

Sons of Confederate Veterans often speak of their qualifying ancestor with understandable pride. Nowadays it is usually their 2nd, 3rd, or 4th Great-grandfathers.

95 year old Tom W Jordan, a resident of Hondo since 1993, is another story altogether. He is the Grandson of a Confederate Veteran.

At the July meeting, Commander Charles Thacker of The Medina Greys, SCV Camp #2254 of Hondo, Texas presented Tom W Jordan with his SCV membership; along with a certificate and a medal for being a Confederate Grandson.

His grandfather, also named - Thomas Winfield Jordan, born Jan 8, 1843, served in Co B 20th Tennessee Infantry Regiment. After the war, he moved to Texas and married Elizabeth Ann Yarbrough. Her older brothers had also served in the Confederacy - Arthur Yarbrough with the 14th Texas Cavalry and Jesse Yarbrough with McCullough's Texas Rangers.

Tom Winfield Jordan died Aug 3, 1908 at his home in Thurber, Texas. He is buried in Mount Marion Cemetery, in nearby Strawn, Texas. His Confederate headstone is surrounded by the heavy iron fence, that he built Years earlier, to protect the Jordan Family plot.

Tom Jordan never got to meet his grandfather but he remembers frequent trips to the old homestead, a large two-story home on a hill above a large orchard. The older Tom W Jordan had built the house and established the orchard. Both of which stood until the late 20th Century.

The family often spoke of Jordan's work ethic and the provision he made for his large family. Jordan was considered an expert Horticulturist and is believed to have worked to help establish John Tarleton Agriculture College in nearby Stephenville.

Tom Winfield Jordan served in Company B 20th Tennessee Infantry Regiment with his brothers; Edward Leland Jordan and John Archer Jordan. John died during the war.

The ten companies composing the regiment were mustered into the Confederate Army in May and June of 1861. Reporting in at Camp Trousdale with 880 men, armed with muskets.

Tom W Jordan never wanted to talk about the war.

The 20th had 110 casualties at their first engagement at Fishing Creek. Colonel Battle was commended for marked ability and courage.

At Shiloh, there were 187 killed or wounded, Colonel Battle was captured on the second day of fighting. In May of 1862, they were in Louisiana with about half the original force sick with chills and fever.

At The Battle of Murfreesboro, the 20th was commanded successfully by Colonel Smith, but they suffered 118 casualties, including 3 of their officers; Captain Watkins was killed and Lt Colonel Lavender and Colonel Smith were both wounded.

After the retreat to Chattanooga, they fought at Chickamauga. The 20th suffered 88 casualties, out of 183 engaged. Colonel Smith was severely wounded and Lt Colonel Shy took command.

Fighting under Bate's Brigade, the 20th fought at Missionary Ridge, having few casualties.

General B.C. Tyler took command of Bate's Brigade, He was soon wounded and the brigade was actually commanded by Colonel Thomas B. Smith. Under his leadership, they were actively engaged all through the Atlanta Campaign. Company reports from the 20th list: Rocky Face, Resaca, New Hope Church, Pine Mountain, Kennesaw Mountain, Peach Tree Creek, Jonesboro, and Dalton Georgia.

Then, in November 1864, they crossed the Tennessee River, to participate in the devastating slaughter of the Battle of Franklin.

At the Surrender in 1865, the remnant of the 20th Tennessee Infantry was comprised of 34 men.

Tom Jordan served in the US Navy in World War II.

Carrying on the legacy of his Confederate Grandfather, as well as that of his 3rd Great-grandfather, American Revolution Corporal William Benjamin Jordan.

He was on a Navy troopship - the USS Gen. A.E. Anderson, from 1943 to the end of the war in 1945.

In 2010, he proudly participated in Alamo Honor Flight #8, in which World War II veterans were flown (at no cost to the veteran) to Washington DC; to be honored for their service and their sacrifice.

When boarding the Southwest Airlines flight in San Antonio, Jordan admired the Captain's American Flag tie. The Captain explained that Southwest Airlines had had the ties made for all their employees after 9-11. He then removed the tie and graciously presented it to Jordan for his service.

Jordan enjoyed seeing the monuments, memorials, and museums but what impressed him the most was: the motorcycle escort (also veterans) to and from the airports, the representatives from all the branches of the military, and the huge crowds clapping, shaking their hands, and thanking them for their service.

That night in Washington DC, a special banquet was held in their honor; with Gold Star Mother, Lauren Wyatt, singing the National Anthem and Maj. Gen. Robert (USAF, retired) addressing the distinguished audience.

Paula Perry

Friend of the Camp

Interview with Tom W Jordan

History of the Twentieth Tennessee Regiment Volunteer Infantry

20th Tennessee Infantry Regiment

Hondo Anvil