





Saturday  
Aug. 11, 1962

Dearest Uncle Ralph,

Since my typing ability leaves a lot to be desired, I had a neighbor take my copy of Grandpa's story to the refinery office and make ~~copy~~ reproductions for you and Tommy.

My plan to write up the story properly was too ambitious I guess. I still hope to get a copy to all the grandchildren if the unlikely circumstance should occur when time, energy, and inspiration appeared simultaneously! Perhaps you or Tommy are more adequately equipped for the job.

I hope you and Tommy will be able to make out my hurried phrases and doubtful spelling. There were times when I would have asked him to clarify statements or amplify but it was so hard to make him hear you know and I hesitated to interrupt his line of thinking. I continue to be awed by his remarkable memory. Love,  
Evelyn



Ralph Rogers' Experiences in the Civil War

As told to Evelyn Edmonds July 1931  
when he was 89 yrs. old

Ralph Rogers was born Jan. 22, 1842. He was in the 9<sup>th</sup> Texas Infantry from McKinney. He attended McKenzie College, Clarksville, two years, and went from there to army. Started in Oct. 1891, age 19. Went east of Mississippi River when first sent to army. First battle April 6&7, 1842, Battle of Shiloh. Confederates won. Fell back to Corinth, Mississippi, two months. On Memphis & Charleston railroad back to Tula Homa, Miss. Went to Mobile, Ala, to Montgomery Ala. on Alabama river on steamboat. On to Chatanooga, Tenn. Sent 22 miles down river. Stayed 1½ months. Had pneumonia here, then Yellow Jandis. (Went on top of mountain to a house on brink of bluff. Young lady here had spy glass, looked accorss rivdr and saw Yankees camped on other side.. Spring in bluff, steps led down. Went down steps as short cut. Went into cave to cool off where spring was. Took chill before getting back. Took pneumonia) Ate sour apples to cure Yellow Jondis. Doctor wanted him to stay, but he wanted to go on with army 20 miles up river-across- Waldon's Ridge, into Waldon's Valley. Crossed mountain 22 miles over. Got water on one side to last across. Filled canteen. One ran out of water. Could see water at top. ~~Broke~~ Broke ranks to get to water. Drank like cows. Near Sparty, Tenn. Left there, went 40 of 50 miles farther through town he was born in, Gainsborough, Tenn., bank of Cumberland river, 7 miles from town on Grandpa Brooks far. Lived here 6 years. Conldn't go to see Uncles 2 miles away. Camped on river that night. Waded river next morning which was Sunday. Went to Glasgow, Kyn. Stopped one day, ordered to march, went north east, struck Green's River, Mumfreville. Marched all night, stopped and lay down armed. Cannon in front on a ridge. General Bragg had cannons along ridge. 4500 federals in town. Gen. told federals if didn't surrnder he would turn on cannons-- sent a note they would surrender-- not a gun fired, took possession. Late that evening started up railroad to Louisville. Got 30 miles from Lousville Ky., turned to right as Federals were coming from Louis.. Went to Perryville, Ky., met Federals. Charged on Fed. who fell back behind rock fence, they fled. Then they charged Confederates. Kept on until Sundown. Fed. were reinforced- surrounded them. Fell back to Camp Dick Robinson. Kirley Smitn's army was holding camp. Got rations here that Fed. had left. Cooked and ate nearly all night. Day light ordered to march. Regel army retreated into Tenn. Crossed Cumberland River, wadad about.(Nov.) That night took chill. Men left him. He lay there till day. Cavalry was there to protect ~~Rebels~~ <sup>Federals</sup> until they got away. They came by and tld him to get up as ~~Rebels~~ were coming. He went a little further. Next day overtook a captain of his regiment who was sick too. They marched to Cumberland Gap over 100 miles. Morristown to Knoxville where overtook army. (Went on train to Knox. Lost Captain. He had \$20.00 Confed. bill which his uncle gave him in Texas. No good in Ten. Bought apples from man who ddn't know bank was closed. Gave hhm back 19 dollars of Tenn. money. Jumped guard at Knoxville to get some clothes. nearly naked. Man has clothes packed in cellar. Trap door went into it. Took candles. Bought good suit for \$19.00, shoes, hat all. Guards were out to take up stragglers who didn't have pass. Thought he was a citizen in new clothes. Ate and went out 5 miles to camp. Boys ask him When he'd rose from dead. Camp had gotten detail to go home to get clothes. They told his people back home that they didn't know whether he was living or dead. Family didn't know until two years later when he got home.

