

Civil War Camps

compiled by Bill Page

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1861: July 25 - Co. E, 4th Texas Infantry, HOOD's Brigade, from McLennan Co. passed through Millican. "The next morning Captain RYAN ordered Lieutenant SUBLETT and Sergeant DOWNS to ride ahead (on borrowed horses) to Millican, the terminus of the Houston and Texas Central Railroad. Rumor had it that the railroads were transporting Confederate troops free of charge and there was no use walking any further than required. After a day and a half of hectic riding, during which they passed through Boonville, not far from the present site of Bryan-College Station, the two couriers reached Millican, verified the free transportation rumor and made the necessary arrangements with the conductor for the movement of the company. It was here that the advance party learned the place of rendezvous had been changed from Brenham to Harrisburg, a small town six miles southeast of Houston on Buffalo Bayou. After a couple of cherry cobblers, SUBLETT and DOWNS hired a horse and buggy for the purpose of meeting the company and escorting it into town in style. The Guards camped on the outskirts of Millican that night and a group of them, including Captain RYAN, walked to town to see the bright lights. One of the local bars, as well as the ten pin alley, played host to the distinguished visitors from McLennan County, who, after a boisterous evening, returned a bit unsteady to their campsite. The company broke camp early next morning and marched to the railroad station to board the cars for Houston. The conductor was not quite ready to receive the McLennanites, so the boys lolled around the station passing time. Sergeants DOWNS and EARLE dropped into a nearby saloon and put away a couple of "mustange punches" during the interval. Apparently these "mustangs" had a kick, for DOWNS reported that he and his buddy "got a little tipsie." ... It was finally "all aboard" at 10 a.m. bound for Houston. The soldiers mixed it in with the civilian travelers. Green SANDIFER, Tom SELMAN and Oscar DOWNS entertained the passengers as a string trio with a banjo and two violins. Their destination reached at 5 p.m. ..."
(From Harold B. SIMPSON, Gaines' Mill to Appomattox Waco & McLennan County in HOOD's Texas Brigade, Waco: Texian Press, 1963, p.37; SIMPSON cites as his source the unpublished diary of Oscar J. DOWNS, in the possession of one of his descendants).

The Reserve Camps -- Governor CLARK has selected Millican's, on the Central Railroad, and Victoria, as the localities for reserve camps. The troops (infantry) will be mustered into the Confederate service for the war. Dallas Herald, 16 Oct. 1861, p.1

1861: Oct. 23 -- The 12th Texas Cavalry, recruited in the area around Ellis and Hill Counties, passed through Millican. "Pass through the town of Boonville and camped near the railroad. On this day one of the H.C.V. [Hill County Volunteers] got his leg broken by a wagon running over it. On the following morning before Aurora dawned, all were on the march and every company striving to get before, when several companies mistook the road; when they found it out, they came back at the top of their speed and such charging through the timber and confusion I never witnessed before, but they could not gain their former position and had to fall in the rear. When near Millican we fired two salutes to warn them of our approach. The regiment was then formed in a solid column of fours and marched through the town with banners unfurled and arms presented. We crossed the Navasota River that evening" ANDERSON, John Q., editor, Campaigning With PARSON'S Texas Cavalry Brigade, C.S.A. Hill Junior College Press, 1967.

1862: Mar. 12 through 1862: Apr. 12 -- Co. E, 10th Texas Infantry, enlisted soldiers at Camp Brazos, near Millican. See, for example, the Compiled Service Records of: James E. BINION, William H. BURROW, William G. COOK, James J. DIXON, George W. DOCKERY, William FLETCHER, George W. HAWKINS, Alexander G. HIGGINS, James HOGGARD, Martin H. JOHNSON, Francis P. LEWIS, and Thomas J. NORRELL

1862: Mar. 29 - Apr. 17 - Co. A of the 10th Texas Infantry "stopped a short time at Camp Brazos in Brazos Co. (Supplement to the Official Records of the Union and Confederate Armies, vol.68, p.741)

1862: Apr. 16 -- The "Field and Staff", plus 2nd Co. E, of 15th Texas Infantry (1st SPEIGHT's Battalion) were stationed at Camp Speight near Millican [Supplement to the Official Records of the Union and Confederate Armies, vol.68, pp.850, 859]

