

## Meeting Schedule

Oct 14, 2024 Dr. David Barnett: "Granbury and the Civil War"

Nov 11, 2024 Richard Selcer, columnist Ft Worth Star Telegram: "The Gettysburg Phantom Court of Inquiry"

Dec: 9, 2024 Dr. Debbie Liles :Women of Civil War Texas"

2025

Jan 13, 2025 Sam Houston Publisher of the Hood County News (as "the" Sam Houston)

Feb 10, 2025 Dr. Charles Gear "Sam Houston and the fate of Texas"

Mar 13, 2025 Dr. Julie Holcomb, Baylor University

Apr 14, 2025 Pat Falci (as A.P. Hill)

May 12, 2025 Dr. Curt Fields (as Gen Grant)

## Inside this issue:

CWRT : Our Mission 2

Did You Know? 2

"Confederate General H. B. Granbury's Company from Waco" 2-4  
by Joe Walker

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## North Central Texas Civil War Round Table

<http://www.ncentexcwrt.com/>

Granbury, Texas

Next Meeting: 14 October at Spring Creek BBQ Program starts at 6:30  
Dr. David K. Barnett will speak on:  
"War Wolves: 13 Men Came to Granbury, Texas after the Civil War"



Dr. Barnett will present :

### ***Granbury, Texas in the Civil War***

Dr. David K. Barnett is the author of several books, including a Granbury History trilogy. Barnett possesses an undergraduate degree in History from Indiana University as well as advanced degrees in counseling and historical theology. Barnett is working on a new book entitled "Granbury, Texas, and the Civil War." He lives in Hood County with his wife, Julie. They have three grown children.

In addition to being a published author, David is a local historian of some note:

**Check out his Facebook page : David Barnett's Granbury History**

<https://www.facebook.com/p/David-Barnetts-Granbury-History>



Our purpose is education and information. From our inception we have kept a calculated balance mixing subjects, people, events and battles so as to appeal to all interests. If you examine our schedule of past speakers which is available on this website you will find this to be true. Speakers have included authors, professors, lecturers, dramatists, curators, and others who have some expertise in the subject of the Civil War.

#### Did You Know?

*When the Civil War began, Texans responded in impressive numbers. By the end of 1861, more than 25,000 had joined the Confederate army. During the course of the war, nearly 90,000 Texans served in the military. By war's end more than 20,000 Hispanics fought in the Civil War nationwide: some for the Union and some for the Confederacy. Texans distinguished themselves in every major campaign of the war from New Mexico to Pennsylvania: Gettysburg, Antietam, Second Manassas, Wilson's Creek, The Wilderness, Vicksburg, Corinth, Shiloh, Chickamauga, Glorieta Pass, Pea Ridge, Gaine's Mill, Franklin, and Mansfield. Leaders included legendary figures John Bell Hood, Albert Sidney Johnston, John Bankhead Magruder, Patrick Cleburne, and Ben*

## Confederate General H. B. Granbury's Company from Waco: Were They Really the Waco Guards?

By Joe Walker

Member, The Company of Military Historians

The search for the answer to who the Waco Guards were begins in the summer of 1861 when a Texas militia company was formed for Confederate service by Waco, Texas, attorney Hiram B. Granbury. Historians and researchers of Granbury's Texas Brigade have known the militia company he formed for the War as the "Waco Guards", comprising of men from the Waco, Texas, area that became part of the 7th Texas Infantry. Granbury ascended to the rank of colonel of the 7th, then promoted to brigadier general in 1864 while serving in Major General Patrick R. Cleburne's famous division in the Army of Tennessee.<sup>1</sup> Both Granbury and Cleburne died in the initial Confederate attack at Franklin, Tennessee, in the late afternoon of 30 November 1864. They were initially buried at Columbia, Tennessee, then moved the next day to the St. John's Episcopal Church cemetery at Ashwood, Tennessee.<sup>2</sup>

Granbury's Waco Guards are also well known among Civil War button collectors due to their name clearly shown on the face of a button with a Texas star. Confederate uniform buttons displaying the name of a town are unique and extremely rare and valuable.<sup>3</sup>

Militia companies would assign themselves a name that would include where they were from, and a military description such as "Rifles", "Guards", etc. Some were simply named for their leading captain. Most of these names were short lived once the company became part of a battalion or a regiment in the regular army. When Granbury's militia company arrived in Kentucky for duty in November 1861, they were mustered in and became company "A" of the 7th Texas Infantry Regiment, CSA.<sup>4</sup> An existing muster roll for Company A only identifies the company by its company letter and the regiment, lacking any specific name.

