The Galveston Daily News (Houston, TX) Thursday, June 23, 1881; Issue 79; col D

HOOD'S TEXAS BRIGADE.

REUNION OF THE SURVIVORS OF THE OLD COLUMN.

Brenham Opens Wide Her Hospitable Gates and Bids a Hearty Welcome to Them All—Full Report of the Annual Meeting—Speeches of Welcome and Response—Business Transacted—The Faddess Roll—Brenham in History in Deeds of the Sun:—San Antonio Next to Entertain Them.

[Special Telegram to The News.]

BRENHAM, June 22.—At sunrise this morning the hills and valleys around Brenham were shaken by the artillery of Captain Schuerenberg, in honor of the meeting of Hood's Brigade. By 9 o'clock the streets were thronged with old soldiers, visitors from different portions of the State, and the people generally from Washington county. The morning was occupied among the brigade in registering, general hand-shaking, etc.

At 9 o'clock the eleventh annual meeting of the brigade was held at the court-house for the transaction of business. General J. B. Robertson, President of the Association, called the meeting to order. The following is a summary of business: Prayer by Elder Shekler. The roll was called by Major Robert Burns, Secretary, and the following officers and members responded: General J. B. Robertson, President; Vice-President Judge C. M. Winkler.

General J. B. Robertson, Fifth Regiment, Com-I, Waco.

Major Steussy, Fourth Regiment, Company H, Hockley.

James A. Avera, Third Arkansas Regiment, Company E, Hempstead.

F. M. Malrig, Fourth Texas Regiment, Company E, Waco.

J. H. Dillon, First Texas Regiment, Company —, Galveston.

G. S. Qualls, Fourth Texas Regiment, Company G, Hempstead.

W. E. Barry, Fourth Texas Regiment, Company A, Navasota.

T. G. Wallingford, Fourth Texas Regiment, Company G, Hempstead.

J. Pickett, Fifth Texas Regiment, Company E, Galveston.

W. H. Gray, Fifth Texas Regiment, Company E, Hempstead.

T. A. Baber, Fifth Texas Regiment, Company E, Brenham.

W. G. Carroll, Eighteenth Georgia Regiment, Company K, Independence.

F. A. Eldridge, Fifth Texas Regiment, Company E, Brenham.

T. J. Newman, Fifth Texas Regiment, Company I, Brenham.

B. Eldridge, Fifth Texas Regiment, Company E, Brenham.

H. Ponce, Fifth Texas Regiment, Company I, Independence.

J. C. Rogers, Fifth Texas Regiment, Company G, Cameron.

W. A. Nabors, Fifth Texas Regiment, Company G, Cameron.

T. M. Bigby, Fifth Texas Regiment, Company G, Mayfield.

J. R. Gillet, Fifth Texas Regiment, Company I, Hempstead.

F. C. Edney, Fifth Texas Regiment, Company I, Orenville.

J. M. Pinkney, Fourth Texas Regiment, Company G, Fields's Store.

J. A. Chesher, Fifth Texas Regiment, Company H, Vaughan's Mill.

John H. Rainey, Fourth Texas Regiment, Company A, Bellville.

J. Cartwright, Fourth Texas Regiment, Company I, Corsicana.

J. E. Melton, Fourth Texas Regiment, Company I, Corsicana.

L. W. Miller, Fifth Texas Regiment, Company G, Rockdale.

R. A. Ashby, Fifth Texas Regiment, Company K, Rockdale.

J. Pickett, Fifth Texas Regiment, Company I, Galveston.

W. B. Ronn, Fifth Texas Regiment, Company D, Huntsville.

H. B. Ford, First Texas Regiment, Company K, Jasper.

W. J. Watts, First Texas Regiment, Company G, Palestine.

E. Newsom, First Texas Regiment, Company G, Palestine.

Benj. W. Bristow, Fifth Texas Regiment, Company C, Falkner.

L. A. Daffin, Fourth Texas Regiment, Company G, Denison.

A. Wakelee, First Texas Regiment, Company L, Galveston.

Sam'l R. Burroughs, First Texas Regiment, Company G, Guy's Store.