Chap. 10

Mumfreville  
Cumberland River



20 Mar 1863

Battle Murfreesboro soon after he got with army. Fought all day. drove Federals back 5 miles. 19000 Fed. killed and buried there. Confed. were never taken up and buried as others. Lost about 10,000 Jan 3, 1863. Fell back to Shelbyville, Tenn on Duck river. Stayed until April in camp. Ordered to Miss. Went to rear of Vicksburg to try to get men who were penned in town, but Fed. had 200,000 men around Vicks. 30,000 Confed. 20,000 in army he was with. Vicks. had to (Confed) surrender. July 4 No gun fired. Pemberton surrendered. When they heard no gun they knew something was wrong. July 5 started back to Jackson Miss. Fed. came 2 days later. Finally Fed. fell back to surround. Army went back to Tenn when they fell back. Mystery why Fed. didn't come on and capture that small army. Went back 50 miles to Jackson. Back to Morton, Miss. On to Chatanooga. Had Chickamauga Battle. Fought 2 days. Sick when battle broke, Tazle, Ga. stayed in hospital a month. Army had been transferred back to Maria Maredian, Miss. for winter. Sick when he got there. Didn't get well for 2 years. Got furlough 30 days to Sarepta Miss. to relatives. Stayed 4 months. Finally discharged to go home. Sullivan wounded stayed near who wanted him to go home with him. Stayed together till they got to Miss. river. Middle of May 1864. Catfish Point where Fed. gun boats were running up and down. Flagged to be taken across. Didn't come after them until sun down. ~~Ex~~ Big gun boat went up river. Had stayed below all day. Man came to get them, take only one at a time. Took other man first, never did come back after him. About 10 or 11 lay sick in house. Confed. scout came alone and heard him. He carried him up to his house a mile away. Took good care of him Stayed a week. Man offered to take him across river. Caught trout fish. First meat in long time. Got across and saw a big gun boat turn a corner. Had to climb bank. Gunboat fired 3 shots at man going back (cannon balls) got on top by hard work, slept on levy. For a yankee who had married woman with big plantation kept him a day or more.. Man he knew from McKinney passes, brought him a horse. 30 miles through bottom, 15 miles to first house. Water for 1/2 mile sometime. Finally came to big Gijou big bridge and house. Negroes fed horse so much corn he foundered. Horse all fight for one day. Got out of bottom, saw people camped. Told them they couldn't get across river. Rode on 6 or 8 miles. In evening began to take fever. Stepped at house to lay down, Refused feather beds as he was used to hard beds. Stayed all night. Negro told him next morning horse had foundered. Went slowly for a while. met 2 soldier boys who were on mule going home for horses. Thought they could cure his horse & gave him mule which they had probably stolen. Came to Montgomery, Ark. where many soldiers camped. Went on thru. Stopped at big house. Had joined Masons in Mississippi. he gave man sign of distress so man asked him to come in. Started on way met a guard, who stopped him. Pass from Joseph E. Johnson, Miss. but couldn't read, and wouldn't let him cross. Drove down & got by. Came on Ark. ~~xxx~~ saw a barber shop, went in to get shave etc. Went to sleep in chair, stayed an hour. On to Red River in 2 or 3 days. Blacksmith shop put shoe on mule, Black had horse which was condemned in army traded for mule. Rode 30 mi. to Texadana, came 15 mi in one morning went a whizzing on good horse. Stayed all night with contrary man who wouldn't agree with him on anything. Came to big house, told woman he stopped for purpose of getting something to eat if ~~xxxxxxx~~ she would give him anything. Finally got within 15 miles of where father lived. They had moved while he was away, and he didn't know where. Had to get off and rest, thought twas no use to die there when it was so near to home. Went 5 miles further, would have died if he hadn't the thought of going home

