



SONS OF CONFEDERATE VETERANS, TEXAS DIVISION

THE JOHN H. REAGAN CAMP NEWS

www.reaganscvcamp.org

VOLUME 11, ISSUE 2

FEBRUARY 2019

COMMANDER'S DISPATCH

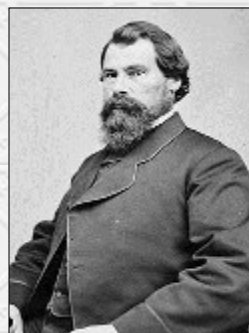


We have had some great programs in the last year. This month Andrew Petty gave a program on a Confederate Camel. Yes there was a Mississippi Infantry unit that had a camel as a beast of burden. He was beloved by the men and upon his death he was mourned by the Mississippians. There is a tombstone at Vicksburg for Douglas the camel.

The weather this

month was not good but we still had a decent attendance. The meal was enjoyed by all. Always remember that visitors are welcome. Our camp is again meeting on the 3rd Tuesday evening at 6:30 at the Commercial Bank of Texas Building. We hope to see all of you at our next meeting on March 21st.

Richard Thornton



John H. Reagan

About 1863
Oct 8, 1818 – March 6, 1905

Post Master General of the Confederate States of America
Secretary of the Treasury CSA

U. S. Senator from Texas
U. S. Rep. from Texas
District Judge

Texas State Representative
First Chairman - Railroad Commission of Texas

A Founder and President of the Texas State Historical Association



CAMP MEETINGS

3rd Tuesday of Each Month
06:30 PM

With a meal served at each meeting.

Commercial Bank of Texas on the corner of N. Mallard & E. Lacy Street

The Bank is located just south of the Anderson County Courthouse Annex.

Guests are welcome!
Bring the family.

www.reaganscvcamp.org
www.reaganscvcamp.org

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**Memorial Plaza Groundskeeping
Calendar**

March 2019 - Calvin Nicholson
 April 2019 - Andrew Petty
 May 2019 - Charles Steen
 June 2019 - Marc Robinson
 July 2019 - Dwight Franklin
 August 2019 - Andrew Harris

Prayer List

- Compatriot Forrest Bradberry
- Compatriot J.B. Mason
- 2nd Lt Commander Calvin Nicholson
- Toni Ray (wife of past comdr Rudy Ray)
- Past Reagan Camp Historian Gary Williams
- Past Davis/Reagan UDC Pres. Dolye Jeffus
- Rod Skelton (former Camp Chaplain)
- United Daughters of the Confederacy
- The Sovereign State of Texas
- The United States of America
- The Sons of Confederate Veterans

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

The Reagan Camp will have monthly meetings on the 3rd Tuesday of each month in the Commercial Bank of Texas meeting room.

Tuesday March 19 — March Meeting
Tuesday April 16 — April Meeting
Tuesday May 14 — May Meeting
Tuesday June 18 — June Meeting



This flag flies in honor and memory of over 1,000 Confederate veterans from Anderson County who marched off to war, one third of whom never returned, and the over 500 Confederate veterans from all across the South who are buried in this county. They fought for liberty and independence from a tyrannical and oppressive government. Provided by the John H. Reagan Camp # 2156, Sons of Confederate Veterans. www.reaganstvcamp.org

Above: Reagan Camp's battle flag and sign displayed proudly at intersection of FM 315 and Anderson Cty Rd 448, ten miles north of Palestine.

“NOTHING FILLS ME WITH DEEPER SADNESS THAN TO SEE A SOUTHERN MAN APOLOGIZING FOR THE DEFENSE WE MADE OF OUR INHERITANCE. OUR CAUSE WAS SO JUST, SO SACRED, THAT HAD I KNOWN ALL THAT HAS COME TO PASS, HAD I KNOWN WHAT WAS TO BE INFLICTED UPON ME, ALL THAT MY COUNTRY WAS TO SUFFER, ALL THAT OUR POSTERITY WAS TO ENDURE, I WOULD DO IT ALL OVER AGAIN.”