J. P. Bryan, Fourth Texas Regiment, Company D, Caldwell.

A. J. Watts, First Texas Regiment, Company G, Grandview.

J. H. Dunham, Fourth Texas Regiment, Company G, Grandview.

Daniel A. Wood, Fourth Texas Regiment, Company G, Anderson.

H. S. Turner, Fifth Texas Regiment, Company I, Brenham.

J. W. Dallas, Fifth Texas Regiment, Company I, Brenham.

J. W. McAllister, Fifth Texas Regiment, Company A, Kinney.

A. G. Reitz, Fourth Texas Regiment, Company G, Bryan.

J. A. Hurst, Third Arkansas Regiment Quartermaster, Caldwell.

W. S. Holmes, Fifth Texas Regiment, Company I, Caldwell.

Jules A. Randal, Fifth Texas Regiment, Company E, Brenham.

James Frazier, Fifth Texas Regiment, Company G, Rockdale.

John N. Henderson, Fifth Texas Regiment, Company B, Bryan.

A. Sweemery, Fourth Texas Regiment, Company C, Bryan.

E. S. Taylor, Fifth Texas Regiment, Company E, Bryan.

J. Spring, First Texas Regiment, Company G, Bryan.

J. S. Norton, Fifth Texas Regiment, Company I, Brenham.

John W. Yooley, Fifth Texas Regiment, Company I, Independence.

R. S. Niblett, Fifth Texas Regiment, Company E, Brenham.

C. Welbush, Fifth Texas Regiment, Company I, Brenham.

J. H. Robinson, Fourth Texas Regiment, Company E, Galveston.

E. M. Nash, Fifth Texas Regiment, Company G, Cameron.

R. J. Baldwin, Fifth Texas Regiment, Company I, Independence.

A. B. Hood, Fifth Texas Regiment, Company I, Independence.

J. T. Cross, Fifth Texas Regiment, Company I, Brenham.

John Dantell, Fourth Texas Regiment, Company D, Elm Grove.

John W. Baker, Fourth Texas Regiment, Company D, Luling.

J. D. Ayers, Fourth Texas Regiment, Company B, Wilberville.

J. B. Polley, Fourth Texas Regiment, Company F, Flueanville.

R. S. Fitzgerald, Fifth Texas Regiment, Company I, Houston.

J. T. Welch, Fourth Texas Regiment, Company B, Austin.

J. D. Robordeau, Fifth Texas Regiment, Company B, Austin.

L. F. Hughes, Fourth Texas Regiment, Company G, Wilson county.

Val. C. Giles, Fourth Texas Regiment, Company B, Austin.

T. J. Mullins, Fifth Texas Regiment, Company E, Navasota.

T. Bonham First Texas Regiment, Company —, Hempstead.

F. R. Lubbock, honorary, Austin.

T. A. Wynn, Fourth Texas Regiment, Company H, Huntsville.

R. H. Pinckney, Fourth Texas Regiment, Company G, Hempstead.

Albert Wood, First Texas Regiment, Company D, Galveston.

J. E. Landes, Fifth Texas Regiment, Company A, Kinney.

F. M. Poland, Fifth Texas Regiment, Company A, Houston.

F. J. Gorce, Longstreet's Staff, honorary member, Huntsville.

John C. Gates, historian, Company I, Trinity.

J. J. Simpson, Fourth Texas Regiment, Company A, Hackberry.

Max Neuendorff, Fourth Texas Regiment, Company B, San Antonio.

J. H. Wooters, First Texas Regiment, Company I, Crockett.

W. B. Wall, Fourth Texas Regiment, Company F, Houston.

Robert Burns, Fifth Texas Regiment, Company E, Cool W. George, Fifth Texas Regiment, Company E, Washington.

M. S. Dunn, Fourth Texas Regiment, Company D, Austin.

James S. Boyd, Hampton's Legion, Company E, Greenville.

James S. Watts, First Texas Regiment, Company G, Palestine.

J. B. Currie, Fourth Texas Regiment, Company F, Fitch Coffee.

W. F. Thomas, Fifth Texas Regiment, Company E, Independence.

F. W. Batton, Fifth Texas Regiment, Company E, Scott's Store.

George L. Robertson, Fourth Texas Regiment; Company B, Austin.