Tazwell



Stopped at saw mill which he recognized as Morris Mill. Gave Mr. Morris Masonic grip (1859 he and Edmonds came to get lumber. E lost horse on way back. Sent back to county and horse was found near. Grandpa went back for horse & sold mule to Morris for \$100 so Morris remembered him.) Only 1 house between there & home 10 miles away. Next morning started out. Rde 5 miles Got breakfast at house. Went up to gallery to water bucket, sat down, bell rang time for to eat. Talked to woman. Told her he had been sick. Where he was from. She told him she had a brother in that army hat was probably killed years ran down her face. Then he said "Well Madam, I'm your brother. She screamed and hugged him. Her husband came running and was much surprised to see her hugging a stranger. She couldn't see him. She had married a few months before. They went on to fathers. Came to tan yard where they stopped. Grandpa went on alone to see if mother would know him. Dogs came running out barking. Mother came out to call off dogs, and saw ~~them~~ jumping up in welcome. He told his mother he never saw a sensible dog that would bite a gentleman. Talked to mother she remarked he looked feeble, and told him to to in and lie down. Finally he told her who he was. Father came from tan yards. After he saw them all he was exhausted. Lay there all day. Neighbors came to ask if he knew about their people. He was not acquainted with this neighborhood, so couldn't tell them anything. Couldn't eat anything his mother fixed. He and his mother started to Collin County to see his relatives. Teales and Rogers. Nobody knew him. Got to Beverly Rogers house first. Went to Uncle Billy Rogers. He heard a woman say he wouldn't live long which made him mad, he said "Madam, I'll bet I'll live to see the wild geese eat the grass off your grave." Had to stop several times to rest. He was sick. He tells about eating a whole watermelon against his mother's wishes and later slipping some cantalopes. Drove 44 miles one day. His mother smelled cantalopes in buggy. They stopped and ate them, His mother cried and begged him not to eat any. Lived in Wood Co., near Quitman. Stopped at house one night where bed bugs nearly ate him up. Next day he passed house and smelled cantalope, so got some. He says they helped him right away He said they accused him of smelling one a mile. In Nov. he took chills again. Afterwards had good appetite. Girls always came and talked about their love affairs, which worried him mightily--told one she had lost all the sense she had. One came and talked on interesting topics, so he went to see her and stayed two or three days.

Here Grandma called us to dinner. Grandpa swore it wasn't ~~10~~ 10 O'clock.