-PRESIDENT JEFFERSON DAVIS-

“DUTY IS THE MOST SUBLIME WORD IN OUR LANGUAGE. DO YOUR DUTY IN ALL THINGS. YOU CANNOT DO MORE. YOU SHOULD NEVER WISH TO DO LESS.”

-GENERAL
ROBERT E. LEE-



JOHN H. REAGAN CAMP FEBRUARY MEETING FEBRUARY 19, 2019



PHOTOS COURTESY OF DOUG SMITH & RANDY HUFFMAN



Picture courtesy of Compatriot Randy Huffman

The monthly meetings for the John H. Reagan Camp have been moved from the 3rd Thursday to the 3rd Tuesday of each month. It is still held at the Commercial Bank of Texas on the corner of North Mallard and East Lacy streets in Palestine. It is just across the street from the courthouse annex. Due to the flu outbreak and basketball playoffs, our attendance was down for this meeting. We only had a total of 8 members in attendance. We would like to say "Thank You" to Commander Richard Thornton and Doug Smith (pictured at left) for bringing the food for the meeting.

Commander Thornton brought a spicy chicken casserole and chocolate cake. Doug Smith brought Blue Bell Ice Cream. We would also like to thank Adjutant Dan Dyer for making sure that we have plenty of bowls, plates, glasses, forks, spoons, and napkins at each meeting. Dan does so much for the Reagan Camp. He keeps up with all the incoming and outgoing monies; arranges meetings with the public, media and such; pays the bills, and keeps all the necessary paperwork that is required for the camp. We appreciate Dan very much.

We appreciate the Commercial Bank of Texas for allowing us the use of their conference room for our meetings. They have been very welcoming to the Reagan Camp and we really appreciate them. We have moved our Camp's bank account to this bank as a token of our appreciation to them.



Picture courtesy of Compatriot Doug Smith



Picture courtesy of Compatriot Doug Smith

For anyone interested in coming to our Reagan Camp meetings, I can assure you that you will be welcome. We are a group of men who love to study the history of our ancestors, and we do so without racism or hatred of any kind. We would love for other confederate descendants to join us when we meet. Each meeting has a good meal and an interesting historical lesson from the war between the states. Our next meeting will be held on March 19th at 6:30pm.



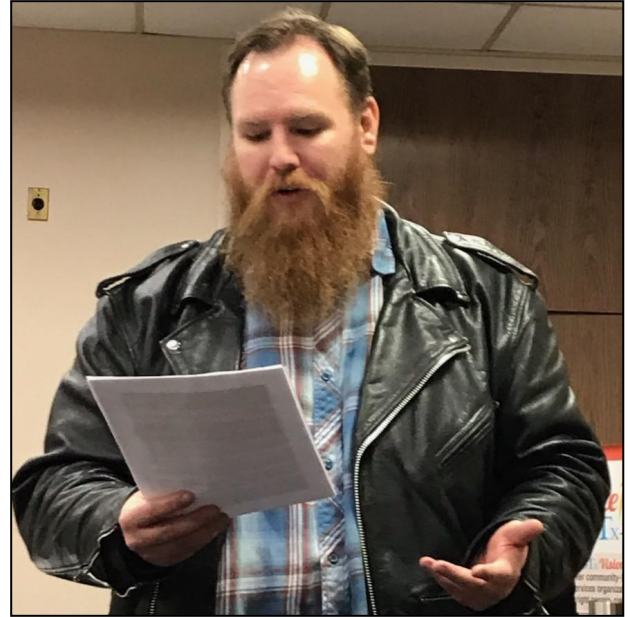
JOHN H. REAGAN CAMP FEBRUARY HISTORICAL PROGRAM
“DOUGLAS THE CAMEL” BY ANDREW PETTY
 PHOTOS COURTESY OF COMPATRIOTS DOUG SMITH & RANDY HUFFMAN



Douglas the Camel:

Interred within the city of Vicksburg are the remains of some 23,000 Civil War soldiers. Almost 18,000 of them - all of whom fought for the Union- are buried in Vicksburg National Military Park, the second largest military cemetery in the United States after Arlington. The bodies of 5,000 Confederate men can be found in the adjacent Cedar Hill Cemetery, in a section known as “Soldier’s Rest”. The vast majority of these graves are unidentified, and most travelers give just a passing glance at the alabaster tombstones. However, one in particular should be sure to catch any visitor’s attention- the marker dedicated to Douglas the Camel.