J. H. Attaway, Forty-seventh Alabama Regiment, Chappell Hill.

J. B. Gee, Fifth Texas Regiment, Company C, Hempstead.

J. L. Roberts, Fifth Texas Regiment, Company E, Brenham.

J. B. Lust, Fifth Texas Regiment, Company E, Washington.

W. J. Apperson, Fourth Alabama Regiment, Company A, Chappell Hill.

W. O. Bedell, First Texas Regiment, Company I, Washington.

Benjamin Randolph, Fourth Texas Regiment, Company H, Huntsville.

L. J. Gewe, Fifth Texas Regiment, Company H, Navasota.

R. H. Wood, Fourth Texas Regiment, Company G, Hempstead.

John H. Roberts, Fifth Texas Regiment, Company E, Washington.

J. R. Thomas, Fifth Texas Regiment, Company I, Independence.

R. M. May, Fourth Texas Regiment, Company F, Seventy-six, Anderson.

W. F. Harris, Fifth Texas Regiment, Company I, Gay Hill.

R. K. Felder, Fifth Texas Regiment, Company E, Chappell Hill.

Colonel C. M. Winkler, Fourth Texas Regiment, Company —, Corsicana.

W. O. Morgan, Fifth Texas Regiment, Company I, George Ranch.

E. Washington, Fifth Texas Regiment, Company E, Waco.

J. H. McKnight, Fifth Texas Regiment, Company E, Daville.

J. M. Felder, Fifth Texas Regiment, Company E, Washington.

H. O. Robinson, Fifth Texas Regiment, Company E, Chappell Hill.

R. H. Clark, First Battery, Chappell Hill.

H. M. Parker, Fifth Texas Regiment, Company E, Independence.

J. L. Mathews, elected honorary, Grimes Co.

E. C. Finney, elected honorary, Brenham.

Jefferson Bassett, elected honorary, Brenham.

S. R. Thigpen, Fourth Texas Regiment, Company D, Burns' Ferry.

Joan Clark, Fourth Texas Regiment, Company A, Hearne.

E. E. Steele, Fourth Texas Regiment, Company A, Courtney.

The Business Meeting.

The minutes of the tenth annual meeting were read and adopted.

Resolutions inviting representatives of the press to seats inside the bar, and also inviting Texas veterans to seats on the floor and to take part in the proceedings, were offered and adopted.

Resolution inviting all soldiers of the United States army to seats in the hall adopted.

The Historical Committee made a partial report, urging contributions in the way of items, statistics, etc. The report up to this time only embraces record matter, but the standing committee are urged to collect all matters of interest from every source with a view to compiling and publishing a complete and reliable history of the brigade from its organization to its break-up.

On motion of Secretary Burns, the partial report was received and the committee continued, with instructions to continue the work.

Treasurer Jos. A. Nagle, of Austin, reported funds received, $1350 52, which remained in trust for the Hood orphan fund.

In response to the call by the President for report from the committee appointed at the last meeting to raise funds to reimburse certain members of the brigade who had advanced money on the oil painting of "Lee at the Wilderness," the following committee responded: Company B, Fourth Texas, had $50; Company F, Fourth Texas, $50; Company G, Fifth Texas, $20. About $1000 are due on the painting. Secretary Burns moved that the treasurer be instructed to divert the orphan fund in State security, but withdraw it upon the statement of State Treasurer, F. R. Lubbock, that on account of the low interest of such securities it was not advisable. A committee was then appointed to act with State Treasurer in investing this money. The committee was not announced.

The following gentlemen were elected honorary members of the Brigade: John T. Whitesides, of Grimes county; E. C. Finny and Jefferson Bassett, of Brenham. Mr. Whitesides is an old veteran, whose sons served in Hood's Brigade, but was linked in attempting to escape from prison at Fort Delaware by swimming. Colonel Finny and Major W. C. Walch and Major Burns were appointed a committee, and were empowered to procure lithographed certificates of membership and diplomas for the families of deceased members of the Brigade.

A statement of the disposition made of certain funds was read from Colonel J. B. Rogers, of Galveston, former treasurer. A resolution approving all the acts of Colonel Rogers was unanimously adopted.

