liberality on the part of the Legislature towards themselves, says "The Military Board had these articles for sale, and the members paid the market price." The market price for cotton cards were then from 30 to 40 dollars, but the Military Board had agreed to sell them to *soldier's families only for ten dollars per pair*, which the Legislature amended by voting themselves each a pair at the same price. This is the true version of the story, though he never thought it even worth a passing notice, as the Legislature has already sins sufficient to answer for, without piling the heap up any higher.—Austin Gazette, 10<sup>th</sup> inst.

DALLAS HERALD, August 20, 1864, p. 1, c. 4

### Soldier's Homes

Are being established in many of the towns of Southern Texas, and are a decidedly useful institution to the travelling soldier, who frequently is compelled to pay a whole month's wages for a single night's entertainment, and that sometimes grudgingly bestowed. "Homes" should be established in every town, and especially on the main thoroughfares. Why cannot one be gotten up in Dallas? We believe there are many in our midst who would willingly lend a helping hand, and we call upon all to second the proposition of Mr. Floyd which we append below. The ball has started—who will help to keep it rolling?

Breckenridge, Dallas Co., Texas,  
August 16, 1864.

Editor Dallas Herald:--The undersigned will give one hundred dollars per annum, to be paid quarterly, during the present war between the Confederate States and the United States, towards the establishment of a Soldier's Home in the town of Dallas, Dallas County, Texas. Will some of the patriotic citizens of the town of Dallas put the ball in motion, and keep it rolling until the desired end is accomplished.

John B. Floyd.

N.B.—If necessary, I will give more than the amount proposed. J. B. F.

DALLAS HERALD, August 20, 1864, p. 1, c. 1

### Special Correspondence.

Tyler, July 29, 1864.

Editor Gazette:--About a week ago 150 men of Col. Anderson's Regiment, who were guarding the Federal prisoners near here, organized under a Lieutenant, and left. Their horses had come in from grazing the day before, and they are well armed and mounted. Col. Anderson endeavored to overtake them with a small force, and induce or compel them to return but was unable to overtake them. They deserted in open day, fell into line at the sound of the trumpet, and are by this time on the frontier, I presume.

For a day or two the Federals were very insecurely guarded and some apprehensions were felt that they would escape and do much damage, but all is safe now. What should be the punishment for men so lost to honor as to desert their post leaving 3000 or 4000 miscreants almost unguarded in the heart of

the country, thus endangering the lives and property of the whole country to pillage and slaughter?

Ex-Gov. Col. Baylor, member of Congress for this district, has just returned from Richmond, and yesterday evening addressed the people at the methodist church. He left this side of the Mississippi river after the battle of Mansfield and was there only during the latter part of the session.

. . . He visited the hospitals every where on his route and at Richmond, and every where he found the wounded soldiers well attended to; the ladies particularly were indefatigable in their efforts to alleviate the sufferings of the soldiers. Go where he would, there he found the ladies favouring the sick, writing letters for them, or bathing their fevered heads; and at railroad depots he found always a table set out, and refreshments provided for the hungry and wearied soldier, without money and without price. Nearly every one was asked who came "are you a soldier?" and often one was sorry to acknowledge that he was not, and had to stand aside. This kindness is shown, not only in the interior, but where the ravages of war have desolated the country. Where hasty cabins are put up amid the ruin of villages, and in all other places, a soldier can pay nothing; but as soon as he landed on Texas soil, he saw an irishman, who had married in Texas, and was returning to his home with his arm shattered, and a Polander, with two or three minie balls in his leg, charged \$20 each for staying all night; and a lady in this State, who had taken in and nursed a sick soldier until he recovered, learned a short time after, that her son, who was returning home sick and wounded, died by the road side, because no one would take him in; now she declares she will never take in another. This was in Texas. And this is the treatment which these men, who had been these three years and more fighting your battles on the other side of the Mississippi River, meet with here. The soldiers on the other side had heard that soldiers were not so well treated on this, and asked him if it were true? He did not wish to tell a downright lie; so said it occasionally happened. But he found the occasions was very often. Farmers object to taking in soldiers, they say, because they miss spoons, towels, &c., and often in going through the country they are scattered for miles, taking whatsoever they want. Let such young men be taken up and blackfaced. Let soldiers remember that to the extent they injure farmers they injure the war, the farmers must feed the army.

