

# The Reynolds Gang Confederate Service

Submitted by Scott D. Myers

While most newspaper, magazine and internet articles refer to the Reynolds Gang as Confederate sympathizers, recruiters, guerrillas, raiders or just plain old outlaws, new research by award winning author Gary R. Goodson, Sr. has uncovered evidence of the actual service of George, John and Jim Reynolds as well as that of most members of their gang. In his new book "Slaghts/Granite Vale/Fairville/Shawnee, Colorado (2012, Cottrell Printing), Goodson documents the service of the Reynolds Brothers and their gang.

Goodson's research shows that the Reynolds brothers, as well as many of their gang, served in Well's Battalion of the Texas Cavalry (also known as the 34<sup>th</sup> Battalion), rather than in the Collins Brigade as they had reported. Muster documents show that George Reynolds enlisted on 20 April 1863, James Reynolds enlisted on 2 May 1863 and John Reynolds enlisted on 16 June 1863. All three were enlisted by Captain Scanland and served in Company A, Scanland's Squadron, Well's Battalion, Texas Cavalry.

(Confederate.)  
R Wells' Batt'n, Cav. Texas.

*George Reynolds*  
Pat., Co. A, Scanland's Squadron  
Texas Cavalry.\*

Appears on  
Company Muster Roll  
of the organization named above,  
for *June 20, 1862 to June 30, 1863.*

Enlisted:  
When *April 20, 1863.*  
Where *Camp Bolivar*  
By whom *Capt Scanland*  
Period \_\_\_\_\_  
Last paid:  
By whom \_\_\_\_\_  
To what time \_\_\_\_\_, 186 \_\_\_\_

Present or absent *Present*  
Remarks: \_\_\_\_\_

\*This company subsequently became Company A, Well's Battalion Texas Cavalry. Well's Battalion Texas Cavalry was formed about July, 1863, by the consolidation of Scanland's Squadron, Gilbert's Squadron and Captain John Miller's Company Texas Cavalry. It was consolidated with Good's Battalion Texas Cavalry, late in 1864 or early in 1865, to form Well's Regiment Texas Cavalry.

Book mark: \_\_\_\_\_  
*A. B. Mustain*  
(542) Copyist.

(Confederate.)  
R Wells' Batt'n, Cav. Texas.

*James Reynolds*  
Pat., Co. A, Scanland's Squadron  
Texas Cavalry.\*

Appears on  
Company Muster Roll  
of the organization named above,  
for *June 30, 1862 to June 30, 1863.*

Enlisted:  
When *May 2, 1863.*  
Where *Fort Arbuckle*  
By whom *Capt Scanland*  
Period \_\_\_\_\_  
Last paid:  
By whom \_\_\_\_\_  
To what time \_\_\_\_\_, 186 \_\_\_\_

Present or absent *Present*  
Remarks: \_\_\_\_\_

\*This company subsequently became Company A, Well's Battalion Texas Cavalry. Well's Battalion Texas Cavalry was formed about July, 1863, by the consolidation of Scanland's Squadron, Gilbert's Squadron and Captain John Miller's Company Texas Cavalry. It was consolidated with Good's Battalion Texas Cavalry, late in 1864 or early in 1865, to form Well's Regiment Texas Cavalry.

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(Confederate.)  
R Wells' Batt'n, Cav. Texas.

*John Reynolds*  
Pat., Co. A, Scanland's Squadron  
Texas Cavalry.\*

Appears on  
Company Muster Roll  
of the organization named above,  
for *June 30, 1862 to June 30, 1863.*

Enlisted:  
When *June 16, 1863.*  
Where *Fort Arbuckle*  
By whom *Capt Scanland*  
Period \_\_\_\_\_  
Last paid:  
By whom \_\_\_\_\_  
To what time \_\_\_\_\_, 186 \_\_\_\_

Present or absent *Present*  
Remarks: \_\_\_\_\_

\*This company subsequently became Company A, Well's Battalion Texas Cavalry. Well's Battalion Texas Cavalry was formed about July, 1863, by the consolidation of Scanland's Squadron, Gilbert's Squadron and Captain John Miller's Company Texas Cavalry. It was consolidated with Good's Battalion Texas Cavalry, late in 1864 or early in 1865, to form Well's Regiment Texas Cavalry.

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Reynolds Brothers' Muster Documents

Well's Battalion completed its organization at Doaksville, Indian Territory (Oklahoma) during the fall of 1863. It was attached to the Army of the Trans-Mississippi and primarily skirmished with Federal Units in the Indian Territory. In March 1864, part of the battalion was stationed at Fort Arbuckle and part at Fort Washita. In 1865, it was reorganized as Well's Cavalry Regiment, but was soon

dismounted and ordered to Houston. It was included in the surrender of General Kirby Smith's Army of the Trans-Mississippi in June 1865, Lieutenant Colonel John W. Wells commanding.