1862: Apr. 15 -- "... and left for Independence [Independence] 15 miles and then to Millican [Millican] 18 miles. Ther I found 4 waggons to load with provisions and

frm thar to the regt. 10 miles. They were camped at a place they cald Camp Brazos. I came up with them that night about 10 o'clock and found them all in high spirits fer the march that was to take place in a few days. 16 April 1862 On the 16th we all washed our clothes and dryed them. All were quite in camp and [we] rejoiced to hear the order given to march. On drest parade at 5 o'clock. The orders were read out fer the bugal to sound at 3 o'clock. and at haff past five we went to march. On the 17th at the apointed time we were all in line in too ranks and at haff past five Col. A. NELSON commander post [gave the] command, sholder arms, in two ranks right facae, rought step, march [carry] arms at will. We moved off in style and with a light and quick step. I started one team after another untell they were all on the march. I made a long line from one to too miles long. We marched 8 miles that day to John's Pond and camped fer the night to rest our weary limbs. Friday 18th at five o'clock we were all in line fer another day's march. Went through Boonville and in seven miles of Wheallock [Wheelock] and pitched camp. A vary warm and beautiful day. Saturday 19th marched through Wheallock [Wheelock] and camped five miles on the other side ..." [from The Bugle Softly Blows; the Diary of Benjamin M. SEATON, edited by Harold B. SIMPSON, p.5]

1862: Apr. 23 -- Capt. Richard COKE's Co. (Co. K) of 15th Texas Infantry (1st SPEIGHT's Battalion) was mustered in at Camp Speight near Millican [Supplement to the Official Records of the Union and Confederate Armies, vol.68, p.868.]

1862: May 15 -- Co. I of 15th Texas Infantry (1st SPEIGHT's Battalion) were stationed at Camp Speight near Millican [Supplement to the Official Records of the Union and Confederate Armies, vol.68, p.863]

Camp Speight near Millican ... [article continues at length, concerns Waco University; does not provide any details about Camp Speight or Millican]... [signed] Rufus C. BURLESON (Houston) Tri-Weekly Telegraph, 27 June 1862, p.1

Col. Reily's Regiment - This [the 4th Texas Cavalry] is ordered to rendezvous on the 12th inst., at Camp Raguet, near Millican, in Brazos County - The camp is named in honor of Maj. Henry W. Raguet, who was killed at the battle of Glorietta, New Mexico, and no braver spirit has ever been offered on the altar of patriotism by the South. Some recruits are wanted for this regiment, and we would advise

those gallant men who want active cavalry service, to report themselves at once. Texas Almanac - Extra, 1 November 1862, p.1, col.6

Head Quarters, 4th
Reg. T. Cavalry
November 1st, 1862

General Order, no. 43

The officers and privates of the 4th Regiment Texas Cavalry, will rendezvous at Camp Raguet, near Millican, Brazos County, on the 12th inst. Officers commanding companies will report with their muster rolls to the Adjutant on or before 12 M. that day. By order of

James REILY, Col. 4th Texas
Cavalry

John E. HART,
Adjutant

This camp is named in honor of the brave Major Henry M. RAGUET, who fell too soon for his own and his country's glory, on the battle field of Glorietta, New Mexico.

James REILY,
Col. 4th Texas
Cavalry

Houston Tri-Weekly Telegraph, 7 Nov. 1862, supplement, p.2

1862: Nov. 8 -- Colonel James REILY's Regiment of Texas Mounted Volunteers -- We started early this morning and reached Millican in due season and from there we soon reached our regimental camp on a little slope towards the south in the midst of the post oaks -- Millican is a thriving looking little town with a R R depot two hotels and three livery stables and two or three barrooms and as many stores. We found out very soon after we got to camp that there is very little grass anywhere around here and as a matter of course we regret it most of our horses being grass raised animals. We camped about where SPAIGHT's Regiment camped while we were in New Mexico. The remains of their old camp are plentiful horse troughs tables rudely made of puncheons laid across poles supported by forks driven firmly into the ground ... From Journal of A.B. PETICOLAS, vol.3, Local History Collection, Victoria College, Victoria, Texas, copy supplied by Don E. ALBERTS.

L.M. TAYLOR, Surgeon (REILY's 4th Texas Cavalry) at Camp Raguet, Millican, acknowledges with many thanks, the reception of a package of linen for bandages and hospital napkins from Mrs. C.M. ALLEN, of Houston ... (Houston) Tri-

Weekly Telegraph, 10 Dec. 1862, p.2

Headquarters, Cavalry Brigade
Camp Raguet, Texas, Dec. 6,
1862

General Order No.1

The attention of the officers in command of regiments, posts and camps belonging to this Brigade is called to the following ... [long order prohibiting alcoholic beverages at military posts]

[signed] James REILY,
Commanding Brigade
Ellberry R. LANE, Act. Adj.
4th Reg't Texas Cavalry, Camp.
Raguet

(Houston) Tri-Weekly Telegraph, 15 Dec. 1862, supplement,
p.1

[December 1862] Tuesday 16 - Stopped at MILLICAN. Stayed at the hospital. FRANK KIRK died.

Diary of Robert Thomas Williams

Marches, Skirmishes and Battles of the 4th Regiment, Texas Militia between October 1861 to November 1865

<http://www.geocities.com/milamco/milam-850.htm>

[I am not sure whether the "hospital" was located at one of the camps or in town.]