. . . I understand that in a few days two thousand more of the Federal prisoners will leave here to be exchanged. It would be a great relief to this section of country if *all* were to be taken away, for they are a heavy burden, added to the necessary demands of our own army.

AUSTIN STATE GAZETTE, August 24, 1864, p. 1, c. 1

### Cotton Cards!

Wanted, a steam engine, from 4 to 8 horse power. Address, with description of engine and terms. Eubank & Co., Circleville, Williamson Co., Texas.

AUSTIN STATE GAZETTE, August 24, 1864, p. 1, c. 5

### Letter from Murrah Rangers.

Brownsville, Aug. 3rd, 1864.

... We crossed the river and surveyed the towns on the two banks of the river respectively. It was our first trip to the West; our first survey of Mexican progress and civilization. The impression was not altogether favorable. True, we found some very intelligent Mexican gentlemen at Laredo, and amongst them I cannot omit to mention the names of Col. Santos Benavides and his Adj. Lieut. Rodriguez. They are evidently most accomplished gentlemen; and brave, uncompromising soldiers of the Confederate army. Indeed all the soldiers of Col. Benavides' regiment seem to be a far higher order of Mexicans than those ordinarily seen about the city of Austin.

The population of Laredo, generally, are far behind this race in civilization. The women employ much of their time in sleep. In passing through streets at any hour of the evening, hundreds of *senoras* and *senoritas* may be seen surrounded, it may be, by a half score of naked children taking their evening's siesta. We saw also at an early hour in the morning many engaged in drawing water from the river to their *jakals*, not in carts but with lariats around their own soldiers fastened to the axles of water casks make for the purpose, the barrels revolving upon the round somewhat after the fashion we were accustomed to see among the citizens of North Carolina in our boyhood days, carrying their tobacco to market by rolling. A few had donkeys harnessed but for the great number had themselves harnessed to their water casks. We saw also many who wore sandals and quite a number who wore but little save the garniture with which nature adorned them.

... The Yankees left no citizens in Brownsville. It was almost as much deserted as a grave yard. It is now however filling up rapidly.

AUSTIN STATE GAZETTE, August 24, 1864, p. 1, c. 5

Atlanta, July 22—Night.—A great battle has been fought, and splendid successes achieved. . . The mourning hours passed slowly and solemnly. Every face wore a look of despondency. Shells were dropping in the streets, and sad groups of women and children, with a temporary supply of provisions, were wending their way to the woods. During the night, straggling ruffians had broken into the stores, robbed them of such of their contents as they wanted, and scattered the remainder through the streets. During the morning, these demoralizing scenes were repeated. Abandoned women broke into the military shops, and men in the uniform of soldiers gutted and pillaged premises from roof to cellar in search of tobacco and whiskey. The office of the Southern Express Company underwent this process far before day, and I enjoyed the melancholy privilege of seeing boxes, papers, and everything mentionable, thrown in "confusion worse confounded" on all sides. I dwell on the subject with peculiar dissatisfaction, because of my own losses, which leaves me minus of everything, from tooth brush to blanket, except the clothes in which I stand. While this indiscriminate pillaging was going on, wagons, stragglers, citizens and negroes, loaded with plunder, were hurrying out of town, fully impressed with the idea that Atlanta was about to be abandoned. Under these circumstances, it is no wonder that even the officers of the army were in a

measure despondent, and regarded the fortunes of the day as decidedly unpromising.

Not until evening did this mood change. Then it was ascertained that we had struck the enemy one of the severest blows of the war. . .

A considerable number of Yankee wounded are lying in the depot. Our own wounded are being sent to the various field hospitals.

The ladies of Atlanta have been kind beyond measure. While the wounded are coming in, they go out to meet them, with water, coffee and other refreshments, and after the wounds are dressed, visit the various hospitals in the city and tenderly nurse the sufferers. Confidence is restored in every heart, and no one now believes that Atlanta will not be saved.

Personne.

GALVESTON WEEKLY NEWS, August 24, 1864, p. 2, c. 3

A Soldier's Home has been established in this city, and all soldiers travelling with the requisite papers, when approved by the Commandant of the post, will be entertained free of expense at Mrs. Shaw's Hotel, agreeable to an arrangement with the Directors.