Two years after the War, a new county southwest of Fort Worth, Texas, was formed and named Hood County in honor of General John B. Hood. Within this county, a community was established and named Granbury in his honor.<sup>5</sup> In 1893, the residents sought to bring Gen. Granbury's remains from Tennessee to the town named after him for internment there. J. N. Doyle, mayor of Granbury and commander of the Granbury United Confederate Veterans camp, obtained permission from Granbury's sister, Nautie Granberry Moss of Brownwood, Texas, to have him interred in Granbury on the anniversary of his death, 30 November 1893.

According to Fort Worth banker K. M. Van Zandt's autobiography, "Force Without Fanfare," he recounted that Dr. Doyle traveled to the St. John's church cemetery to attend to the disinterment of Granbury's remains and returned with them. Van Zandt stated that Dr. Doyle had reported the positive identification of the remains by a button found in the grave which read "Waco Rifles." He remembered seeing the same words on their uniform buttons.<sup>6</sup>

Van Zandt was an original captain of one of the companies within the 7th Texas Infantry and the Regiment's second major. Having been at the formation of the regiment, he would have known the names of the various militia companies that composed it. When I initially read his statement regarding the buttons, it struck me as odd that Van Zandt not to recall the correct name of Granbury's company. I assumed he either made a mistake, or it was the result of a faulty memory of events from thirty-two years earlier.

## ***Confederate General H. B. Granbury's Company from Waco: Were They Really the Waco Guards? (con't)***

Granbury's sister attended the ceremony for the interment of her brother and was interviewed by several Texas newspapers. In Ezra Warner's 1959 seminal work, "Confederate Generals in Gray," he had this to say about the General relative to the name of the company, "He recruited the Waco Guards in 1861, and took them east." Warner listed his source as "Information on which this sketch herein is based was obtained from an article in the Granbury (TX) News, 30 November 1893, contributed by his sister, Mrs. A. D. Moss of Brownwood, Texas".<sup>7</sup> All newspapers covering the event reported the same story provided by Granbury's sister regarding the name of the militia company he recruited for the War. One of the newspapers also described items that Dr. Doyle had recovered from Granbury's grave in Tennessee, including a general's collar insignia with three gold stars and a few Waco Guards buttons.<sup>8</sup>

Living in Waco, I became very interested in the 7th Texas Infantry, particularly the Waco Guards. In 1994, I requested a copy of an original muster roll of Company A from the Texas State Archives. Included with the muster roll were copies of two Treasury warrants made out to Granbury for his services as a second lieutenant in a temporary Ranger Company led by Thomas Harrison, a Mexican War veteran and Waco resident.<sup>9</sup> Governor Sam Houston had ordered these temporary companies formed in January of 1860, to augment the US Army along the Texas fort line that ran from near the Indian Territory in the north then down to the Mexican border.<sup>10</sup> However, it only stated the warrant was payment for service in Harrison's company and nothing noted as to the name of his Company.

In 2004, the biography "Lone Star General" by Rebecca Drake and Thomas Holder revealed that according to the December 1860, issue of Waco newspaper "Waco Democrat," a Ranger company called the "Waco Guards" had been formed as a result of Houston's order and captained by Thomas Harrison. The discovery that Harrison's Ranger Company's name was also the name of Granbury's new militia company led the authors to conclude that Granbury had reorganized Harrison's Ranger Company for Confederate service.<sup>11</sup> The revelation of the name origin of his company was very surprising. I immediately wondered if the Waco Guards buttons were originally ordered for the Ranger Company, or for Granbury's militia company? As my research progressed, more interesting facts about Granbury's militia company surfaced.

For the last several decades, metal detecting hobbyist were recovering a few of the rare Waco Guards buttons in locations where the 7th Texas Infantry had neither camped nor fought. One such button was discovered in the first winter camp of the 4th Texas Infantry in Virginia.<sup>12</sup> Since the 4th Texas Infantry included one company from Waco, it raised intriguing questions: how did the unknown soldier come into possession of the button, and had he served in the Ranger Company?

The possibility that the name of Granbury's militia company could be The Waco Rifles was gaining my attention. Because of Van Zandt's comment on the button found in the grave with "Waco Rifles" on it, along with the buttons recovered in locations unrelated to their service, prompted me to search for further evidence. The following is what I found that removed any doubts I had about the real name of Granbury's militia Company being the Waco Rifles:

1. The *Texas Republican* (Marshall, Texas) reported on 2 November 1861, that (on or about) 1 October 1861, a Waco company called the Waco Rifles had arrived, captained by Hiram Granbury.<sup>13</sup>
2. Vicksburg Whig Reported that Granbury and the Waco Rifles had arrived en route to Memphis (unknown October date).<sup>14</sup>
3. Unpublished letter from Sgt. J. Sam Norvell written from Memphis, Tennessee, en route to Kentucky: "Presuming you may feel some interest in the Waco Rifles and would like to know something concerning their movements, I will trouble you for a few moments with few scribbles from my pen."<sup>15</sup>
4. Two letters written by Pvt. C. W. Love of company G of the 7th Texas Infantry describe the Waco Company as the Waco Rifles.<sup>16</sup>

