

OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER OF  
INSURANCE, STATISTICS and HISTORY.

AUSTIN, TEXAS December 3<sup>rd</sup> 1885

Mr. Wm. J. Oliphant  
Austin Texas

Dear Sir:

I have had the honor to receive your communication of the 25<sup>th</sup> ultimo, transmitting the battle flag of the 6<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> (consolidated) Regiments Texas Infantry, and requesting that the flag be accepted and cared for by the State of Texas.

The law constitutes this office the custodian of the records and memorials of the State, and being satisfied that the relic presented by you, is the battle flag of the 6<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> Regiments of Texas Infantry, it is therefore accepted, and will be deposited with the historic archives of the State of Texas.

The official act depositing this relic will embrace the affidavits of, Lou A. Chamberlain, R. S. Chalke, and yourself, Wm. J. Oliphant

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AUSTIN, TEXAS,

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each of whom were soldiers of that organization, that this is the identical flag that was taken from its staff, and concealed on his person by Mark A. Kellow, Captain Company A. 6<sup>th</sup> Regiment of Texas Infantry, at the time of the surrender of that Regiment, in the State of North Carolina, at the close of the war between the States. It will also embrace a condensed history of the organization, battles fought, and services rendered by the 6<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> consolidated Regiments. Which together with the battle scarred flag will stamp on the records of the State a proud memorial of the patriotism, bravery and fidelity to duty of the gallant soldiers of Texas.

Sympathizing with you, in the accomplishment of your efforts to save from oblivion the sacred precious symbol of the brave deeds done by the command in which you served, and

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congratulating you that when the proper time shall come to write the "History of the war between the States" that the part borne and the deeds done by the 6<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> Regiments of Texas will surely find a place among the bravest and most devoted of the Sons of Texas.

I have the honor to be  
Your obedient servant  
H. P. Bee.  
Commissioner

The State of Texas }  
County of Travis } Before me, S. G. Sneed,  
Notary Public in and for the County of  
Travis, State of Texas, on this day personally  
appeared W. J. Oliphant, who being by  
me first duly sworn, on his oath de-  
poses and says as follows, to wit:—  
That the old flag which was delivered by  
me to Hon H. P. Bee, Commissioner of  
Insurance, Statistics and History, of the  
State of Texas, on November 25<sup>th</sup> 1885, is the  
identical flag that I received on  
November 20<sup>th</sup> 1885 by Express from  
R. L. Chalk of Belton Texas, and affiant  
further states that he was a member of  
Rhoads Fishers' Company "G." of the old  
6<sup>th</sup> Texas Infantry Regiment of the Confeder-  
ate Army and that he was personally  
acquainted with Mark Ketton of Company  
"F" of the same regiment and that he met  
said Ketton in the city of Austin, State of  
Texas in July 1865 as he, Ketton, was re-  
turning from the Army, and that at  
that time the said Ketton exhibited  
to him in a room in the Avenue Hotel  
in the City of Austin a flag which he  
Ketton stated was the flag of the 6<sup>th</sup> and  
15<sup>th</sup> Consolidated Texas Regiments which  
he had detached from the Staff and  
secreted about his person before the  
Surrender of the Army in North Carolina

and that said flag had been carried  
by the regiment through the battle  
of Franklin Tennessee and other  
engagements, and affirm fur-  
ther states that the flag delivered  
to How H. P. Bee, above referred  
to is the same flag that was shown  
him by the said Kettow in July 1865.  
W. J. Cliphant

I now to and Subscribed before me  
this December 1, 1885.

S. G. Sneed,

Noty Public Man Conf  
State of Tenn.

