

Camp Napoleon (pdf)

**Camp Napoleon Compact.** “ ‘Camp Napoleon, Here on May 26, 1865, a Compact was entered into between the Confederate Indian Tribes and the Prairie Indian Tribes. That the ancient council fires shall be kept kindled and blazing.’ Erected in 1931 by Oklahoma College for Women.” Oklahoma College for Women was in Chickasha, Grady County, Oklahoma. Camp Napoleon was the same place as Cottonwood Grove, Pontotoc Co, Chickasaw Nation, I.T. on the Washita River (now Verden, Grady-Caddo County line, Oklahoma).

*Photo by Jessie Hamill Fondy of Chickasha, OK.*

***Bourland in North Texas and Indian Territory During the Civil War: Fort Cobb, Fort Arbuckle & the Wichita Mountains***

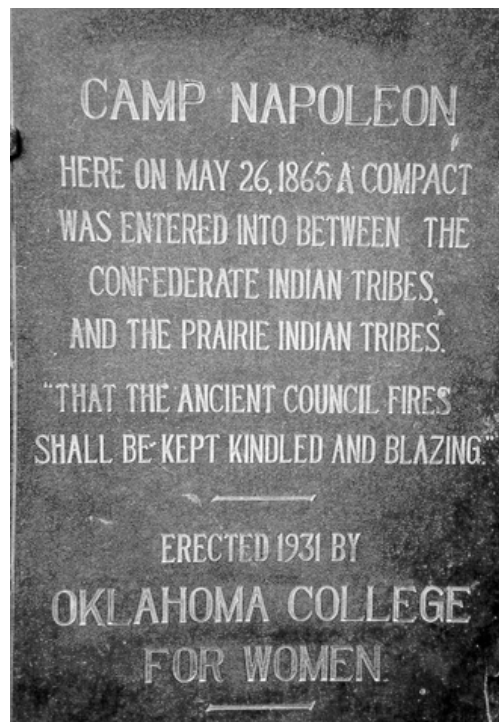
**Verden, Grady County, Oklahoma**

Texas officials discussed the possibility of an alliance with the Indians in early April 1865 in order to help Texas protect her frontier. Since the **Kiowas** and the **Comanches** hated the Texans, it was thought best to have either **Albert Pike** or **Douglas H. Cooper** take the lead in a movement for a general council to include all the **slave-owning** and **Plains** tribes. Throughout April and May, 1865 plans were made for a general inter-tribal council.

The first meeting place selected was **Council Grove** near the False Washita River [Seminole Nation, now Oklahoma City] on May 15th. Rumors that the Union military forces being organized in Kansas might interfere with the meeting caused a change of the meeting place. The place selected was known as Cottonwood Grove on the Washita River. By the 26th of May, Cottonwood Grove was becoming a camp ground, because the **Plains Indians** arrived and set up their camps. And when the delegates from the **slave-owning tribes** arrived, the council was held.

This gathering consisted of possibly 5,000 to 7,000 Indians representing 20 tribes plus Brig-Gen. J.W. **Throckmorton** with his 500 Texas State cavalrymen as his bodyguard. Some of the other Plains Indians in attendance were Caddos, Cheyennes, Arapahos, Lipans, Osages, and Northern Osages — hundreds of tepees lined the banks of the Washita River. Another significant topic on the council's agenda was **ransom for captives**.

The **Camp Napoleon Compact** committed the Confederate Indian Tribes and the **Prairie Tribes** to united action against the expected Union demands which were known to include a plan to take land from the Confederate tribes as reparations of war. per ORslv48/2p[S#102]pp1102, 1280, and 1306.



## Camp Napoleon

Camp Napoleon (Confederate), same as Cottonwood Grove, Pontotoc County, Chickasaw Nation on the Washita River, now Verden, on the Caddo-Grady County line. Verden was named for green cottonwood. It was in the Chatatamaha District (a political district of the Chickasaw Nation ... a Cherokee name). per ORsIv48/2[ S#102]p1018.

The May 26, 1865 gathering at Camp Napoleon consisted of 5,000 to 7,000 Indians representing 20 tribes plus Brig-Gen. J. W. Throckmorton with his 500 Texas State cavalrymen as his bodyguard. Some of the Plains Indians in attendance were Caddos, Cheyennes, Arapahos, Lipans, Osages, and Northern Osages — hundreds of tepees lined the banks of the Washita River. Another significant topic on the council's agenda was ransom for captives. per ORsIv48/2p[S#102]pp1102, 1280, and 1306.

Anna, a Caddo, and her husband "Caddo Billy" Williams, a white settler from Kentucky, owned the Half-Moon Ranch, East 1/2 of NE 1/2 of sec 5 twp 7N ran 8W in May 1865. When the Indians began to gather at the Camp Napoleon site in May 1865, the Half-Moon proprietors left their "sick" cattle near Camp Napoleon since they knew that those cattle would be stolen, and yes, they were stolen.

### Patricia Adkins-Rochette's 1,014-page book

The above information is from my 1,014-page *Bourland in North Texas and Indian Territory During the Civil War: Fort Cobb, Fort Arbuckle & the Wichita Mountains*, vIpp334, 336, 353 and vIIppA-337, A-378, A-438, A-451. This 1,014-page book with its 128-page Name Index is described on my website >>[www.bourlandcivilwar.com](http://www.bourlandcivilwar.com)<<. PRochette@Juno.com. Click on <http://www.bourlandcivilwar.com/>

## *Bourland in North Texas and Indian Territory During the Civil War: Fort Cobb, Fort Arbuckle & the Wichita Mountains*

James Webb Throckmorton's Texas Mounted Rifleman Company of 100 men secured **Fort Arbuckle** and **Fort Cobb** from May-August 1861. As a member of the 6th Texas Cavalry, he was in the Battles of Elkhorn and Patriot Hills.

He was appointed Brig-Gen. of the 1st Frontier District Regiment (TST) in December 1864, then CSA Gen. E.K. **Smith** appointed him as the Confederate **Commissioner to the Indians**. He successfully negotiated several treaties with the Plains Indians, especially the **Camp Napoleon Compact** that involved negotiating **ransoms** for captives of the Plains Indians.



**Brig-Gen. Throckmorton**

(1825-1894)

Texas Governor, 1866-1867