The story behind one of the Civil War’s most beloved animal mascots is both captivating and heartbreaking.



Douglas started out as part of an experimental project called the Camel Corps. The Mexican-American Wars saw high fatality rates among the horses and mules used in combat, with many of the animals dying of dehydration and starvation in “the great desert of the American Southwest”. Camels were better equipped for such harsh conditions, as they could go longer periods of time without water and vegetation. Furthermore, camels were able to carry heavier loads than their equestrian counterparts, meaning fewer numbers were needed. This drastically helped reduce costs for provisions.

None other than Jefferson Davis himself recognized such a golden opportunity. In 1855, serving as Secretary of War, Davis was able to convince Congress to appropriate \$30,000 to help fund his proposal. As a result, Davis sent the ship *USS Supply* under the command of Lieutenant David Dixon Porter to acquire these beasts of burden. On two trips over the next two years, Porter was able to round up some 75 camels from Greece, Turkey, and Egypt and transport them to the newly created Camp Verde station, located in Texas. By 1859, the camels were running reconnaissance missions throughout Texas and California under orders from Robert E. Lee, and indeed the camels fared much better than the horses in the rough terrain.

However, the Camel Corps soon fell through. Multiple problems soon arose- many of the officers were unfamiliar with handling the animals, and despite hiring several camel drivers, were largely unable to gain compliance from the cantankerous animals. They were also known to be aggressive, both toward each other and to the horses within the camp.



Confederate Camel Corp Camp Verde Texas

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JOHN H. REAGAN CAMP FEBRUARY HISTORICAL PROGRAM
“DOUGLAS THE CAMEL” BY ANDREW PETTY
PICTURES COURTESY OF COMPATRIOTS DOUG SMITH & RANDY HUFFMAN

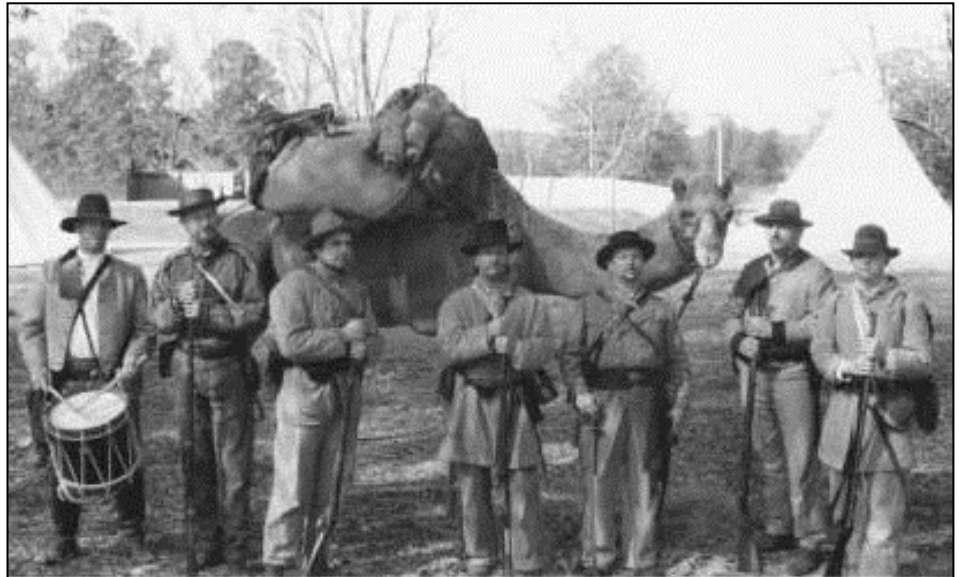


In addition, it seemed unsightly for a soldier to ride into battle upon the back of a camel, and they were potential financial competition for ranchers who raised and bred horses for the purposes of warfare. Thus, the short-lived idea collapsed just before the start of the Civil War.