Got home about July 1, took about 6 weeks

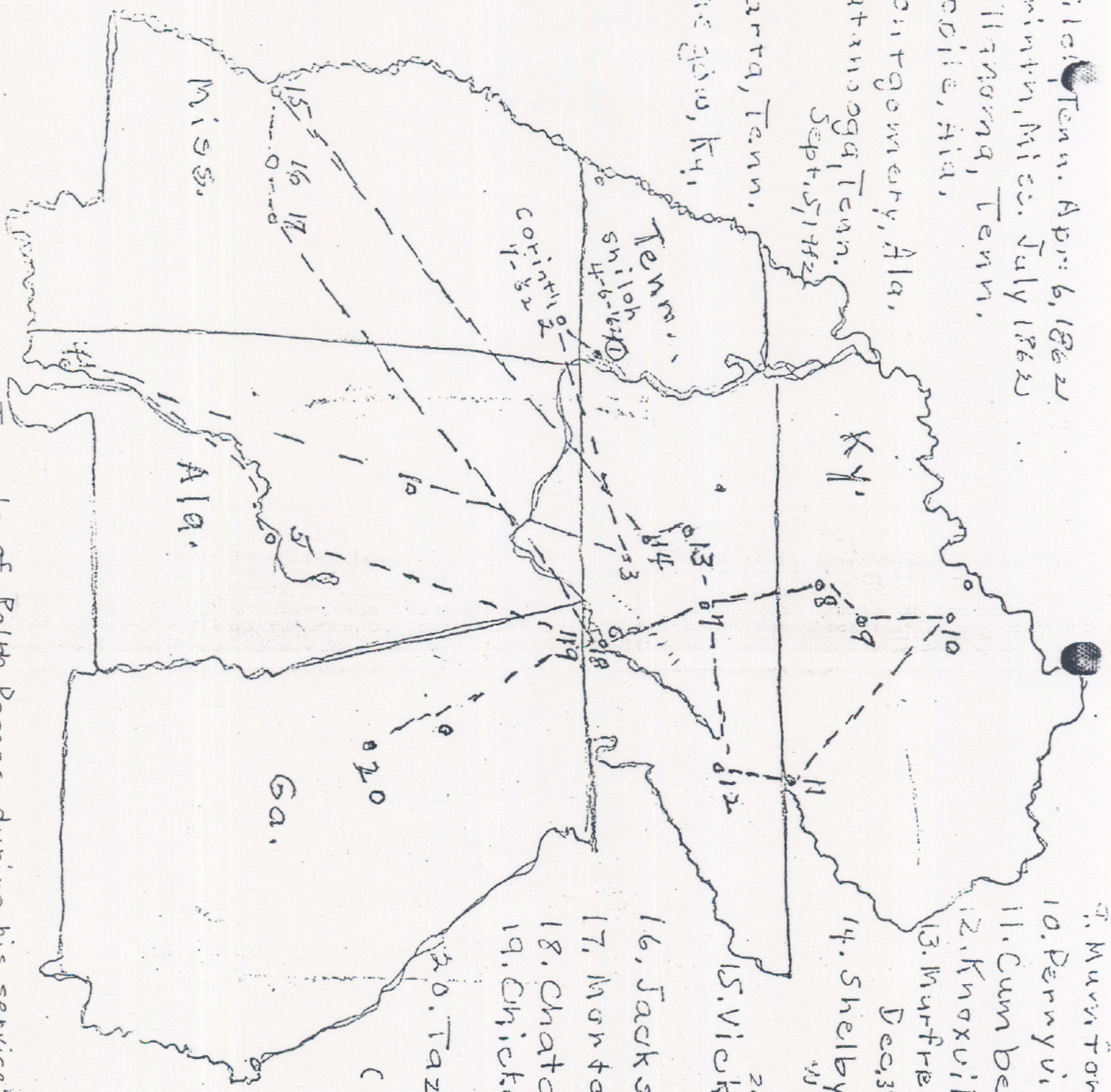
2699 2627



1. Stillport Tenn. Apr. 6, 1862  
 2. Corinth, Miss. July 1862  
 3. Tullahoma, Tenn.  
 4. Mobile, Ala.

5. Montgomery, Ala.  
 6. Chattanooga, Tenn. Sept. 5, 1862

7. Sparta, Tenn.  
 8. Glasgow, Ky.



9. Murfreesboro, Tenn.  
 10. Perryville, Ky. Oct. 2, 1862  
 11. Cumberland Gap, Ky.  
 12. Knoxville, Tenn.  
 13. Murfreesboro, Tenn. Dec. 31, 1862

14. Shelbyville, Tenn. wintered here left Apr. 1863  
 20 May 1863  
 15. Vicksburg, Miss. July 4, 1863

16. Jackson, Miss.  
 17. Monton, Miss. was here 30 days  
 18. Chattanooga, Tenn.  
 19. Chickamauga Sept. 19, 1863  
 20. Tazewell, Ga. Oct. 1863 (Hospital)

12 of Ralph Rogers during his service in the Civil War



80

RALPH ROGERS (1842-1933)

by Thomas Ralph Rogers

Ralph Rogers was born 21 Jan. 1842 near Gainesboro in Jackson Co. TN. His tombstone and his family Bible say 22 Jan., but the Clayton Rogers family Bible says 21 Jan. His grandfather, Ralph Rogers (1760-1836) had come to Jackson County about 1805, bought land from John Fitzgerald, and settled on the Cumberland River at White's Bend,  $\frac{3}{4}$  mi. upstream from old Fort Blount. On a map, the river forms a large inverted U at this point, a few miles west of Gainesboro. The community of White's Bend is on the south side of the river, on the low-lying bottom land inside the U. Ralph described his birthplace as "7 mi. from town on Grandpa [Matthew] Brooks' farm." (Evelyn Edmonds' notes, July 1931)

Elizabeth (Keller) Murphy related (24 Mar. 1985) two stories that she had been told by our grandfather. They were about incidents that happened in Tennessee, before they moved to Texas in 1847, roughly 140 years before our conversation.

Ralph and his older sister Mary got dough and put it all over his face. While the family had company, he looked in the window and Mary screamed and fainted. When their parents caught on, they both got a licking. [Ralph was born 21 Jan. 1842 and Mary Jane was born 8 Jan. 1844. If this incident indeed happened in Tennessee, he could not have been older than five and she could not have been older than three.]

Ralph had a wet nurse. His mother's father gave her two slaves. One was about her age and had a baby boy about the same age. Ralph remembered running down the steps to get there first.

Three Brooks sisters married Rogers brothers and another married Peter Teel. These four families moved to Rock Hill, near the head of Steward's Creek (about a mile north of the place where Frisco was later built), in Collin Co. TX in 1847. There they were settlers in Peter's Colony. Each family received 640 acres of land. (Eldon Rogers, Oct. 1989)

"The oldest son, Ralph, did the milling for two years, and would ride horseback to Bonham to mill when only eight years old--a distance of fifty miles, and the first crop they cultivated was twelve miles from their home." (*Sixty Years in Texas*, 363-364) My father, J. Ralph Rogers (JRR) was told that they went to Jefferson to get salt. Jefferson was the head of navigation on the Red River, about 150 mi. from Rock Hill.

Joe B. Rogers (b 1851) described their school in an interview. (papers of George Pearis Brown, p 125).

The first school I attended was at [Bethel] Church. An old Irishman was my teacher, named Seawright. This was about 1859. This Irishman used to whip every one of us about three times a day. About twenty went to school here. The seats were made from logs split open and bark side down with wooden logs about  $\frac{3}{4}$  ft. long and about  $\frac{3}{4}$  in. through. They had no backs to them. The only book we had was a Blue Back Speller. This was a subscription



school. We just had one book for the whole family. Each book cost 25¢, and we just had one 25¢. This was a school house and a meeting house also.

The next teacher I had was Miss Lizzie Hamilton, next one was John B. Rogers, who was a double cousin of mine, who taught in the church that was built on the same hill where old Bethel stands about 50 ft south of the first church that was built. It had no name--was just known as the Rogers Settlement.

My brother, Ralph Rogers, and my cousin, John B. Rogers had gone to school to old "Marsh McKinzie" at Clarksville, Texas; then they came back and taught us in about 1860 and 1861. They just taught about one month each for the excitement of the Civil War broke out, and my brother closed the school to go. He was under Joe Dixon. My brother, Ralph, and Ben Whisenant are the only living ones that went out from there.

Beverly Rogers (b. 1833) described the school in an interview printed in the *Denton Record* and later reprinted in the *McKinney Examiner* 26 Nov 1914.

About this time we began to feel the need of a school and a place to worship. In 1852 the neighbors met to discuss building such a house. A house 18x20 ft was soon built, getting all the material in Elm bottom. Board walls and roof and split-log benches, with pegs driven in them for legs, and dirt floor. This building was used for three or four years, with the following teachers: John L. Moore, Mr. Seawright, and W.F. Rogers. This building was also used for church purposes, with the following preachers: John L. Moore, Joab Biggs, W.H. Hughes, William Bates, and J.B. Tullis as presiding elder. ... In 1855 the neighbors decided to build a larger house, a building 30x40 ft.

Ralph Rogers said he went to McKenzie College at Clarksville for two years. (Evelyn Edmonds' notes, July 1931) This was a Methodist school opened by J.W.P. McKenzie in 1841; McKenzie was President and Professor until the school closed in 1868. The only known copy of a school catalogue is one for the session of 1860-61 that is in the Bridwell Library at SMU. It lists R. Rogers of Rock Hill in the freshman class. He must have been in the preparatory class the previous year, since he was in the army the following year. The course of study for the preparatory division included grammar, composition, U.S. history, algebra, arithmetic, astronomy, Latin, and Greek. The course of study for the freshman year was: Cicero's Orations, Xenophon's Memorabilia, Robinson's algebra, Spencer's Greek Testament, Virgil's *Aeneid*, Homer's *Iliad*, Robinson's geometry, and Greek and Latin Composition and Antiquities.

Ralph Rogers was mustered into Company I of the 9th Texas Infantry 9 Oct. 1861 at McKinney (the county seat). The Company became a part of the Ninth Infantry when it was organized in Lamar County in early November. The Rev. J.W.P. McKenzie was Chaplain of the Regiment and Smith Ragsdale, McKenzie's son-in-law and math teacher at the college, was Captain of B Company. The Regiment trained for two months at Camp Rusk in Lamar Co. They participated in the Battle of Shiloh, Bragg's Kentucky Campaign, Murfreesboro, and Chickamauga. Ralph was sick at Chickamauga and didn't get well for two years. He was in



the hospital at Tazewell, GA for a month. He got a furlough for 30 days to go to Sarepta, MS, to visit relatives (Isaac S. Rogers and family). He stayed four months, then got a discharge from a Board of Army Physicians. His Regiment listed him as AWOL. He made his way back to Texas on mules, on horses, and on foot, arriving at his parents' about the first of July, 1864. The trip took about six weeks.

