



approved 4/8/10
Heather Nick

4/1/2010

Fort Worth Monument Company
5811 Jacksboro Hwy
Fort Worth, TX 76114
Main Number: (817) 625-2721
Fax Number: (817) 624-8428

James,

Please remit proofs to 903-531-1170.
We are expecting to have our ceremony on April 29th.
Please let me know when these will be ready for shipment.

Note: NEW Shipping instructions.
Please call the day before delivery.
Deliver to Street Department, 3305 Frankston Highway, Tyler, Texas
Phone: (903) 531-1393 or (My direct line) 903-531-1174
Deliver between 8 a.m. – 5 p.m.

CAMP FORD

1862-1865

Confederate training camp and largest Confederate prisoner of war camp west of the Mississippi for captured Union troops.

Thanks,
Heather
Senior Planner
903-531-1174

RECEIVED

SEP 28 2009

PLANNING DEPARTMENT

11/4/09

APPROVED



NOMINATION FORM
HALF MILE OF HISTORY

Section A: Nomination Information

Name of Nominated person, place or event: Camp Ford, CSA in Tyler, Smith County, TX

The nominee is being honored for outstanding contributions in the area(s) of (please check all that apply):

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment/Media	<input type="checkbox"/> Philanthropy
<input type="checkbox"/> Architecture	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Government/Military	<input type="checkbox"/> Religion
<input type="checkbox"/> Arts and Culture	<input type="checkbox"/> Industry	<input type="checkbox"/> Science
<input type="checkbox"/> Aviation	<input type="checkbox"/> Invention/Innovation	<input type="checkbox"/> Sports
<input type="checkbox"/> Business/Corporate Leadership	<input type="checkbox"/> Law	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Transportation
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Community Service	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Medicine	<input type="checkbox"/> Other
<input type="checkbox"/> Education	<input type="checkbox"/> Oil/Gas	

Section B: Nominator's Information

Name of person making nomination: Mr. D. M. Edwards, / President, Board of Directors
Camp Ford Historical Ass'n., Inc.

Address: P. O. Box 1865

City: Tyler State: Texas Zip: 75710-1865

Daytime telephone: 903-592-3724 Email: dme9540@aol.com

Relationship to nominated individual: 593-4642 (Maxine)
none

Nominated Individual's year of death: _____

Section C: Narrative

The narrative section of the application is the most important. It is the primary source of information judges use to make their selection of new inductees. Two (2) typed pages of 12-point type is the maximum acceptable length of the narrative. Any additional material will be referred to only for verification of accuracy of the nomination. No submitted materials will be returned.

The narrative section must contain an explanation of the nominee's enduring contribution that make this person/place/event worthy of the honor. Please describe the impact the nominee has had on the community, county, region, nation and/or world. For Individuals, please include any honors earned by the nominee as well as a list of organizations in which the nominee has been involved. Also, please indicate their educational background as well as the length of time the individual has lived in Smith County. Inclusion of photos is preferred but optional. Do not send original photos. All submitted materials will become property of the City of Tyler and its Historical Preservation Board.

Please submit nominations to:
City of Tyler Historical Preservation Board
Attention: Half Mile of History
P.O. Box 2039
Tyler, Texas 75710

CAMP FORD, C. S. A.

Camp Ford is a site located four miles northeast of Tyler, chosen in 1862 by local citizens, as a training camp for Confederate conscripts. Named after Col. John S. "Rip" Ford who was Superintendent of Texas conscripts, the camp served as an ideal location because of the abundance of wood, and the clear spring water flowing through the camp.

In 1863 Camp Ford became a stopover point for Union prisoners who had been captured along the Texas coast, and were on their way to Shreveport, Louisiana, to be exchanged. Originally, the prisoners encamped in the open with a picket of Confederate guards surrounding them. However, this situation changed drastically in November, 1863, with the arrival of over 400 prisoners captured in Louisiana.

A rumor spread among Tylerites that these prisoners were plotting to over power their guards, sack Tyler, and escape to Union lines. Alarmed over this scare, citizens turned out to erect a more secure enclosure for the prisoners. Quickly, a split timber stockade wall enclosing several acres was constructed.

The Confederate high command in Shreveport decided to make Camp Ford a permanent detention point for all Union personnel captured in the Trans-Mississippi theater. The availability of natural resources, guards, and Confederate logistical and administrative support made Camp Ford a logical choice.

The prisoners were allowed outside the walls to collect timber and other native materials to construct their own shelters. These "shebangs", as they were called, ranged from comfortable log cabins to brush arbors, to shallow caves. Federals later described the prison grounds as having the appearance of a "shanty town".

The prison facilities were overwhelmed in the spring of 1864 with the arrival of several thousand Union prisoners following Confederate victories in Louisiana and Arkansas. The stockade wall was enlarged, and shortages of food became acute. Even the surrounding woodlands became denuded by thousands of men cutting wood for shelter and fuel.

Rations for the prisoners, as well as Confederate personnel, became meager and in short supply. By late 1864, the average daily ration for prisoners, as well as Confederates, was a pint of cornmeal and some beef. Those prisoners who could, bought vegetables and other food from farmers who came to the camp to sell their produce.

Word of the general collapse of the Confederacy in the east reached the Trans-Mississippi Department in late April of 1865. Word soon spread among the prisoners that they all were to be marched to Shreveport for exchange. The war was over, and they were going home!

Over the decades following the Civil War, the prison returned to the soil, or was ploughed up. In recent years local historical groups have endeavored to preserve what is left of the site.

At present, there is a Camp Ford Museum being planned for the site, to commemorate the life and times of the thousands, both Blue and Gray, who came through Camp Ford.

The history of Camp Ford, C. S. A. is an important chapter in the history of Tyler and Smith County. During the years it operated from 1862 - 1865, it became a National Historic Site based on housing more than 6,000 Union prisoners, with a peak population after the Battle of Mansfield of more than 4,500 Federal prisoners. Due to the clear spring water flowing through the camp, the availability of beef butchered on site, and fresh vegetables available for purchase by the prisoners, the death rate among the Union troops was one of the lowest on either side during the Civil War. Camp records indicate Union soldiers from at least seventeen states were held at Camp Ford.

Much more detailed information about Camp Ford is available in the definitive book on the subject entitled *Camp Ford, C. S. A.*, published by Hertzog in 1964. Authors are F. Lee Lawrence and Dr. Robert W. Glover. Additional information is contained in a published monograph by the East Texas Historical Association in 1998 entitled *Camp Ford*.

**Ann and Lee Lawrence East Texas History Series
Volume No. 2**



By Robert W. Glover

EAST TEXAS HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION