



C. C. Slaughter

Christopher Columbus Slaughter (February 9, 1837 – January 25, 1919), known as “C.C.” or “Lum,” was born in what is now Freestone County, Texas, to George Webb Slaughter and Sarah Mason Slaughter. His family embodied frontier resilience: his great-grandfather fought in the American Revolution, his grandfather under Andrew Jackson in the War of 1812, and his father as a scout and courier for Sam Houston during the Texas Revolution.

The Slaughters settled first near Nacogdoches, then moved repeatedly in search of safer, more fertile land. By 1856 the family established a 2,900-acre ranch in Palo Pinto County, thirty miles from Fort Belknap. When federal troops were withdrawn in 1857, Comanche and Kiowa raids intensified. In 1860, at age 23, C.C. joined a ranger company under Captain Sul Ross that attacked a Nokoni Comanche village, recapturing Cynthia Ann Parker and killing a warrior long believed to be Chief Peta Nocona (though Quanah Parker later disputed this).

During the Civil War, Slaughter remained in Texas, serving in the Frontier Battalion of the Texas Rangers, rather than in the Confederate army. He fought in numerous skirmishes against Comanches while starting his own family.

After the war, cash-poor but cattle-rich, Slaughter and neighbors, including Charles Goodnight, headed south in 1866 seeking safer range. Near the Devil's River, a companion's rifle accidentally discharged, shattering Slaughter's shoulder. He was not expected to live; recovery took over a year and left his finances in ruins. Unable to find buyers for his land at even \$10,000, he rebuilt slowly. In 1867 the family drove cattle themselves (Oliver Loving having recently been killed) and sold the herd at a profit in Jefferson, Texas, using proceeds to buy trade goods and begin accumulating cattle again.

Through the late 1860s and 1870s Slaughter trailed herds to Kansas and shrewdly reinvested. In 1873 he co-founded City Bank of Dallas (later City National, then part of the modern banking lineage). After losing his first wife Cynthia in 1876, he married Carrie Averill of Kansas. When tick-borne “Texas fever” devastated southern herds, he moved operations to the open plains of West Texas, eventually establishing the Long S Ranch across parts of Howard, Borden, and Andrews counties. At its peak his holdings exceeded one million acres.

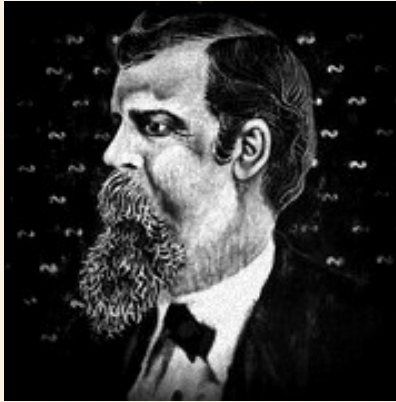
Slaughter helped organize the Northwest Texas Cattle Raisers' Association to combat predatory pricing by eastern meat packers. In the 1890s he introduced Hereford breeding stock, improving the quality and hardiness of Texas cattle. Banking remained central to his empire; institutions he helped found evolved into First National Bank of Dallas.

A devout Baptist like his preacher father George (who founded some fifty churches), Slaughter became one of Texas Baptists' greatest benefactors. He is said to have personally funded two-thirds of the new First Baptist Church of Dallas building in the early 1900s and underwrote much of the original Texas Baptist Memorial Sanatorium, which grew into Baylor University Medical Center. He served as vice president of the Southern Baptist Convention and in numerous state Baptist leadership roles.

C.C. Slaughter died in 1919 at his Dallas home on Worth Street and was buried in Greenwood Cemetery. From a frontier ranger who once rode alone to calm angry Caddo warriors after a

massacre near his ranch, he rose to become one of Texas's earliest and most influential cattle barons, bankers, and philanthropists.

C. C. Slaughter



Spread the word! Share this email with friends and invite them to visit our [website](#), attend our meetings, and [join](#) our group. Don't forget to check our [Events Page](#) regularly and mark your calendars for upcoming events!



Share This Email



Share This Email



Share This Email

DONATIONS

The Dallas County Pioneer Association (DCPA) is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit and relies on your donations to care for neglected cemeteries and preserve Dallas County's history .

Operated by passionate volunteers, we invite you to help support our mission.

PLEASE DONATE

GET FUTURE POSTS BY E-MAIL

SUBSCRIBE





Try email marketing for free today!