J. Ralph Rogers wrote on 24 Feb. 1969: "Lily told Dossie that Papa was wounded. One time way back I asked Papa if he was wounded while in the army and he said "No." However, when I was just a little kid, I remember one time when Papa was sick and in bed, he was talking to a man and I distinctly remember him pointing to three places on his left hip and leg where he was hit by bullets. I was just standing by the bed and listening, and I guess he thought I was too young to know what he was talking about."

Ralph joined the Masonic lodge in Sarepta, MS, at the same time as another young soldier who was the father of W. Thad Cox of Dublin, TX. They met again in Dublin many years later. (Obituary)

After the war, Ralph went to Marlin, where he operated a store. He was on the Marlin Lodge records beginning 15 Aug. 1868. While he was away on business, the store burned, bankrupting him. Before he was married, he boarded with a Mrs. Hazlewood. That was the "elite" place for single men. When they were old men, she invited them back for a dinner. They were all prominent except for Ralph. (interview with Lily (Rogers) Edmonds, LRE)

Ralph Rogers raised a girl named Allie Gray. A family traveling stopped at his store. He gave Allie some candy. After they left, she wanted to go back to the nice man who gave her the candy. The family took her back and gave her to Ralph. LRE said he paid a family to keep her in their home; she married when she grew up. We have a tintype of her with Ralph.

Elizabeth (Potts) Rogers told Dossie (Gilbreath) Rogers (DGR), that she was traveling with the Kemps (her sister and brother-in-law) when she met Ralph. They were camped near town [Marlin] and he was running a store there. Lizzie Potts lived with Aunt Mattie Kemp at Salado. Ralph Rogers married Elizabeth "Lizzie" Potts 20 Oct. 1875 at Salado (Marriage book E, p 376). (John Potts had moved to Hamilton Co. in July 1872.)

Mrs. Rogers told DGR that they lived in Rosebud when they first married. She hated living on a farm. They were at Rosebud when C.W. Rogers was born 17 Aug. 1876. However, when Edna was born 23 June 1878, they were in Marlin, where all their other children were born.

JRR remembered when Ralph served as Deputy Sheriff. Sometimes he would go off on horseback following a criminal and would be gone for days. He always brought his man back. LRE recalled that he was a Justice of the Peace at one time. He worked as a bill collector for merchants and a clerk in stores. He raised horses and cattle on rented land. Most of the time he was a plantation overseer. The plantation belonged to someone at Bryan. JRR recalled that he leased the Rock Dam Farm, a plantation on the Brazos R. He was overseer of a chain gang (convicts), and he carried a gun. JRR recalled camping 2-3 days



with his father on the plantation. They fried corn in bacon grease. They had a Negro cook in Marlin who cooked with sugar in their vegetables.

By 1894, Aunt Mattie had remarried, to J.R. Linn, and they lived in Dublin, TX. Edna Rogers went to visit them and met George Keller. They were married 4 Oct. 1899. Ralph moved his family to Dublin to be near them. They moved by rail 1 Jan. 1902. Mrs. Rogers didn't want to go. She told DGR that she was never as happy in Dublin as she was in Marlin. They lived on Mesquite St., which most people called Standpipe St., on a one-acre lot. (After houses were numbered in the 1940s, the address was 416 W. Mesquite.)

I can remember a large old barn still standing behind the house in the 1930s. They had gas, electricity, and running water, but no sewer service. The WPA or PWA had built them a new concrete-lined outdoor toilet before I can remember (probably between 1933 and 1935).

John Potts died 7 July 1901. Mrs. Rogers and Aunt Mattie Linn each inherited \$1,200. After Ralph moved to Dublin, he and George Keller bought a farm about 4 mi. out the Highland Road on Cow Creek using some of the inheritance. The first year, they were in the dairy business together. Later Ralph farmed the land. He rode a cultivator out to the farm every day and back at noon for dinner, two trips a day. (He was 60 years old when they moved to Dublin.) LRE said that Edna (Rogers) Keller would ride to the farm on horseback. When the farm was sold to Joe Reid, the family retained the mineral rights. In 1980, Robert Crouch's son lived there.

Later Ralph sold fruit trees for Crocker Nursery, driving a buggy to farms in the area. DGR remembered that he spent the night at the J.T. Gilbreath house 10 mi. south of Dublin when he was selling fruit trees.