When the Camel Corps disbanded, the animals were let loose to roam about the surrounding territory. The Army was able to recapture most of them and sell them at auction, though some found their way into the hands of private citizens who raised them as pets. And then there was Douglas, who somehow managed to mosey his way from Texas all the way to Mississippi.

Though the details of his journey are unknown, it is suspected that a soldier (perhaps one originally from Mississippi) snuck Douglas out and traveled back to his home state with him. At any rate, Douglas soon found himself in the possession of Lieutenant William Hargrove, who in turn bequeathed the camel to Colonel William Moore, who was in charge of Company A of the 43rd Mississippi Volunteer Infantry Regiment. Douglas has found a new home, and the soldiers were quick to adopt him as one of the family.

“Ole’ Douglas”, as he affectionately came to be known by the troops, was probably an advanced specimen by this time, and many in the camp commented upon his grizzled appearance, with a few gray, wiry hairs protruding from his chin. However, Douglas could more than hold his own, and was soon officially incorporated into service as a pack animal. He was assigned to the regimental band to carry instruments as well as other equipment such as



pots, pans, and other items pertaining to the officers mess. Due to his presence, people began referring to the company as “The Camel Regiment”.

Douglas, like other camels though, could be stubborn and hardheaded. Given his old age, he was particularly set in his ways, and the men sometimes had difficulty getting Douglas to obey commands. One of the main issues was that Douglas had a tendency to stray from the pack and wander off, usually being found grazing in a nearby field. Though the soldiers tried to tether him to prevent this, Douglas would snap any chain with his mighty strength, and eventually the men permitted him to freely stroll where he pleased, though Douglas never ventured too far away.

Douglas first saw combat action at the Battle of Iuka, which got off to an inauspicious start for the Camel. The night before the battle, Douglas was walking in front of the horses when the loud clippity clop of his gait startled one of the steeds who had been tied to a fence rail.

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**JOHN H. REAGAN CAMP
FEBRUARY MEETING HISTORICAL PROGRAM
“DOUGLAS THE CAMEL” BY ANDREW PETTY**



The horse broke loose and set off a stampede through the middle of the camp, dragging the fence rail through the soldiers' tents and awakening the very alarmed troops. Men ran for cover and some climbed nearby trees in order to escape the chaos. While most injuries were light, two horses were tragically killed during the stampede. Though the soldiers would later regale each other with the tale, the horses from then on out kept a watchful eye on Douglas and his shenanigans.

Douglas was also present at the Battle of Corinth, fought two weeks after Iuka. Again, calamity would befall Douglas when his owner, Colonel Moore, was killed during the second day of the battle. Douglas however, survived the conflict unscathed, even earning a certificate of commendation for “standing bravely in the face of Union fire while his friends fell around him.” This despite the fact that Douglas was mainly on the sidelines, grazing as he normally did, the Yankee bullets never really threatening his serenity.



On Douglas went, to see even more action at the Battle of the Rail Roads (largely a Confederate retreat). Again, Douglas earned yet another citation for his unyielding steadfastness while enemy gunfire blazed all around him. By this time, Douglas had become accustomed to the intermittent sound of musket balls in the distance, and barely even looked up whenever the shooting commenced, focusing solely on the fertile fields which provided ample grazing opportunities.

On Ole' Douglas followed his troops to Vicksburg and endured the month and a half long siege of the city. Unfortunately, this is where the story of Douglas the Camel reaches its ignominious end.