Affidavit  
December 1. 1885

W. L. Slipkirk.

Ball's Flag  
6<sup>th</sup> + 15<sup>th</sup> Regts. Geo. Inf -

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The State of Texas } Before me  
County of Bell } R. H. Turner  
Clerk of the District Court in and for  
Bell County Texas, on this day per  
sonally appeared Don A. Chamber  
lin Esq. who being by me first duly  
sworn, on his oath deposes and  
says as follows to wit. That the old  
Flag which was delivered by me to R  
L Chack at his request to be transmitted  
to H J Oliphant Esq of Austin Texas  
is the identical Flag which was deli  
vered to me by Captain Mark A.  
Ketter of Co 6<sup>th</sup> Texas Infantry  
as being the Flag of the 6<sup>th</sup> + 15<sup>th</sup> Consolidate  
Regiment. Composing <sup>a part of</sup> Graubens  
Brigade @ that said Flag has now  
been out of my possession since  
its delivery to me by said Ketter  
which was during the year 1868  
until the same was delivered by me  
to said Chack.

Don A Chamberlin

Sworn to & Subscribed  
before me this 28<sup>th</sup> 1885

R. H. Turner Clerk  
Dist Court Bell Co Tex

Also at the same time came and per

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County of Bell      R. H. Turner  
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Don A Chamberlin

Sworn to & Subscribed  
before me this 28<sup>th</sup> 1885

R. H. Turner Clerk  
Dist Court Bell Co. Tex.

Also at the same time came and per



sonally appeared R. L. Chalk  
Esq who also being by me duly  
sworn on his oath says as  
follows to wit, That the old Confed.  
erate Flag which was expressed  
by me on the 18<sup>th</sup> day of November  
A. D. 1885 to W. J. Oliphant of Austin  
Travis County Texas, is the identical  
Flag which was turned over to me  
by the Hon. D. A. Chamberlin  
Mayor of the City of Belton for  
transmission as aforesaid to  
said W. J. Oliphant. That said  
affiant further states that  
he was also a member of  
Capt. Mark Kelton's Company  
@ that said Company composed  
a part original old 6<sup>th</sup> Texas  
Infantry and afterwards consel  
idated with the 15<sup>th</sup> Texas.

R. L. Chalk

Sworn to @ (and subscribed)  
before me this 28<sup>th</sup> day of  
Novbr. A. D. 1885.

R. N. Turner  
Clerk District Court Bell  
Co Texas

Affidavits

Dou A. Chamberlin

Dr. L. Chalk

November 28<sup>th</sup> 1885

Battle Flag

6<sup>th</sup> + 15<sup>th</sup> Regiments  
of Texas Infantry ~

Austin Texas Nov 25<sup>th</sup> 1885.

Hon H. P. Bee.

Com<sup>r</sup> Insurance, Statistics & History.  
Austin Texas.

Sir:

I have the honor to hand you herewith what is left of the last Battle Flag of the 6<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> Consolidated Texas Regiments, of Granbury's Brigade, Cleburne's Division, Army of Tennessee, with the request that it be deposited with the historical archives of the State.

The flag that was carried through the battles of the Georgia Campaign having become unrecognizable from being so badly shot torn and blood-stained, another flag, of which this tattered relic alone remains, was

presented to the regiment, and was borne through all the engagements that followed, to the close of the war, including the fearful slaughter at Franklin Tennessee.

It has been the mute witness of many heroic deeds, and has waved proudly over men who never forgot they were Texans. Many splendid specimens of Texas youth and manhood have gone down to their deaths beneath its folds, and it is the wish of those who have preserved it, that this flag should become the property of the State.

Respectfully, Yours Obedt Servt  
W. J. Cliphart.

Formerly of Co "G". 6th Texas Inftry. U. S. A.

November. 25<sup>th</sup>. 1885

Mr. J. Ripkaut  
Austin. Texas

Transmitting Battle Flag  
of the 6<sup>th</sup> + 15<sup>th</sup> Consolidated  
Regiments Texas Infantry

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Austin, Texas Nov 25th 1885

Hon. H. P. Bee,

Com<sup>r</sup> Insurance, Statistics, and History.

Austin, Texas.

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Respectfully Your Obt Serv't

W. J. Oliphant.

Formerly of Co "G". 6th Texas Infty. C.S.A.

[ L.S. ]

For original accession correspondence, SEE "Oliphant, W. J. 1885" in Manuscript Accessions