

## **Malachiah Reeves**

Co. I (Crockett Southrons) – 1<sup>st</sup> Texas Hood's Brigade

(Great Grandfather of Rick Featherston)

“I was born in Bibb County Alabama on September 26, 1843 to Malachiah Sr. and Nancy Bethel Blakey. I was one of six children. My father died just a few months before I was born. My mother remarried and they moved to Cherokee County, TX in the Spring of 1854. In the Spring of 1861 I started working and going to school.”

“By this time the war clouds were hanging heavily over the land; and the main topic everywhere was war, WAR. Martial gatherings and patriotic speeches were all the rage. A Doctor Currie began to gather a company to go to West Virginia to join the Army of Northern Virginia, where was the scene of actual war; and one day about the middle of July, 1861, he, having rallied a good big bunch of the fire-eating boys of the county, they came marching by the school grounds, under martial music. I stepped into the line of march and enlisted for three years, or during the war. Currie, having gathered near a hundred men, began to make preparations to start for the scene of action.”

“I went through all the camp sickness – measles, mumps, and had one very severe attack of pneumonia – came very near dying with the measles and again with the pneumonia. Our commands were in most of the hard fought battles of the Army of Northern Virginia. The first one was at Eltham's Landing, after the evacuation of Yorktown as we were retiring up the Peninsula toward Richmond, in which we were the victors. The next was Seven Pines. There the seven days fight defeated the Union Army and raised the siege of Richmond. Then on to the **Second Manassas** battle – all of which resulted in victory for the Southern Army.”

“I was in about 21 different engagements, first and last those about Fredericksburg. I was captured during the battle of **Mechanicsville** where General Jackson was mortally wounded. I was also in the battle of the **Wilderness** and **Spotsylvania**, a number of the fights about **Petersburg** and battle fronts about Richmond, at **Sharpsburg, or Antietam** as it is also called. In this battle the First Texas Regiment sustained a loss of eighty percent killed and wounded. **Company I**, which was my company, came out of that battle with one officer and two privates that were unhurt. That was our first, and nearly the only losing fight that we were in. I was in the battle of **Chickamauga**, Georgia.” \*

After surviving the war, he came home to East Texas and married Jane Powers. They had one child and Jane died a few months after giving birth. About 6 months later Malachiah married

Nancy Joanna Beall and they had 10 children. One of these children was my grandmother, Lillie Beall Reeves.

Malachiah Reeves died on December 4, 1929 and is buried in the Leagueville Cemetery in Leagueville, TX, close to Athens, TX

*\*From the Autobiography of Malachiah Reeves that he wrote in 1924*