At around 3:00 on the Saturday afternoon of June 27, 1863, Douglas was grazing in a nearby pasture, behind the troops, when a Union sharpshooter from an Iowa regiment intentionally took aim and felled the mighty beast. Douglas let out a wailful moan as his life slipped away, much to the dismay of his Confederate comrades, many of whom tried to break rank to save their fallen friend. Alas, it was too late for Ole' Douglas the Camel. He breathed his last on the battlefield and went to glory upon the plains of Vicksburg. Chaos immediately ensued, as outraged companions of Douglas tried to retrieve his body, at great risk to life and limb. They swore revenge, and the commanding officers had to quell dissension or else deal with a full blown mutiny on their hands. Rest assured though, that Douglas's senseless murder neither went unnoticed nor unavenged. Lieutenant Colonel Robert Bevier of the First Missouri Brigade had witnessed the entire scenario unfold, including getting a good glimpse of the sniper, and promised retribution. He rounded up six of his best marksmen, and doggedly pursued the assassin until they caught up with him and unceremoniously executed him with the same swift ruthlessness he had demonstrated on Douglas. When told that the deed was finished, Bevier commented, “I refused to hear his name and rejoiced when I heard he had been killed.”

In one final act of sacrifice, the soldiers of Douglas's regiment cut him up and ate his carcass- after all, no sense in letting a thousand pounds of fresh camel meat go to waste.

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**JOHN H. REAGAN CAMP
FEBRUARY MEETING HISTORICAL PROGRAM
"DOUGLAS THE CAMEL" BY ANDREW PETTY**



The Confederate troops were to the point of starvation during the siege, and although saddened by the loss of their friend, also had to think of self preservation. After Douglas had been consumed, the soldiers sold his bones as souvenirs. Though he met a violent end, Douglas's death is honored still today in a hallowed patch of earth in Vicksburg, with a memorial next to many of his compatriots who fought, served, and died alongside him.

We would like to thank Andrew for the all the work he did preparing this historical program and for allowing us to print his lesson for those who were not able to be in attendance. He has presented several historical presentations to the camp, and they have all been very good.

If you would be willing to bring a program, please contact David Franklin or Dan Dyer.

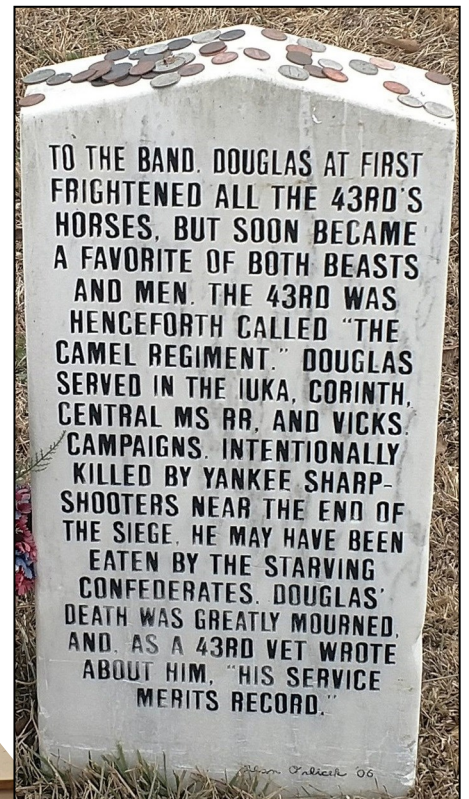
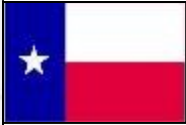


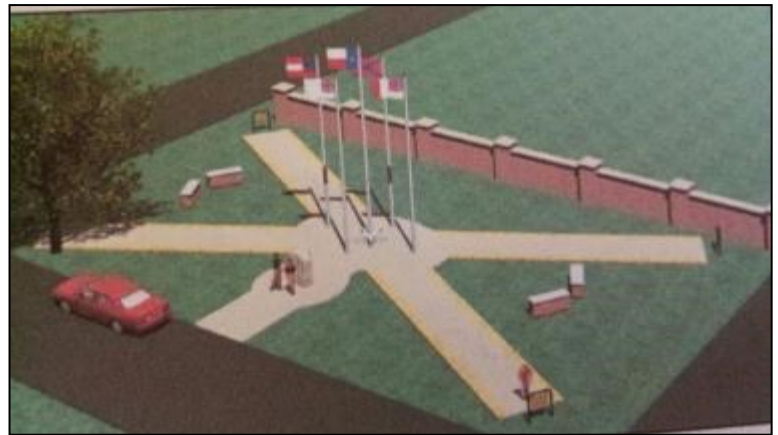
Photo courtesy of Compatriot Randy Huffman



