

WOODLIEF, DEVERAUX J. - Born _____ in the State of _____

He came to Texas in 1835, as is shown in the Headright Certificate issued to him May 3, 1838, for one-third of a league of land by the Washington County Board. On the official rolls printed in a booklet in 1836 he is shown as holding the rank of Major at San Jacinto, but serving as a private. In Service Record No. 4238 it is certified that Major Woodlief enlisted in Captain Henry W. Karnes' Company March 13 and was discharged May 14, 1836. He was commissioned Lieutenant Colonel August 13, and resigned December 31, 1836. He was issued Bounty Certificate No. 882 for 1280 acres of land June 21, 1847 for having served in the army from March 13 to December 31, 1836. On November 27, 1838, he received Donation Certificate No. 639 for 640 acres of land for "having been wounded at the battle of San Jacinto". He was wounded in the skirmish on April 20th. Colonel Woodlief presented a bill for \$12.25 September 16, 1837, for his proportion of the money taken at the battle of San Jacinto, which he had never received. From this amount he deducted \$6.50 for a pair of armas de pila purchased by him of the spoils taken at the battle and for which he had never paid. This left \$7.75 due him from the Government.

Colonel Woodlief was in command of the forces at Velasco and on June 13, 1836, ordered Captain William H. Patton to remove Santa Anna from Velasco to Columbia. He participated in the battle against the Cherokees July 16, 1839 in which Chief Bowles was killed.

Colonel Woodlief was married to Harriet J. _____ Reynolds, daughter of Allen and _____ Reynolds. Mrs. Woodlief was born _____

and died in Washington County _____ 1846. Colonel Woodlief died
_____ at _____.

Children of Colonel and Mrs. Woodlief were: Thomas Jefferson,
who married _____; Harriet, who married _____;
who married _____; _____ who married _____;
who married _____.

In the Deed Records of Robertson County, Book M, page 133, it is
stated that Allen Reynolds was living in Washington Municipality as
early as 1832 and died near Independence in 1837. His widow, Harriet
Reynolds, died March 16, 1843, survived by the following children:
Susan, wife of Charles Smith, Harriet J., who in August, 1836, had
married Colonel Woodlief; Lewis A. and Eliza C. Reynolds.

Mrs. Woodlief died in Washington County in 1846, survived by her
husband and their children - Thomas J., born in 1837, and Harried M.
Woodlief, born in 1843. In the Deed Records mentioned it is stated
that Colonel Woodlief was killed in a duel in California, but the date
of his death was not given.

The names and addresses of some of the surviving grandchildren
of Colonel and Mrs. Woodlief are _____

Miss Rosa Lee Driskill, Wellington, Texas is a _____ of
Colonel and Mrs. Woodlief.

Mr. S. R. Pinkston, Box 252, Wellington, Texas is a _____
of Colonel Woodlief.

5-28-38
Mr. S. R. Pinkston
Box 252
Wellington, Texas/

In 1932 I was co-author of a book "The Heroes of San Jacinto" in which there was an attempt made to give a brief sketch of each man who participated in the battle of San Jacinto. This book will probably be revised and republished. I would like very much to secure additional information regarding Colonel Woodlief. You are receiving two copies of this sketch. One is for you to keep. I shall greatly appreciate it if you will fill in SOME of the blanks in the other and return it to me. If you are not in a position to do this will you please suggest the name of someone for me to write to for such information.

Very truly yours,
L. W. KEMP

L. W. Kemp
214 Westmoreland, Ave.,
Houston, Texas.

I suggest that you write to _____ for additional information concerning Colonel Woodlief.

WOODLIEF, DEVERAUX JEROME - Born in Virginia in 1806. He came to Texas from Louisiana in 1835 (See Headright Certificate No. 494 issued to him for two-thirds of a league and one labor of land by the Board of Land Commissioners of Washington County). On May 3, 1838 he had received a Headright Certificate for one-third of a league from the Washington County Board.

On the official rolls printed in a booklet in 1836 Woodlief is shown as holding the rank of major at San Jacinto, but serving as a private. In Comptroller's Military Service Record No. 4238 it is certified that he enlisted in Captain Henry M. Karnes' Company March 13 and was discharged May 14, 1836. He was commissioned lieutenant colonel August 13 and resigned December 31, 1836. He was issued Bounty Certificate No. 882 for 1280 acres of land June 21, 1847 for having served in the army from March 13 to December 13, 1836. On November 27, 1838, he received Donation Certificate No. 639 for 640 acres of land for "having been wounded in the battle of San Jacinto." He was wounded in the skirmish on April 20th. Colonel Woodlief presented a bill for \$12.25 September 16, 1837, for his proportion of the money taken at the battle of San Jacinto, which he had never received. From this amount he deducted \$6.50 for a pair of armas de pila purchased by him of the spoils taken at the battle and for which he had never paid. This left \$7.75 due him from the Government.

Colonel Woodlief was in command of the forces at Velasco after the Battle of San Jacinto. There on June 13, 1836 he ordered Captain William H. Patton to remove Santa Anna from Velasco to Columbia. He participated in the battle against the Cherokees July 16, 1839 in which Chief Bowles was killed.

