

2 0 1 2 W I N T E R E D I T I O N

# DUVAL FAMILY ASSN. NEWSLETTER

CHARTERED IN THE COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA 1999



## *Don't Forget*

*Spring 2013 is but a year away. So don't forget to plan ahead for your family to join us March, 2013 in San Antonio. We plan to visit The site of the famous Goliad Massacre where cousin Burr DuVal was murdered by Santa Anna's troops in 1836. More information will be coming in the future.*

## ✧ 2012 Board Meeting ✧

*The DFA Board of Directors meets on alternate years to finalize plans for the next Reunion. This year we will be meeting at the Vicksburg, Mississippi Hampton Inn on March 30, 2012. We also plan to visit landmarks in the area. Anyone interested is welcome to join us.*

## DFA 2013 REUNION

Next to Virginia, Texas has the largest number of DuVal descendants in the DuVal Family Association. Thus, the Board decided to hold the 2013 Reunion in San Antonio in late March. This date will allow us to plan a trip to see the annual reenactment of the Goliad Massacre where over 300 Texas volunteers were murdered by Santa Anna's troops in 1836. Burr DuVal, son of Gov. Wm. Pope DuVal and Captain of the Kentucky Mustangs, was among the fallen. The Massacre was, along with the Alamo, a watershed event that led to Texas ultimately winning independence from Mexico. The events take place at the completely restored Spanish colonial fort known as the Presidio La Bahia. This is part of our family history so plan to come. See also the excerpt from a book written by John Crittenden DuVal, Burr's brother in this issue.

*President, Ken Pfeiffer, 9330  
Laurel Grove, San Antonio, TX  
78250 or [k.pfeiffer@sbcglobal.net](mailto:k.pfeiffer@sbcglobal.net)*

*Registrar, Joan Thomas,  
[jd.thomas225@verizon.net](mailto:jd.thomas225@verizon.net)*

*Treasurer, Jim Duval  
3123-B Stony Point  
Rd. Richmond, VA 23235 or  
[jimduval1@verizon.net](mailto:jimduval1@verizon.net)*

*Genealogist, Joseph Hays,  
[allenhurst1872@gmail.com](mailto:allenhurst1872@gmail.com)*

*Secretary, Dorothy Nelson, 1015  
Eleonore St. New Orleans, LA  
70115 or [nelsonno@bellsouth.net](mailto:nelsonno@bellsouth.net)*

*Historian, Deana Snow,  
[nahtm@aol.com](mailto:nahtm@aol.com)*

# DUVALS OF TEXAS



The following is taken from a recent reprint of John Crittenden DuVal's book "Early Times in Texas" originally written in 1892 and edited by Maybel Major and Rebecca W. Smith.

## Editors' Introduction:

"Texas a hundred years ago was the land of opportunity for adventurous spirits in the older American settlements and Europe. Many different dreams and youthful visions led the settlers to the new country, dreams of prosperity, of power, of adventure, or of personal security; but always led to a vision of a freer life and a wider range of action than was possible elsewhere. In New England and New York, in Virginia and Georgia and Kentucky, in England and France, faces were turned hopefully toward Texas.

In the autumn of 1835 the Texas cause was a banner flung to the wind in the older states, especially in the South. Rallies and speech-makings were held as far away as New York. Companies of volunteers to fight for Texas were raised in New Orleans and Georgia and Kentucky. Ladies sewed flags and uniforms, and proudly waved goodbye to the soldiers starting their long journey to the Southwest.

In Kentucky at this time the sympathy for Texas was intense. In the village of Bardstown feeling was running high, and nowhere was Texas patriotism more ardent than in the home of William Pope DuVal.

All through the crisp bright autumn days Burr, the eldest son, and his friends gathered to organize a company of volunteers for the Texas fight. John C., not yet 20, listened and resolved not to be left behind when the ....

soldiers marched. It was late November before they were ready and a three inch snow was on the ground the morning the Bardstown lads went away, marching on foot to Louisville to take a steamer down the Ohio. The Governor's heart must have beat with pride as he watched Captain Burr DuVal, tall and erect, with blue eyes shining, at the head of his company, and in the rear rank young John Crittenden, armed to the teeth with 'shot, powder, horn, tomahawk and butcher knife' and at his heels his faithful little dog.

"Do all you can for Texas" wrote Burr to his father on March 9, 1836 from Goliad where his little company, christened the "Mustangs" was a part of Fannin's command. Ten days later they fought their first Battle at Coleto, and their captain had his finger shot away. Then came the surrender and on Palm Sunday morning Burr DuVal and all but six of his men were shot down in cold blood at the massacre of Goliad.

By a series of hairbreadth escapes John C. got away from the Mexicans, and made his way toward Brazoria. From March 27 until May 4 he was a fugitive. Like most educated people of the time he kept a journal of his experiences; but it was more than fifty years later that he published the full account of his first adventures as a soldier in the book called *Early Times in Texas* (1892)."

*More about the DuVals in Texas in the next issues of the DFA Newsletter.*

## SHARE YOUR DUVAL STORY

No doubt, many of us may have a story or two regarding our family ancestor(s) that we would like to share or hear about. It could be about a letter written about what was going on in the family; an accomplishment, adventure, or participation in a noteworthy event. Might want to share how you learned of a cousin connection you made through the DuVal Family Association. I know many of us have found second and third cousins that we never knew. Please share your stories. We would love to hear them. You may send your stories to any one of the officers listed on **page 1**.