Captain Gorce moved that the secretary correspond with the guardian of the Hood orphans, prior to the meeting in the future, to ascertain their condition from time to time. Carried.

A letter from the widow of the late Mr. A. G. Beaumont was read and ordered filed.

The following deceased were reported since the last meeting.

Jacob Steussy, Company G, Fourth Texas; June 19, 1881.

H. E. Schafer, Company C, Fourth Texas; August, 1880.

Sergeant Carl Wipprecht, Company D, Fourth Texas; July 1883.

Jacob Steussy, Company H, Fourth Texas; died May 22, 1881.

A. T. Ratcliff, Company G, First Texas; March, 1881. J. W. Matthews, Company G, First Texas; April, 1881.

Captain Jacob Smith, Company G, Fifth Texas; August, 1880. W. A. Hunter, Company B, Fifth Texas; June 4, 1881. James Cartwell, Company E, Fifth Texas; February, 1881. George Shilling, Company C, Fifth Texas.

E. S. Sharp, Company E, Fourth Texas; C. E. Lillie, Company C, Fourth Texas; J. W. Franks, Company D, Fourth Texas.

The present officers were unanimously re-elected for the ensuing year. General Robertson and Colonel Winkler returned acknowledgments of thanks; but Major Burns said he didn't feel so much disposed to thank the brigade, as there is a great amount of work connected with the office of Secretary, but expressed his gratitude in a good-humored little talk. A resolution of thanks was unanimously adopted to Major Burns for his efficient and satisfactory labors as Secretary for the past ten years.

A resolution of thanks was adopted to J. H. Blake & Co., Houston, for their donation of the Hood Brigade bale of cotton, which had netted over $2000. Also to the citizens of Washington county for their reception of the old command.

The matter of electing honorary membership in the brigade from the families of each member was referred to a committee appointed at a previous session.

San Antonio was unanimously selected as the place of the next reunion, and the time of meeting June 27, 1882.

In response to Dr. C. C. Chaplin was invited to the stand and read an original poem entitled "Hood's Brigade." It was full of humor and was received amidst applause. On motion, the doctor read it again at the dinner. After reading the poem at the conclusion, Dr. Chaplin was unanimously elected an honorary member, and is even now the biggest man in the brigade.

Votes of thanks were tendered the different railroads for kindnesses, also the press of the State, who have done so much to insure a successful and pleasant meeting. Fares of regrets were read from General Ross, (Ross's Brigade,) Judge Gunter, and others, who could not be present.

An invitation was then read and accepted to lunch at the business rooms of the Major Lawrence. There was found a most magnificent repast and the change made was most gallant and victory final as not a vestige of the enemy was left.

The brigade again reassembled at the court-house and were joined by a few from the Texas Brigade, Greys and the Brenham Fire Department in full uniform. After marching through the principal streets, the procession came to the Opera-house where was assembled a large crowd of citizens and visitors.

Dr. C. C. Chaplin offered a most fervent prayer, which was followed by a rousing old melody, "Hail to Liberty." General Sayles then introduced Colonel D. C. Giddings, who delivered the welcome address.

Colonel Giddings's Speech.

Colonel Giddings spoke, in substance, as follows:

