

## Family and History

*by Kenita Gibbins*

My second cousin on her our mothers' side voluntarily became the genealogy gatherer for the Brumbelow family. Jackie left us a legacy that we will treasure and pass down to our children. Because of Jackie, we know that our great grandfather of Jacksboro, Texas fought in the Battle of Stones or the Second Battle of Murfreesboro December 31, 1862 - January 2, 1863 between The Union Army and The Confederate Army of Tennessee. Grandfather Nathaniel Brumbelow did survive this battle of the Civil War. He went back to Texas and became a Texas Ranger. Because I know this bit of history, I became fascinated with the reporting of Ambrose Bierce.

There was an indecisive outcome to the Battle of Murfreesboro, Tennessee. General Bragg of the Confederate Army withdrew. Bodies were piled high. In a ravine in the middle of the battlefield, there were boulders against which soldiers rested safely and made no noise. The horses and injured were brought to the rear for silence. A soldier who had received a gunshot wound to the middle of his head lay looking dead. A surgeon placed a probe into the head wound and found the bullet went totally through his head. As the night cold began someone covered him with a blanket. As the night grew colder a soldier next to Ambrose took the blanket from the fallen soldier. He and Ambrose huddled together with the blanket to stay warm. In the morning Ambrose's companion went to recover the body with the blanket. He found the soldier lying on his side and strolled near him. In the dirt were the words, "You are forgiven!" The soldier's hands were in his pockets.