## ***Confederate General H. B. Granbury's Company from Waco: Were They Really the Waco Guards? (con't)***

I was convinced, but I still had questions that I knew others would have as well. The following are a few of them, and my plausible answers: If Granbury's company was not the Waco Guards, could there have been another company from Waco with the same name that could have acquired the buttons? After researching the other companies from Waco, none were found.<sup>17</sup> The obvious candidate for the person who ordered the buttons was Capt. Thomas Harrison of the Ranger Company. However, rather than re-organizing his Ranger Company with the same Waco Guards name, Harrison recruited a new militia company. His goal was to have it become a company in the 8th Texas Cavalry, which was being formed in Houston, Texas. Harrison knew the men forming the unit from prior relationships, having lived there before moving to Waco. He also represented them while serving in the Texas Legislature.

Not surprisingly, soon after Harrison arrived with his militia company in Houston, he was elected Major of the 8th Texas Cavalry. Records for the men he recruited show only three men were from Waco or McLennan County, and none of them were in his pre-war Ranger Company.<sup>18</sup> The name of this new militia company was probably never assigned and most likely went simply by "Harrison's Company". This company became Company A in the 8th Texas Cavalry. Harrison eventually became the colonel of the 8th Texas Cavalry, also known as Terry's Texas Rangers, and was later promoted to the rank of General in 1865.<sup>19</sup> Could another militia company in the Waco have used the name? The first company formed would have the first opportunity of claiming it. This was the "Lone Star Guards," which later became Company E of the Fourth Texas Infantry and<sup>20</sup> served in the Army of Northern Virginia. A veteran of the company stated fifty-eight years after the War that the buttons on their coats had "LSG" in raised letters, representing the name of their Waco militia company.<sup>21</sup> He mentioned that his first captain had obtained the buttons from a New York button company. However, none of these buttons, button dies, or records of their manufacture have been found. This raises the possibility that, due to shortages or late delivery, some of the LSG buttons could have been supplemented with Waco Guards buttons available before they left Waco. The button found in Virginia in the camp of the 4th Texas infantry could be an example.

If the name "Waco Guards" was available after being declined by both Harrison and the Lone Star Guards, why did Granbury not take the name for his company? His company was the second formed. Nothing has been discovered to answer that question. There is a record of the McLennan County Commissioners being concerned that money allotted for men going to fight in the War might instead go to local militias.<sup>22</sup> It is also possible that the name was reserved for a future Ranger company. Ultimately, the Commissioners agreed to allocate \$600 for supplies for Granbury's new militia company.

How did Granbury's sister get the name of the company wrong? I have concluded that when the reporter(s) at the 1893 interment ceremony asked her if the Waco Guards was her brother's first command, she must have answered affirmatively. Her brother had been in the Ranger Company for almost six months prior to recruiting the Waco Rifles and would have had the opportunity to receive Waco Guards buttons. Unaware of Granbury's pre-war Ranger service or that the militia company he recruited for the War was the Waco Rifles, the reporters proceeded with their incorrect stories. The buttons from his Tennessee grave, presented to his sister at the services, confirmed their assumptions. From the newspaper accounts, the story found its way to Ezra Warner's "Confederate Generals in Gray" sixty-five years later, and forever be quoted and used as a footnote for Granbury's company from Waco.

Finally, my conclusion regarding the button: it should be considered as Confederate used, but the name on it was not the name of a specific militia company formed for the War from Waco. Based on the various locations where the buttons have been found, it appears that men from Waco who obtained them utilized them in a generic way. Even though their company may have had a different name, they adorned their uniforms with these buttons to show pride in their Waco, Texas home regardless of their unit affiliation. General Granbury would have been no exception.

In many respects, the button contributed to the postwar re-naming of the company. Granbury's use of the button, as well as others, resulted in the "Waco Rifles" name being relegated to the dust bin of Civil War history. If any of the buttons still exist, finding one will surely re-kindle the discussion of who really were the Waco Guards, whenever the next one is found!