Gentlemen of Hood's Brigade: I am authorized by the citizens of Brenham and Washington county to extend to you a most cordial welcome to our houses, homes and family circles. We are proud to honor the representatives of the noble band of patriots who, at the first call of their country, peril their lives, subjecting themselves to privations, hardships and sufferings, such as none but a soldier can appreciate or understand. Brenham indeed would we be should we fail on all proper occasions to pay tribute to those who, in obedience to convictions of duty, made such sacrifices as you made in defence of our homes, our honor and our household gods. We are specially delighted to have you present with us because we feel that your conduct will be such as to dispel a very common belief that these gatherings of the soldiers of the two great armies tend not to keep down the bitterness and hatred between the sections which culminated in the late civil war. We believe that had it been possible for the parties submitted the matter in dispute to the arbitrament of the men who did the fighting, a just and satisfactory settlement might have been reached and bloodshed averted; and after the fighting was over, had the readjustment been left to the gallant soldiery who met each other face to face upon the field, or even to the victorious soldiers of the Union, a satisfactory adjustment would have speedily followed, for a brave and true soldier is too magnanimous to be mean, too noble-hearted to demand dishonorable terms of a fallen foe. The blood of the grandsire of your command mingled with that of the bravest of the Union soldiery. Upon the battle-field they buried in common grave, and from their ashes have sprung the ivy, the lily and the rose, drawing succor and support from both alike. Then why in the name of God should the living continue the strife when the causes which provoked it have ceased to exist? Let us, then, forget all the bitter memories of the past that ought to be forgotten, as the brethren of the noble traits of character exemplified on both sides which go to make up or add to American greatness, and treasure them as the heritage of a people having a common origin and a common destiny. All honor to the brave and gallant men upon both sides, who, in obedience to the dictates of a conscientious duty, perfect their lives, in vindication of what they conceived to be right according to both all that they claimed for themselves, for who shall question the sincerity of that man who in vindication of his rights, without hypocrisy, shall Texas adversity as you have done steadily in the eye of danger, at the risk of a gun-barrel? Texas is with all this bickering and strife. You who have for remembrance of the State carved a name and a fame on the brightest page in the history of the past, are the men to lead in this movement of genuine reconciliation, and you will find gallant and true men on the other side to meet you half way. Not the men who were the camp-followers and plunderers of both sections. Success is the standard by which human actions are generally measured. Had you been successful, as we hoped and prayed you might be, the world would have sung the pean of praise, but as you were overwhelmed by superior numbers and combined, and yet not conquered, you gain honor, there are but few outside our own Southland to accord to you the meed of praise your gallant conduct upon many a hotly contested field of battle entitles you to. This makes it all the more gratifying to us to honor you. The we claim as an especial right, which none shall take from us, and old Washington county, which sent to the field more Confederate soldiers in proportion to her population than any other county in the State, will ever be found ready upon all occasions to contribute its share to Hood's Texas Brigade. Again, in the name of all of the people of our county, regardless of all political distinctions, I welcome you.

Captain Henderson's Speech.

Captain John N. Henderson was then introduced and spoke substantially as follows:

Fellow-citizens of Washington county: The pleasant duty has been assigned to me to respond, on behalf of Hood's Texas Brigade, to the eloquent words of welcome which have fallen from the lips of your representative; and how shall I worthily discharge the obligation which I owe to you an adequate idea of the gratitude and respect which animates these sunburnt veterans for the generous welcome you have tendered to them? The remembrance and extent of your preparations for our entertainment lately reached us on the wings of rumor; but let the half had not been told! And yet there was the old Revolutionary record of Washington county, ever distinguished as she has been for patriotism, chivalry and profuse hospitality? We do not forget that within the present limits of your county the fires of Texas independence were first kindled and nursed, and finally fanned into a patriotic flame, until the discharge has reverberated throughout the world that here was reached the cradle of Texas liberty, and those who have been called to lay down life for liberty from the hearts and stalwart arms Washington county was always at the front to furnish her quota. And I am reminded by some of the spirits lighter faces around me of the fact that of the fifty regiments of infantry which Hood's Texas Brigade two full companies, besides fractions of others, were contributed by your noble old county.

We do not, then, meet and part as strangers, people of Washington county and Hood's old Brigade, but with a cordial affirmation and respect for each other's character and history, born of lofty purposes and heroic deeds on each side.

On behalf of the brigade we recognize the fact that this tribute comes not alone from those who sympathized in the cause for which we fought, but is just as hearty and unstinted on the part of those who deemed it wrong and even of those who fought against us. All honor to the generous spirit to which such sentiments are due. It may not be amiss to respond to such a manifestation with a renewal of the declaration that the Union has no more devoted adherents than the remnant of this heroic brigade and the other Confederate soldiers like them. Twenty-five years went forth at the call of duty to fight against it.