A GREAT WAY TO ENSURE THAT YOUR ANCESTOR'S SERVICE AND HONOR IS NOT FORGOTTEN



Many Americans have forgotten that freedom isn't free at all. There have been hundreds of thousands of Americans who have willingly given their life for their country so that we could continue to have the rights of free men. But there is a group of people in our country who have decided that they have the right to take away the rights of others, especially if those others do not agree with their agenda. These people have no respect for the true history of anything that goes against what they want. Although they cannot change true history, they are changing the history books and in so doing are changing what people are taught about the history of our country. These people don't care if they are dishonoring our Confederate ancestors. They care nothing about our ancestor's service. Do you care about preserving your ancestor's service? If so, you can do so by having his service noted in the Confederate Veteran's Memorial Plaza with a paver that will include his name and service information on it for only \$50. It will last for years and years to come and will let countless people see his name and information. It is a wonderful way to give him the recognition that he deserves.



SAMUEL R. CORN CO B 33RD ALA. INF CSA	PVT. DAVID A. BRAY CO H 34TH GA. INF CSA	O. M. ROBERTS CAMP 178 - SCV WAXAHACHE, TEXAS	UPSHUR COUNTY PATRIOTS CAMP 2109 GILMER, TEXAS	PRIMUS KELLY BODY SERVANT GRIMES COUNTY
GEN. HORACE RANDEL CAMP # 1533 CARTHAGE, TEXAS	ERASTUS W DAVIS 31ST MISS INFANTRY 1825-1862	WILLIAM A LOYD 30TH TEXAS CAVALRY COMPANY F PRIVATE	1ST LT. LEWIS P. BROOKS CO. B /7TH GA REGT	ROGER O. MILLS CHAPTER 2466 UDC
PVT. JOHN LAND 54TH GA. INF CO H RUSSELL GUARDS	1ST LT. LEWIS P. BROOKS CO. B 7TH GA REGT	PVT THOMAS M. LORD CO L MARTIN-HOWELL G & LT ART. CSA	CPL J RILEY PATTY 59TH TN MTD INF. CO. A	MARY WEST #26 UDC WACO, TEXAS
PVT T. JEFF PARKS 22ND TX INFANTRY CO K	TERRY LEE HULSEY FOR 24 GA CO I PVT JOHN MCAFEE HULSEY	JAMES HALL BENDY PVT CO. A 25 TEXAS CAV. CSA	JOHN A. BUCHANAN SERGEANT CO H 27TH MISS INFANTRY	JOEL S. WALTERS PRIVATE CO C 12TH MISS INFANTRY
PVT W.C. HERRING 12TH TX INFANTRY CO K	JOHN PINKNEY MANN PVT. CO. K 13 TEXAS CAV. CSA	WILLIAM H L WELLS VA LIGHT ARTILLERY WELLS CLAY PLANO	WILLIAM L. WALTERS PRIVATE CO K 37TH MISS INF REGT	JESSIE C. ROBERTS 1ST LIEUTENANT 20TH TEXAS CAVALRY