## Confederate General H. B. Granbury's Company from Waco: Were They Really the Waco Guards? (con't)

### NOTES

1. Ezra J. Warner, *Generals in Gray* (Louisiana: LSU Press, 1959), 114, 115.
2. Charles T Quintard, Sam D. Elliot, ed., *Doctor Quintard: Chaplain and Second Bishop of Tennessee* (Louisiana: LSU Press, 2003), 187-190. Generals Granbury, Cleburne, and three other officers killed at Franklin were originally buried by Quintard in Columbia, Tennessee on 2 December 1864. Due to the close proximity of Union soldier's graves, he had their bodies removed the next day to the St. John Church's cemetery at Ashwood, near Mt. Pleasant, Tennessee.
3. Warren K Tice, *Uniform Buttons of the United States* (Pennsylvania: Thomas Publications 1997), 469, (#TX244). No records or documentation exist of who ordered the buttons, when ordered, or how many. The button is considered a state militia button due to having been made before the War, and not during the War.
4. K. M. Van Zandt, Sandra Myers, ed., *Force Without Fanfare* (Texas: TCU Press 1968), 80, 81. The Regiment was not organized as the 7th Texas Infantry until a few days after their arrival in Hopkinsville, Kentucky. On 4 November 1861, the officers were elected, and lots were drawn for the companies' places in line (Confederate artillery batteries were allowed to be alternately identified by their home state and battery commander's name or their official assigned battalion numbers).
5. The 11th Texas Legislative Session (1866). The village selected for the county seat and re-named Granbury was called Stockton's Bend. No record exists of Gen. Granbury visiting the village either before, or during the War.
6. K. M. Van Zandt, Sandra Myers, ed., *Force Without Fanfare* (Texas: TCU Press 1968), 156, 157. Van Zandt describes the effort to identify the remains of General Granbury, and to have them interred in the town named after him. He had to have surmised that the buttons had Waco Rifles on them. The buttons from the grave given to Granbury's sister were Waco Guards buttons.
7. Ezra J. Warner, *Generals in Gray* (Louisiana: LSU Press, 1959), 376
8. *Austin (TX) Weekly Statesman*, 7 December 1893. In addition to reporting on interment ceremonies, it listed items found in the grave that were given to his sister including some of his hair.
9. Texas Treasury Pay Warrants, Texas State Library and Archives Commission (Texas State Archives). Warrants #3141 and #3242, 27 July 1861.
10. David P. Smith, *Frontier Defense In The Civil War* (Texas A&M Press: 1988), 18-25. The usage of the name "Ranger" is explained in the book as well as the placement of the various frontier forces Texas deployed to augment the US Army before the War. Governor Sam Houston signed the Frontier Protection Act in January 1860, creating the temporary Ranger companies. Harrison's company was disbanded in July 1861.
11. Rebecca Drake and Thomas Holder, *Lone Star General* (Texas: Published by the authors 2004), 10, 99, 100. A biography of General H. B. Granbury. The book explains that the Waco Guards was the name of the pre-war Ranger Company captained by Thomas Harrison (see #9). The authors state that Granbury reorganized the Ranger Company into a militia company for Confederate service using the same name (source not cited).
12. Warren K Tice, *Uniform Buttons of the United States* (Pennsylvania: Thomas Publications 1997), 469; Richard Ahlstrom, *Texas Civil War Artifacts* (Texas: UNT Press 2008), 390; *North-South Trader's Civil War* (January - February Issue 1986), 10.
13. *Texas Republican* (Marshall, TX), 2 November 1861. The newspaper also listed a full roster of the men in the Waco Rifles. Granbury probably told the reporter the name of his company.



## Confederate General H. B. Granbury's Company from Waco: Were They Really the Waco Guards? (con't)

### NOTES

14. *Bellville (TX) Countryman*, 13 November 1861. The newspaper contained the story printed in the Vicksburg Whig. Granbury probably told the reporter the name of his company.
15. J. Sam Norvell Papers, Accession #1187, The Texas Collection, Baylor University. Norvell had also served with Granbury in Harrison's Ranger Company.
16. Cyrus W. Love, *Yours in Filial Regard – The Civil War Letters of a Texas Family*. Kassia Waggoner and Adam Nemmers, (Texas: TCU Press 1992), 56, 100.
17. Hill College, John F. Walters, *Capsule Histories of Civil War Regiments*, Middle Village, New York. Includes company names, if known.
18. Hill College, *Texas Ranger Enlistment Roster*, 122. Includes J. Sam Norvell as a member of Harrison's Ranger Company. (Granbury is also listed. 99)
19. Ezra J. Warner, *Generals in Gray* (Louisiana: LSU Press, 1959), 127. Biography of Thomas Harrison.
20. Harold B. Simpson, *Gaines Mill to Appomattox* (Texas: Texian Press 1988), 31.
21. B. L. Aycock, *Confederate Veteran* (Vol. XXXI, 23 February 1923), 60.
22. Harold B. Simpson, *Gaines Mill to Appomattox* (Texas: Texian Press 1988), 29.