Ralph Rogers filed an application (no. 33957) for a Confederate pension, dated 12 Mar 1917. He gave his occupation as "farm". The Commissioner of Pensions wrote him on 26 Mar.: "On the Muster Rolls at Washington, D.C., you are shown as being absent without leave since Feb. 2, this roll being dated 5 Apr. 1864. If you will endeavor to explain the above, I shall be pleased to reconsider your application." Ralph replied on Mar. 27, referring to Capt. R.M. Board's affidavit saying he was furloughed in Feb. He explained, "I was sick at the time and was never able to go back to my command any more. In May 64 I went before a Board of Army Physicians at Granda [Grenada, ca. 40 mi. SW of Sarepta] Miss.; and was discharged and I still remained sick for two years after that." The application was approved 29 Mar. 1917, with pension allowed from 1 Mar. 1917. Postal service was apparently faster then than in 1995. Pensions were payable quarterly, and the first check was paid 31 May. A letter in Nov. 1929 states, "Under the present law, the maximum amount to be received by any pensioner is \$25.00 per month, payable quarterly; and therefore, I sincerely hope and trust that within a reasonable length of time the condition for the pension fund will be such that all pensioners, regardless of age, will receive the full amount." A letter dated 28 June 1930 announces the beginning of monthly payments under a new law.

Elizabeth (Keller) Murphy recalled in 1985: "Ralph had a peach and apple orchard on their lot in Dublin. He dried peaches and apples on top of the barn.



He was such a character. No malice or hardness toward anyone. A lot like Ralph [JRR]."

Pauline Rogers wrote 28 June 1969: "What fond memories I have of your grandfather, dear Uncle Ralph, and of your aunts, Cousin Edna and Cousin Lillie. I never knew your father. How we all loved having Uncle Ralph come to visit us. We children would sit at his feet in the evenings listening breathlessly to his stories of the War. He was so much fun, was so kind and gentle. We all loved him very much."

We met Jack Rogers, son of Uncle Ike, in Refugio, in the 1960s, and he referred to Ralph as "Uncle Rafe". Eldon Rogers wrote in 1980, "I assume your grandfather, Ralph, is the legendary 'Uncle Rafe'. There are several family stories--mostly about his Civil War service--that I have heard about Uncle Rafe." I have never heard my father or any of his family use that pronunciation. I don't know how far back it goes or when and where it stopped.

E.L. Keller recalled 5 Aug. 1987:

Grandpa smoked a corn cob pipe with a long grapevine stem. He sat on the back porch, which had a grape arbor and a cool southeast breeze. He kept a crock jug of water wrapped in wet burlap. About every three days he would pour a jigger of whiskey and put a spoonful of sugar in it. He would leave a thimbleful in the bottom, which I would get after he left the room. He drew a \$50/mo. Confederate pension, which was above the average income, since many men worked for a dollar a day during the depression.

He liked to tell of his Civil War experiences. The most exciting story was about crossing the Mississippi River on a log, on the way back to Texas, with a gunboat shooting at him. Going through E. Texas, he found some meat drying on a line. He cut off a chunk and left a note and a quarter (a lot of money at that time).

The Rogers family called DGR "Dorothy" rather than "Dossie". When she was first taken to their house, Ralph asked, "Is she a Methodist?" He had only one eye as long as my father (JRR) could remember, and his right index finger was missing, off at the first knuckle. JRR asked him once what happened to his finger, and he said, "A pig bit it off." One time JRR met an old man who had known Ralph when he was young. He asked JRR if he knew how Ralph had lost his finger. He laughed and laughed but would never tell.

When DGR first ate with the Rogers family, she knew Ralph didn't see well with his one eye. He was almost 90 and somewhat feeble. She saw him putting pepper on everything on his plate until it was black. She said somebody should help him. The others laughed and told her that was the way he liked it. He loved cantaloupe. When I was 14 days old, he asked, "Dorothy, does the baby like cantaloupe?" She remembered that he chuckled and laughed a lot, but Mrs. Rogers would try to get him to stop the foolishness. He was the same height as JRR, 5 ft  $7\frac{1}{2}$  in.



Ralph Rogers died 19 Nov. 1933 at his home in Dublin. He had been the oldest Mason in Erath Co. Funeral services were conducted at the family residence on 20 Nov. "Interment was at the New Dublin cemetery, where the solemn and impressive Masonic burial service was read by a very close friend and brother Mason, M.C. Witcher. Many other old time friends and neighbors took part in the service." My other grandfather, J.T. Gilbreath, participated in the Masonic service.