The marriage records of Brazoria County show that Woodlief and Harriet Reynolds were married by bond January 7, 1836. Miss Reynolds was the daughter of Allen and Mary Reynolds. Mrs. Woodlief died in

Washington County in 1846, survived by her husband and two children - Thomas Jr., born in 1837, and Harriet M. Woodlief, born in 1843.

Colonel Woodlief moved to California before 1850. He is listed as a resident of that state in the census of 1850. At one time he served a county judge of San Joaquin County. He married again but the name of his second wife is not of record.

Colonel Woodlief was killed in a duel ten miles from Oakland, California, November 8, 1854 and was buried in the old Yerba Buena Cemetery in San Francisco. The San Francisco Alta of November 9, 1854 gave the following account of the duel and the events leading up to it:

F A T A L D U E L

"Again does it fall to our lot to chronicle one of these unhappy events too frequent in this State, which has cast a dark shadow over one hearth at least, and left one heart desolate.

The principals in this duel were Achilles Kewen and Col. Woodlief. The particulars, as well as could be ascertained, are as follows: Last Friday evening, Mr. Kewen and the Colonel were, with several others, in the Saloon known as the "Blue Wing", Montgomery Street. The conversation was principally on the politics of that day, and became rather animated. The Col. remarked to Kewen that he was a d---d "Know Nothing", upon which Kewen struck him on the mouth with his hand. Friends interfered and arrested further proceedings at that time. It is said that on Monday Mr. Kewen sought out Col. Woodlief and offered an apology, which was refused. The offer was again renewed, Kewen stating that he would make the apology in writing, if it would be more acceptable. The Colonel, in the meantime, had sent a challenge, and he expressed his determination to have it settled in the usual manner. Friends were according chosen, and it was concluded to cross the Bay, and adjust the difficulty by recourse to fire arms.

"Yesterday morning the parties left in the Oakland ferry boat, at 7 o'clock in the morning. Several persons in the city having been informed of what was going on, crossed over in the ferry boat. On arriving at Oakland the parties proceeded a short distance outside of the city limits. The friends of Mr. Kewen were Messrs. Wake Briarly and Robert Wood. Col. Woodlief's friends were Capt. Skerrett and Major McDonald. The arms chosen for the occasion were Mississippi yagers. The ground was being marked off, when Deputy Sheriff Simons, who had got wind of the affair, made his appearance and ordered them to desist. The Parties then got into their carriages and left, with the determination to cross into another county. After continuing the journey for some time, until they were about ten miles from Oakland, and in the county of Alvarado, they dismounted and ascended a hill near by, followed by a crowd which had increased to about one hundred and fifty persons. On the ridge of the hill they halted; the ground was marked off, forty paces, the principals took their places, and on the word "fire" being given, both wheeled and fired, the ball from Mr. Kewen's rifle passing completely through the heart of Col. Woodlief and out at this back, killing him instantly. It is said that the unfortunate man did not live ten seconds after receiving the wound. This disastrous affair took place about 1 o'clock. The body of the Colonel was brought over to the city in the ferry boat last evening, and taken to the Tehama House. The scene, when the wife of the dead man looked upon all that remained of the former partner of her joys and sorrows, whose silver thread of life had been so abruptly cut, and who, but a few short hours before, had gone forth in the strength and prime of manhood, is said by those who were present last evening, to have been affecting in the extreme.

It is said that Col. Woodlief made his will on Tuesday evening, leaving all he possessed to his widow. He is said to have been engaged in eight duels prior to this fatal one. The funeral will take place to-day, from the Tehama House, at 2 o'clock. His friends and acquaintances are respectfully invited to attend.

The Sacramento Union carried the following item on November 11, 1854:

"DIED: In San Francisco, November 8, Col. D. J. Woodlief, late of Texas aged 48 years."

Col. Woodlief was buried in the old Yerba Buena Cemetery, and in the clothes in which he fell, this being in accordance with his often expressed desire. He had an apparent presentiment that he would fall in the duel, and this in spite of the fact that he had come out of many former encounters. On the day before the meeting he made his will, leaving everything he possessed to his wife, except for certain trinkets and other articles, which he directed should be distributed among his intimate friends as mementos. (San Francisco Evening Post, November 9, 1895.)

"In 1852 the Yerba Buena Cemetery in San Francisco was opened on the top of a large and extensive sand hill, covered in part with oaks and chaparral on the triangle bounded by Market, Larkin, and McAllister Streets, where the new city hall now stands. Soon after the opening of Lone Mountain Cemetery, graves began to be moved to it from Yerba Buena; and afterwards in 1870, when the Yerba Buena property was about to be graded for the erection of the new city hall, all the bodies were required to be removed." (Lone Mountain later became Laurel Hill cemetery. The bodies have been removed from Laurel Hill. Those not claimed by relatives are at Cypress Lawn, Coma, San Mateo County.)

(From: Hittell, Theodore H., "History of California." 1897)

Thomas J. Woodlief, son of Deveraux J. Woodlief, married Rena Estes.

Harriet Woodlief, daughter of Deveraux J. Woodlief, first married Caspian Seay, and after his death she married W. A. Driskill.

The surviving grandchildren of Deveraux J. Woodlief in November, 1949 were Thomas W. Seay, James S. Driskill, Thaddeus A. Driskill, Claudius A. Driskill, and Walter E. Driskill, all of Wellington, Texas.

Mr. James S. Driskill, Box 786, furnished much of the date used in this sketch.