Now an interval of a year the survivors of the old brigade meet again, as their custom is, in social reunion. They have gathered from every portion of our beautiful State. For a while the busy cares of life are forgotten, the Texas farmer, left his plow, the mechanic his shop, the merchant his store, the stockman his ranch, the lawyer and the physician their offices, and the Texas "roaming rangers" of the old command meet to-day again in annual reunion. But they do not meet as profoundly inquire with what object we are here? Have we met with any purpose to foster and keep alive the animosities of the war? Has our coming together any political significance? No! fellow-citizens. Our assembling together has it origin in a far different motive, and tends to a higher purpose. We are here for social reunion alone. We are here to renew and cement afresh the friendships formed under different scenes, and as we look into the faces of old comrades and hear again the unvounted, but unforgotten, tones of their voices, and feel the pressure of their answering grasps of sympathetic hands, our memories leap across the chasm of years, and we draw to our bosoms in fraternal embrace the friends who, in the times that tried men's souls, had part with us in the dangers of battle and the hardships of camp and march, and in the long and weary intervals of inaction and doubt shared with us in the alternations between hope and fear for the country we loved, and the cause we believed to be right, soldiers of a lost cause, adherents of a flag once floating proudly, now furled forever, but still dear to us, and to us, in honor, but furled in obedience to a sentiment as pure and sacred as that which first gave it to the breeze. We come to this tryst to knit anew the ties of severed companionship, and rekindle once more the fire of friendship and love, which could never wholly die out, while life itself shall last!

This cordial, fellow-feeling, and the pure sympathing more than the brightest reference to the career of the Texas, Army, the comrades, and familiar with its historic achievements. It formed a part—and no ignoble part—of the grand army of North Virginia. Both sides fought for what each, in its own blood and that of its enemies—on nearly every battle-field from Lexington to Appomattox, fearlessly.

The First Regiment still recalls with pardonable pride the compliment of the division commander, General Smith, extorted by their soldierly qualities in contrast with a regiment of "Yankees" above yet they had become reassured to the trade of war. "If I had half a dozen such regiments," said he, "I would not fear to undertake the conquest of the North!" Yet on the gallant Texans, the highest tribute to their valor implied in the rebuke of the lamented Hood, when he reported of them at Second Manassas, that they had stormed the battery and broken through the lines of battle, and found their way to the very heart of the enemy's broad rear! The history on either side of the battles of Sharpsburg and Gettysburg, Chancellorsville, and Fort Fisher, is a monument more durable than brass to the soldierly qualities of the men from whom I speak to-day! In their calm consciousness, their desperate valor, their invincible heroism—proof alike against the temptations of victory and the desperation of defeat. Not the passage of the Bridge at Lodi by the Grenadiers of Napoleon, nor the desperate assault of McDonald's cuirassiers at Wagram; not the heroic course of the Light Brigade at Balaclava—immortalized by poet's pen and artist's chisel—excelled the charge of the Texas Brigade at the Wilderness, under the eye of General Lee himself, when responding to his appeal, "Where are my boys? Texans, and to their own sense of patriotic duty, with the coolness and discipline of veterans they rushed to attack and again the serried ranks of the victorious enemy, in the face of overwhelming odds, resolved, each for himself, to do or die in a cause which they believed to be just and holy.

"Musketry to right of them,
Musketry to left of them,
Musketry in front of them,
Volleyed and thundered!
Stormed at with shot and shell,
Boldly they charged and well,
Into the jaws of death,
Into the mouth of hell.

The bones of our comrades within the battle-fields, and their blood enriches the soil of no less than eight States; but the survivors are widely spread shall to tell the stranger "These also fell at Thermopylae." Some have long since met over their names upon her scroll, and the harp of music may sing their deeds in a minor key, but their memories are enshrined in a people's hearts, and the world which, in the long run, is always just to courage, to honor and to truth, will be last come to recognize that those who poured out the rich blood of their hearts in the cause of what they deemed, as they understood it, were not unworthy sons of sires who bled at the Alamo, at Goliad and San Jacinto.

On a fame's eternal camping ground
Their silent tents are spread,
And glory guards with solemn sound,
The bivouac of the dead.

[With renewed thanks for the hospitality extended to the command, the speaker sat down amidst the most enthusiastic demonstrations of applause.]

The band here struck up "Dixie."

General Waul's Speech.