ELIZABETH LOUISE "LIZZIE" POTTS  
by Thomas Ralph Rogers

Elizabeth "Lizzie" POTTS was born 27 Mar. 1853[?] in Carthage, Jasper Co. MO., the daughter of John Potts and Frances Melinda "Linda" DAVIS. Her mother died when she was an infant, but the date is unknown. She said her mother was "Melinda Davis"; the 1850 census lists her as Frances M. Potts. John Potts married Eliza (Board) Cobb, a widow, 14 May 1854. Lizzie told Dossie Rogers (DGR) that Eliza was the only mother she ever knew. DGR asked if she was a good stepmother; the reply was "Yes."

The date of birth on her tombstone is 27 Mar. 1853, but the year is uncertain because she would never tell anyone her age. She did not record the year in her family Bible. The 1870 census of Gonzales Co. TX lists "Lizzy Potts" age 18 (enumeration date 17 Sept.). John Potts remarried 14 May 1854. Lizzie gave her age as 45 on 5 June in the 1900 census of Falls Co. Aunt Mattie Linn was born 30 Oct. 1845, and she said she was 10 years older than Lizzie. The 1850 census lists Matilda, age 2, as the youngest child. Rachel and Frances M. (both died in infancy) were born between mid-1850 and March of the year Lizzie was born. Unless Rachel and Frances were twins born in the latter part of 1850, it is unlikely that Lizzie was born in March of 1852. It is possible, but unlikely, that Melinda died in childbirth 27 Mar. 1854, and John Potts remarried six weeks later. Thus it is likely that the date on the tombstone is correct.

John Potts was elected a Captain of Missouri Cavalry 3 Sept. 1861, and was discharged 22 Mar. 1862. He was captured and was sent to a Federal prison in New York state. He was paroled and went back home. He could not go back into service under the exchange or parole agreement. While he was away, Federal soldiers took Carthage and soldiers looted the houses. A soldier found a Masonic apron in the Potts house and took it to his officer. The officer returned the apron and gave orders not to disturb that house.

Lizzie told DGR that her father took her on a business trip and they stayed in a hotel. He took her to a store and bought her some material for a dress and a little silver thimble. Ralph (JRR) had the thimble before 1969, but DGR didn't know where it was in 1980.

Due to the lawlessness in SW Missouri, John Potts took his family to Texas in the late 1860s. They lived at Belmont in Gonzales Co. John Potts later bought a sheep ranch in Hamilton Co. and on 4 July 1872 stopped at the place where Pottsville is now. At some time between 1870 and 1875, Lizzie went to live with her sister, Martha Jane "Mattie" (Potts) Kemp, in Salado, Bell Co., where she was living at the time of her marriage to Ralph Rogers.

Lizzie was a Baptist. DGR said she told her that she attended the Methodist church but never did join. We have a copy of her letter of dismissal from the Baptist Church of Christ at Salado, dated 19 Apr. 1884, but have no record of what church she joined at that time.

DGR described Mrs. Rogers as reserved, prim, precise, speaking good English. She called Ralph "Mr. Rogers." (Her daughters called their husbands Mr. Keller and Mr. Edmonds.) She was shocked that DGR would hang diapers on their



clothes line. DGR said she had auburn brown hair. Faye (Gilbreath) Shaw described her as a "Southern lady", and said she had black hair.

Mrs. Rogers died 9 June 1935. Funeral services were held in the home and burial was at New Dublin (Live Oak) Cemetery.

Living Potts      E 376      1875

1908      71

5

S. M. Kemp m. Ada —      Book 5 p 107      Bell Co.  
b. 2-16-1863

d. 12-14-1933      ruptured dividend ulcer

Informant      Alvin Kemp, Temple

Kemp, Henry to Mrs C. Eubank's      I 195      20 Nov 1863

Kemp, L. A. from E Kemp      L 617      3/18/1866

Kemp, Wm. R. from Bethel Cooperwood      W 116      17 Nov. 1874

Kemp, W P + wife to A J Rose      27/316      6 Feb 1877

Kemp, W R      from E S C Robertson      28/123      9 Feb 1875

Kemp, Z.      from Thos. H Jones      V 559      30 Jan 1874