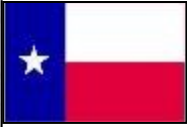


ROBERT E. LEE CALENDAR



FEBRUARY 2019

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1, 1863 Inflation reduces Confederate dollar to 1/5 its original value.	2, 1863 CSA Gen. Albert Sydney Johnston born 1865 Weather so cold that James River freezes around Richmond, Va
3, 1807 CSA Gen Joseph Johnston born	4, 1861 Confederate States of America formed in Montgomery, Al.	5, 1864 Sherman enters Jackson, Miss.	6, 1863 US Sec of State Seward rejects France's offer to mediate peace 1833 CSA Gen Jeb Stuart born	7, 1863 U.S. Secretary of State Seward rejects France's offer to mediate peace.	8, 1820 US Gen William Sherman born	9, 1861 New Conf gov elects Jefferson Davis President
10, 1862 CSA blockade-runner "Mosquito Fleet" is destroyed off North Carolina Coast	11, 1812 CSA V.P. Alexander Stephens born In 1861, While pruning roses, Davis hears that he is president-elect	12, 1865 Lincoln's b'day. Electoral College votes 212-21 to re-elect him	13, 1862 Battle of Ft. Donelson	14, 1824 U.S. Gen. Winfield Scott Hancock birthday	15, 1861 Provisional Confederate Congress votes to take Ft. Sumter & Ft. Pickens by force if necessary.	16, 1863: U.S. Senate passes Conscription Act to draft men into army
17, 1864: The USS Housatonic sinks in 28 ft of water after being rammed by submarine Hunley. The Hunley sinks too.	18, 1862 The first Congress meets in Richmond, Virginia.	19, 1861 Jefferson Davis appoints his Cabinet which included John H. Reagan as Postmaster General	20, 1865: Conf. Congress passes bill that authorizes the arming of slaves.	21, 1862: Conf. win handily at Battle of Ft Craig near Santa Fe, NM	22, 1861: On Washington's b'day, both Lincoln & Davis give important speeches.	23, 1861 Texas citizens ratify the actions of the secessionist convention voting to secede 34,749—11,235
24, 1864: Pres Davis appoints Braxton Bragg his military advisor, despite generals' outcry	25, 1862 US War Dept seizes control of all telegraph lines	26, 1863 The Cherokee Nation rescinds its declaration of secession & abolished slavery	27, 1864: A rudely constructed prison outside Andersonville, Ga houses its first prisoners	28, 1862: A day of fasting is proclaimed across the South. Pres Davis invokes martial law in parts of Virginia		



TEXAS CIVIL WAR HISTORY IN FEBRUARY

From the Texas State Historical Association



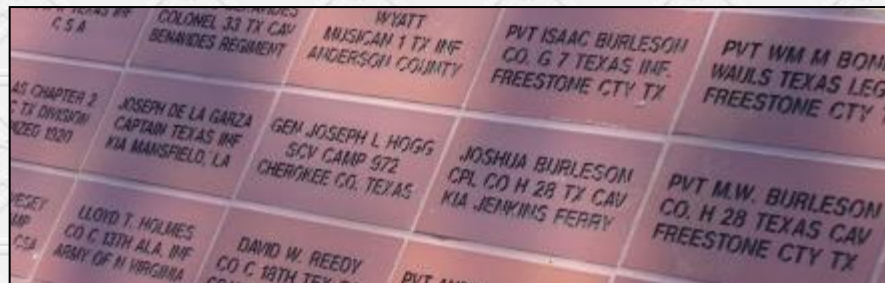
- February 1, 1861 - On this date, Texas became the 7th state to secede from the Union when a state convention voted 166-8 in favor of secession. Even though Sam Houston objected to Texas leaving the Union, the vote passed.
- February 2, 1861 - On this date, a declaration of the causes which impel the State of Texas to secede from the Federal Union was adopted.
- February 2, 1861 - On this date the Committee of Public Safety directed to seize all federal property in Texas.
- February 9, 1861 - On this date, a proclamation by Gov. Houston setting an election on the Ordinance of Secession.
- February 16, 1861 - On this date, the US Army Facility at San Antonio was seized under authority of the Texas Committee of Safety
- February 18, 1861 - On this date, US General David E. Twiggs surrendered all US military posts in Texas.
- February 19, 1861 - On this date, Carlos A. Waite replaced Gen. Twiggs as US Army commander, Department of Texas.
- February 21, 1861 - On this date, Volunteers under the command of John 'Rip' Ford seize U.S. property at Brazos Santiago in the Rio Grande Valley.
- February 23rd, 1861— On this day in 1861, the people of Texas went to the polls to vote on a referendum to secede from the Union. The vote was 46,153 for secession and 14,747 against. Of the 122 counties casting votes, only eighteen cast majorities against secession. Only eleven others cast as much as 40 percent against. The referendum was held pursuant to a decision in favor of secession in the state Secession Convention.
- February 27th, 1850 - On this day in 1850, Carlos Esparza, a supporter of the Mexican folk hero Juan N. Cortina, and various followers attempted to establish a territorial government and separate themselves from the rest of Texas. The territory of the Rio Grande was intended to protect the interests of Hispanics, but the proposal became politically complicated and was dropped. Esparza, born in Matamoros, Tamaulipas, in 1828, was to all appearances an ordinary rancher possessing neither Cortina's striking appearance nor leadership qualities. The eccentric, sharp-tongued Esparza remained Cortina's man in the shadows, however. During the Civil war, he managed to aid Union and Confederate forces against each other while promoting the Cortinista cause.