General T. N. Waul, the orator for the occasion, then spoke as follows:

Soldiers of Hood's Brigade: It was with no ordinary emotion I received the invitation tendered when I opened the telegram it read like the sound of a trumpet. I saw the battle-afar and the noise and tumult, the shouting and the war cries, the pinnings, and your camps at Rockett, and the Fair Ground at Richmond, and I burst forth full-blown and full of glory. Your nearness to Richmond brought the recollection of the many times, more; instant, than the movements of other Texas troops; from your first trial at Eltham's Landing, you have been in the front of the fight, and won the plaudits of the general commanding. Gaines's Mill, Frazier's Farm, Second Manassas, not only your own honor and the honor of Texas, but the valor of the cause, and the fate of the Confederacy was with you. Who, without a thrill, even at this day, can refer to Gaines's Mill and Cold Harbor without feeling the blood coursing through the veins? The enemy, intrenched in what was deemed an impregnable position, protected by a fringe (abatis of fallen timber) on the hills, so as to make the approach impossible—our troops were repulsed as often as they attempted to scale the heights; the President, his Cabinet, Congress, and the people of Richmond in view, with anxious hearts waiting the fate that hung upon the issue, Hood's Brigade, it was as a forlorn hope, the Texas Brigade, under the lead of the Paladin of the Southern Confederacy, in war, the Paladin or the field—was summoned to the rescue, and bravely was it answered. With steady, rapid step over the field, they marched, and, over the dying, over the living but prostrate soldiery of the Union, they marched in confidence of the artillery, the showers of grape and canister, there moved from and unavoiding the mouth of a valley, concealed from view by the smoke of battle—the doubt was can they emerge and second? Yes! Wil—all others were left with that crowd of spectators there was silence as death, and the forest stood still, breath for a time—but hark! above the din of arms, the rattle of musketry, the roar of artillery, I heard the Texas yell. They emerge, and dash up the hill with the spring of the lion and the pace of the greyhound! Hood's Brigade! Hood's Brigade! work, and are down upon the enemy. No human power can withstand the charge. The intrenchments are abandoned and the breastworks unmanned; the enemy are in rapid flight and shouts through the whole Confederate line, shouts from the crowd of spectators, men and women, announce that the victory is won. I tell you that glorious old soldier, Stonewall Jackson, exclaim when he saw the charge, "Hood's Brigade! Hood's Brigade who took this position were soldiers indeed."

True heroism may be as sublime in failure as in success, and even more exalted when success was impossible, as when you climbed the rugged heights of Gettysburg. The intrenchments were impregnable. The command was given—no hesitation, no waverling.

Yours not to reason why,
Yours not to make reply,
Yours but to do and die.

From rock to rock the accept was made amidst a fire that swept it from battlement to base.

"It was not in man to win success, you did more, you deserved it."

Shall I spend the day in recounting deeds of noble daring performed on a hundred different fields, the records of the war and the publications being made, will give them their due immortality? Shall I spend the day in recounting in the war office. I have it before me, that glorious old banner, which shines the brightest in the day and in glory, in defeat and in triumph, never in disgrace. Look at the sacred old banner, how she vaunts her tattered folds! Let our Texas brave move gently among her folds. She has seen and much and can still boast of honorable usage. Fold it carefully; the time may yet come when it will be necessary to gather up the dispersed fragments be thrown to the breeze, and who of the North, or the East, or the West, would not be proud to follow it? Who would not gladly rally to the old guard and their battle-cost standard?

If our records are preserved in history and memory of your gallant dead, whose bones are mingled with the precious soil of Virginia, who died without a mark to point to their graves, may the green turf be light upon their bosom; they have fallen disarmed, covered and unwept by those who loved them. Yet the most precious tears are those which heaven hoarded for the wounded head of a soldier.

We have assembled from distant parts of our wide State to unite with the patriotic citizens of Washington county to greet the soldiers of Hood's Brigade, who have come from their homes to their annual gathering to clasp hands and rejoice with your surviving comrades who escaped the baptism of fire into which they so often plunged. We delight to honor them, as they have added honor to our beloved State, and who went nobly forth at the call of patriotism and duty, and at the early dawn, we saw one of the Confederate soldiers, with the devoted zeal of the Eastern worship, or, hailed its rising, and followed that luminary in its brightness and its obscurity, until it set in blood, leaving its sacrificial altar,