Headquarters District of Texas, &c.

Near Millican, September
4, 1863

Brig. Gen. W.R. BOGGS,
Chief of Staff:

General: ... Millican, 7 miles from here, is the northern terminus of the railroad in this direction. There is no water, though, at that point, and the troops have to be encamped in the neighborhood where they can find it ...

J. Bankhead MAGRUDER,
Major-General, Commanding

(Official Records of the War of the Rebellion, series 1,
vol.26, pt.2, p.203)

It becomes our painful duty to record the loss of another son of Capt. J.Y. DASHIEL, which we find announced in the *Houston Telegraph*. Capt. George R. DASHIEL died in camp, near Millican, on the 14th inst. At the time of his death he was in command of a light battery of artillery, and was much esteemed by his comrades ... (weekly) State Gazette

(Austin), 25 Nov. 1863, p.1

He'd Q'rrs, Cavalry Detachment,
Waul's Legion and Whitfield's Brigade,
Camp Millican, Feb. 15, 1865.

In obedience to special orders from Head Quarters, Texas,
&c., all officers and men belonging to Waul's Cavalry
Battalion and Whitfield's Brigade, Texas Cavalry, now in
this District, will report to me immediately at Millican,
Brazos County, Texas. All officers and men failing to
comply with this order will be dealt with as deserters.

W.W. Townsend, Capt.

Com'dg Detch't Waul's Legion, and Whitfield's Brigade, Texas
Cav.

Marshall Republican will copy and send bill to advertiser.
Houston Tri-Weekly Telegraph, 22 Feb. 1865, p.3

1865: March 6 - Record of Events for Fourth Texas Cavalry
... Stationed at Camp Peaquet [Raguet ?] near Millican ...
March 6 - Since last muster this regiment took up the line
of march from Tennessee Colony, Texas. Marched via Bonner's
Ferry, Trinity River, a distance of forty miles. Thence
[marched] via Cotton Gin, Alta Spring, Sterline, and
Boonville, to Millican, Texas. Total distance marched 170
miles... (Supplement to the Official Records of the Union
and Confederate Armies, vol.67, p.728)

[March 1865]

Tuesday 21-Thence to MILLICAN sixteen miles, to CAMP RAGUETT
two miles. COLONEL HAMPTONS speech. No news. WINFRED BAILEY
came in.

Wednesday 22-I and JOHN visited old friends today. Met
BROTHER BERRY at ELLISES' and good news from home. No news.
Weather pleasant. Health good. Report the Yankees are landing.

Thursday 23-Rested in CAMP RAGUETT today. COLONEL HARDEMAN
came in camp. Taken command. No news. Weather pleasant.
Health good. Drew coffee from the commissary.

Friday 24-Rested in camp. No news. Health good as common.
The boys of Fourth of January put under guard. Great
excitement. Various suppositions as what will be done with
them. No one can tell.

Saturday 25-Rested in camp today. BROTHER BERRY left for
home this morning. No news. Weather cloudy and rain at
night. G. MOODY was brought back to camp today. Health good.

Sunday 26-I and JOHN went to MILLICAN and meet old friends.
Spent the day at ELLISES. No news. Weather cloudy with rain.
Preaching by PARSON CARDON. Heavy thunder, lightening and

rain.

Diary of Robert Thomas Williams

Marches, Skirmishes and Battles of the 4th Regiment, Texas Militia between October 1861 to November 1865

<http://www.geocities.com/milamco/milam-850.htm>

1865: May

May 8th: Marched 9 miles and camped at Navasota on the H & T C, R R. G W Jarrott comes in from Polk county.

May 9th: J W Shepherd is sent to the Navasota Hospital. R D Jones comes in from off furlough. We put our mules, wagons, baggage and etc, on the cars, and send them up the road, as the Navasot is too high to ford. When we reach the Navasot we strip our horses and make them swim; when we cross on the R R bridge. We camp at Millican. In the evening the cars arrive and our equipage is unloaded.

May 10th: A march of 16 m's and camp near Booneville the county site of Brazos. We get no forage to night.

May 11th: This morning a regular "Norther" is blowing. After a march over a prairie country of 23 miles we reach the Brigade, which we find at "Camp Walker," on the little Brazos river, in Robertson county.

from: Heartsill, William Williston, 1839-1916, Diary of William Williston Heartsill, May, 1865, in Fourteen Hundred and 91 Days in the Confederate Army: A Journal Kept by W. W. Heartsill, For Four Years, One Month, and One Day, or, Camp Life: Day-by-Day, of the W. P. Lane Rangers, from April 19th, 1861, to May 20th 1865. Wiley, Bell Irvin, ed.. W.W. Heartsill, 1876, pp. 264