CONFEDERATE VETERANS MEMORIAL PLAZA INFORMATION



The Confederate Veterans Memorial Plaza had the official opening and dedication on April 13, 2013. It is a beautiful Memorial to the Confederate Veterans. Although it is open for visitors, there is still room along the sidewalks for you to purchase a brick paver in the name of your confederate ancestor. This will ensure that your ancestor's service to the confederacy will not be forgotten, but will be remembered for years to come. If you would like to make a donation for a paver, please contact Dan Dyer at E-mail: danielyer497@yahoo.com or Phone: (903) 391-2224



Would you like to honor you ancestor? There is still room in the plaza for you to have a paver with your ancestor's name and military information. You can also acquire a paver in the name of your SCV Camp.



JOHN H. REAGAN CAMP #2156

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Please visit our website @

www.reaganscvcamp.org

The citizen-soldiers who fought for the Confederacy personified the best qualities of America. The preservation of liberty and freedom was the motivating factor in the South's decision to fight the *Second American Revolution*. The tenacity with which Confederate soldiers fought underscored their belief in the rights guaranteed by the Constitution. These attributes are the underpinning of our democratic society and represent the foundation on which this nation was built.

Today, the **Sons of Confederate Veterans** is preserving the history and legacy of these heroes, so future generations can understand the motives that animated the Southern Cause.

The SCV is the direct heir of the United Confederate Veterans, and the oldest hereditary organization for male descendants of Confederate soldiers. Organized at Richmond, Virginia in 1896, the SCV continues to serve as a historical, patriotic, and non-political organization dedicated to ensuring that a true history of the 1861-1865 period is preserved.

Membership in the **Sons of Confederate Veterans** is open to all male descendants of any veteran who served honorably in the Confederate armed forces. Membership can be obtained through either **lineal or collateral** family lines and kinship to a veteran must be **documented genealogically**. The minimum age for full membership is 12, but there is no minimum for Cadet membership. **Friends of the SCV** memberships are available as well to those who are committed to upholding our charge, but do not have the Confederate ancestry.

THE CHARGE TO THE SONS OF CONFEDERATE VETERANS

"To you, Sons of Confederate Veterans, we will commit the vindication of the cause for which we fought. To your strength will be given the defense of the Confederate soldier's good name, the guardianship of his history, the emulation of his virtues, the perpetuation of those principles which he loved and which you love also, and those ideals which made him glorious and which you also cherish."

Lt. General Stephen Dill Lee, Commander-in-Chief

United Confederate Veterans

New Orleans, Louisiana, April 25, 1906.



Camp meetings: 3rd Tuesday Each
Month - 06:30 PM
Snacks served at each meeting.

Commercial Bank of Texas on the
corner of N. Mallard & E. Lacy Street

The Bank is located just south of the
Anderson County Courthouse
Annex.