AUSTIN STATE GAZETTE, August 24, 1864, p. 2, c. 1

A dramatic entertainment was given at the Court House in this place last night, under the management of Messrs. Walter and Foley, late of the Houston Dramatic Association, for the purpose of raising funds with which to establish a Soldiers' Home in Dallas. We regret our inability to attend, but learn from those present, that the performance was very creditable, the house well filled, and every thing passed off pleasantly. Another performance with change of programme, is to be given for the same object, on Wednesday evening next. The object of the entertainment, if nothing else, should insure a full house.

DALLAS HERALD, August 27, 1864, p. 1, c. 1

Prentice says if things go on in the South as they are now going on, the relief soldiers will soon get to be as naked as ladies in a ball room.

What is the reason that men never kiss each other, while women waste a world of kisses on female faces? Because the men have something better to kiss and the women haven't.

DALLAS HERALD, August 27, 1864, p. 1, c. 2

We are pained to learn the death of Col. D. Hardeman, of Burleson county, which we see announced in the Houston papers. We think we may safely say no man in Texas had more friends and fewer enemies than Col. Hardeman. He was beloved by all wherever he went, for his social qualities, his high toned gentlemanly bearing, and patriotic devotion to the cause in which we are engaged. We have known him intimately for many years, and shall long mourn the loss of a friend, whose place will not soon be filled. We tender to his bereaved family our heartfelt condolence in this hour of their sorrow.

AUSTIN STATE GAZETTE, August 31, 1864, p. 2, c. 1

Those having Sheep, which they want rented out on shares, would do well to notice advertisement in to-day's paper. We have been over the range and know it to be one of the best in the country.

AUSTIN STATE GAZETTE, August 31, 1864, p. 2, c. 1

### **Soldiers' Homes in Texas.**

One in Houston, in charge of Sergt. C. A. Scales.

One in Beaumont, in charge of Wm. Fletcher.

One in Millican, in charge of Wm. R. Ellis.

One in Rusk, in charge of -----

One in Crockett, in charge of -----

One in Hempstead in charge of J. R. Ward.

One in Anderson, in charge of Mrs. Hendrick.

One in Red Top, in charge of Col. Bookman.

One in Chappell Hill, in charge of Judge Thomas.

One in Austin, in charge of Mrs. Shaw.

Mr. Wash. West, of Sweet Home, Lavaca co., also writes the "News," that soldiers, with proper papers, will be accommodated at his home free of charge.

AUSTIN STATE GAZETTE, August 31, 1864, p. 2, c. 4

The "News" gives the following as a good reason for not publishing a price current in Houston:

"During the past week an article of domestic was sold for forth-three cents per yard, specie--the next day the part wanted another bolt and had to pay fifty-cents--on the second day was asked sixty cents--thus you see there is no uniformity in the market, the price varying seventeen cents, specie, in two days--so of provisions and every thing else. It is impossible to give a correct price current."

AUSTIN STATE GAZETTE, August 31, 1864, p. 2, c. 4

Austin, August 24th, 1863.

Ed. Gazette--An Association has been formed for the support of a "Soldier's Home" in this city, of which the following are the officers:

Col. J. P. Neal, President; Mrs. Barret, Vice President; Joseph Harrel, Treasurer; Robert M. Elgin, Secretary; H. Green, Commissary.

Board of Directors.

W. L. Robards, A. H. Cock, Aaron Burleson, Mrs. Alex. Gregg, Geo. Flournoy, Dr. McCall, Col. Baird, Edward Clark.

Mrs. Shaw, of the San Marcos Hotel, (formerly the Swisher House,) has undertaken the duties of Matron--and all travelling soldiers whose papers are approved by the Commandant, Commissary or Quartermaster of the Post will be well entertained at her h house free of charge.

It is hoped that every friend of the soldier will feel a privilege as well as duty to contribute to this enterprise. The Commissary, Mr. Green, of the firm of Pink Eilers & Co., will receive subscriptions at his store of any supplies that parties may desire to furnish. Those who can more conveniently contribute money can pay the same to the Treasurer or any of the Committees appointed to collect subscriptions. Robert M. Elgin, Sec'y.

AUSTIN STATE GAZETTE, August 31, 1864, p. 2, c. 4