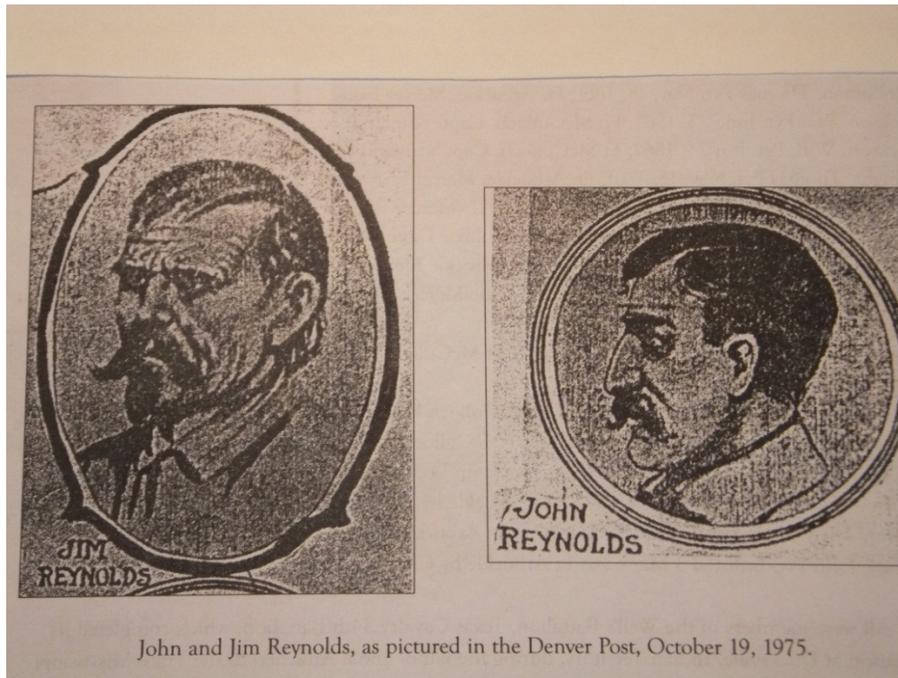
The Reynolds brothers first came to South Park in 1859 with their brother-in-law Aaron Briggs and the Reed Brothers (on their way back from the California Gold Rush of 1849). They all became known as the "1859'er Gold Miners" and were among the founders of Fairplay, Colorado Territory. Interestingly, the Reynolds Brothers, along with hundreds of other miners that arrived in South Park also became known as the "Johnny-Come-Lately" miners: they arrived too late to stake their gold claims on the mineral rich side of Tarryall Creek. Finding little gold in South Park, the brothers moved a few miles south to a site that John Reynolds named Fairplay.

During 1860-1861, the War for Southern Independence was brewing and street brawls and saloon fights between Union and Confederate sympathizers were common in South Park. There were several Union recruiting officers in the area at the end of mining season and many miners were recruited into the 1<sup>st</sup> Colorado Regiment (Union). It was reported that Jim and John Reynolds left the placer mines of South Park and returned to Texas to serve in the Confederacy. All three Reynolds brothers enlisted in Well's Battalion, Texas Cavalry (also called the 34<sup>th</sup> Battalion).

Reportedly, the Reynolds stated that they served in the military service of the CSA until the spring of 1864, when they said their enlistments ran out. There is some question as to whether their enlistments had indeed run out. Of course, if they had not, the brothers would be considered deserters.

One thing is for certain though. The Reynolds gang were not legally authorized Confederate Partisans. The Confederate Congress passed the Partisan Ranger Act on April 21, 1862. The law was intended as a stimulus for recruitment of irregulars for service into the Confederate States Army. However, under pressure from General Robert E. Lee and other Confederate leaders, the Congress repealed the act on February 17, 1864. Only two Partisan Ranger groups were exempt from the repeal: Mosby's Raiders and McNeill's Rangers. Both of these units operated in the western counties of Virginia and were known to exercise military discipline when conducting raids.

Regardless, the Reynolds brothers headed north to Colorado on about 11 April 1864 with some 50 men. On the way, there were some defections, fights with Indians and a lucrative Mexican wagon train robbery. They arrived in Leadville (California Gulch) along with some 20 remaining members of their gang to begin their "adventures" in the Colorado Territory.



Sources: Slaghts/Granite Vale/Fairville/Shawnee, Colorado, Gary Goodson Sr., 2012  
Cottrell Printing

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Partisan\\_Ranger\\_Act](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Partisan_Ranger_Act)

Gary Goodson is an award winning author, War for Southern Independence Historian and Colorado Historian. The Sons of Confederate Veterans (SCV) awarded him the "Bonnie Blue Society" award and the United Daughters of the Confederacy (UDC) awarded him the UDC's "Gold Medal" award for his work "Georgia Confederate 7,000" - Books I-II-III & IV, 1995-2009, Goodson Enterprises. You can contact Gary at (303) 838-1357 or [garygoodson@hotmail.com](mailto:garygoodson@hotmail.com).