

Dear Editor,

April is Confederate Heritage Month, and Texas history has long forgotten the Benavides brothers from Laredo at the Battle of Las Rucias, located on the Rio Grande river between Brownsville and San Benito. On June 25th, 1864, Union forces under the command of Capt Phillip Temple were greatly outnumbered by Col Rip Ford's company of 400 Confederate soldiers. Col Santos Benavides, the highest ranking Tejano in the Confederacy, sent his two brothers, Capt Cristobal and Capt Refugio Benavides, with their companies of Tejanos from Laredo to the valley to join up with Col Ford.

The battle opened up with Ford ordering Capt Cristobal Benavides and Capt James Dunn forward. Dunn was killed instantly, and Cristobal had his horse shot from under him. Ford next sent Capt Refugio in a flanking movement, but a small lagoon stopped the cavalry charge twice. Refugio then ordered his men to dismount and were able to be involved in the final assault on the Union soldiers.

Ford reported that Refugio "acted well" and Cristobal deserved "credit for his gallant conduct". Capt Monico de Abrego from Matamoros in the Union army might have been on the battlefield at Las Rucias. The valley played an important part in the Civil War, and this part of history should never be forgotten or just simply erased. Our Tejanos should be honored and remembered for their participation as soldiers in the Confederacy as well as in the Union, right or wrong, as well as their Texas compatriots. VIVA TEJAS Y VIVAN LOS TEJANOS...

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