# A TRUE INCIDENT



Among my relations that fought on the Confederate side during the Civil War was my great uncle, Colonel Alexander Duval McNairy. During the war he was captured by a Federal officer who treated him with much kindness and courtesy. This officer shared with Duval his best cigars.

Uncle Duval was taken to the Nashville Prison, which was near the market place. Prison guards would carry food from the market into the prison in an old cracker box. One day, Duval saw an empty cracker box sitting in the corner and an idea came to him. He said "if I could swap my uniform for that Yankee overcoat and cap you fellow prisoners have, I'll put them on, carry the cracker box under my arm and go past the sentry as if I were the Yankee soldier that brings up the food. That's the very thing."

The soldiers exclaimed, "Oh Duval, you wouldn't risk your life for that. If you are caught you will surely be court-martialed."

"Yes it's worth it" he replied. "I'd rather risk it than be sent to the Stockade Prison until the war is over."

Duval stuffed his gray pants into his boots and buttoned up the Yankee overcoat and pulled the cap low over his eyes. Shouldering the cracker box and bidding the boys good-bye he went down the stairs. As he neared his escape, the sentry lifted his gun to let him pass and my uncle muttered under his breath "I'd be glad if those darn rebels didn't have to eat. He stepped out into freedom. He put the cracker box down and turned to look up at the anxious sorrowful faces and gave them a smile of reassurance.

He went straight to his home place in Nashville. He did not know that his parents had been ordered by Federal officers to turn over the upper floor of their home so it could be used for Federal officer quarters.

When he arrived his mother said, "Oh Duval, don't stay here. You'll be captured, flee for your life." So he hastened to the Cumberland River, rowed across, and got safely back to the Confederate side.

But in a strange coincident shortly afterwards Colonel McNairy captured a Federal officer. The officer said, "Why I thought I captured you ten days ago."

"Yes you did and you treated me mighty nice and I'm going to share the best I have with you."

This schoolgirl 8th grade essay was written by my mother Elisebeth Curtiss Robbins in 1924. It captures a daring war episode of Colonel Alexander Duval McNairy, one Nashville's Civil War heroes. He was a risk taker who obviously used his wit and nerve to survive.



Colonel McNairy commanded a troop of scouts known as the "Swanee Rifles". The mission of his cavalry was to disrupt troop Union movements and destroy their supply lines on the Nashville and Northwestern railroads. The guerilla tactics used by this group of bushwackers terrorized the Federal Army. They often used the uniforms of captured Union soldiers to infiltrate the enemy lines to spy.

His escapades are well documented in several books, including, "The Grey Ghost of Nashville" and "The Life of Pauline Cushman", a Union spy, as well as several internet sites.

(e.g. [www.nashvillenwrr.tripod.com](http://www.nashvillenwrr.tripod.com)) Duval McNairy surrendered at the end of the war in 1865. It is thought by the family that he escaped again and made a hasty retreat to Abilene Texas. Little is known of his life in Texas. He died in 1901 two months before his mother Elisabeth Pope DuVal McNairy.



**DuVal Family Association**

Attn: Jim Duval  
3123-B Stony Point Rd  
Richmond, Virginia 23325

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone number \_\_\_\_\_

Email address for future contact and newsletter distributions

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Individual membership \$10.00 Dues are on Calendar Year Basis

\_\_\_\_\_ Spouse \$10.00 (optional)

\_\_\_\_\_ Family dues \$25.00

Please list spouse and eligible children under the age of 21.

Spouse \_\_\_\_\_

Children names and ages \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Please **return form & mail check** made out to DuVal Family Association (DFA)  
to: Jim Duval, 3123-B Stony Point Rd., Richmond, VA 23235

**San Antonio Texas Reunion March 2013:** Please check below to indicate  
interest in this reunion:

\_\_\_\_\_ Interested \_\_\_\_\_ Not Interested \_\_\_\_\_ Not Sure

**WANTED NEW MEMBERS**

Do you have DuVal relatives who are not yet DFA members that you think may be  
interested in becoming a member. If so, please use the space below to help us  
increase our membership. Use back if necessary.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone number \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_



DuVal Association  
Laurel Grove  
San Antonio, TX  
78250

## DFA BOARD VACANCIES

The DuVal Family Association has two vacancies on the Board of Directors:

**VICE President** - Duties include assisting the President in the conduct of Association business and planning reunions. The DFA Board meets annually in selected locations for planning purposes. It would be helpful to have the Vice President position filled by someone who lives in Virginia preferably in the Richmond/Williamsburg area to assist in the planning and execution of future meetings.

**Newsletter Editor** - Duties include collecting and writing DuVal stories and reporting current Association activities and events. Assistance with production and distribution will be provided. The Editor will also function as the Member-At-Large at Board meetings.

If you are willing to serve please contact Ken Pfeiffer at [k.pfeiffer@sbcglobal.net](mailto:k.pfeiffer@sbcglobal.net) or 1-210-684-4034.



### THANK YOU HANK

**Hank Davis** has recently retired from the DFA Board. Hank served as our legal counsel and Member-At-Large since the reorganization of the DuVal Family Association in 1999. We depended on him to guide us through the charter process. DFA thanks Hank for his years of dedication and service

### THANK YOU SUE

Thank you **Sue Blair** for your service as the editor of the DFA Newsletter. Over the years you have brought us interesting family stories and kept us up to date with all the DuVal activities. Job well done!

Sue is continuing to serve on the Board as a Member-At-Large.