



SONS OF CONFEDERATE VETERANS, TEXAS DIVISION

THE JOHN H. REAGAN CAMP NEWS

[www.reaganscvcamp.org](http://www.reaganscvcamp.org)

VOLUME 12, ISSUE 10

OCTOBER 2020

COMMANDER'S DISPATCH

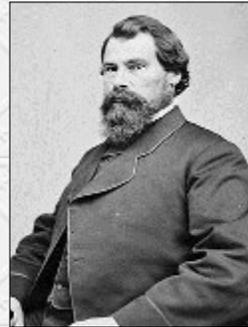


Our October camp meeting was lightly attended because of missing compatriots who were on vacation. Calvin Nicholson presented our program and it was well received. The subject was "The Free State of Van Zandt". Most of the compatriots in attendance had never heard of this rebellion and we enjoyed learning about this Texas history. Calvin

stated there was a road sign somewhere out of Canton, TX which mentions the rebellion. We will all be looking for it!

Meal was a casserole, dessert was Angel food cake. Adjutant Dan Dyer presented the previous month minutes and our financial report. Our financial status is improving and we are slowly building a bank account.

Our next meeting will be held on Tuesday, November 17, at 6:30. We hope to see all



**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

of you there. Please remember that all visitors are welcome and if you know any person with an ancestor who served the Confederacy please invite them to our meeting.

Richard Thornton

CAMP MEETINGS

3rd Tuesday of Each Month  
06:30 PM

With a meal served at each meeting.

We do not have a permanent meeting location. You can contact

Commander Thornton for the proper meeting location each month. His

email is [tx\\_tsar@hotmail.com](mailto:tx_tsar@hotmail.com)

Phone: (903) 791-1557

Guests are welcome!

Bring the family.

[www.reaganscvcamp.org](http://www.reaganscvcamp.org)

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**Memorial Plaza  
Groundskeeping Calendar**

- November—Need a volunteer
- December—J.B. Mason
- January—Dan Dyer
- February—Dan Dyer
- March—Need a volunteer
- April—Need a volunteer
- May—Need a volunteer
- June - Marc Robinson

The Reagan Camp is in need of men to sign up for a month to either keep the Confederate Veterans Memorial Plaza mowed or pay to have it mowed. The list is in the box to the left. Several dates are available. If you are not physically able, or don't have the time to mow it, a compatriot of the Reagan camp has volunteered to mow it for \$50 for each time it is mowed. He said he will donate the entire \$50 back to the camp with the understanding that the money be used to purchase an additional paver for the plaza for each time it is mowed. Any extra money will be donated to the Reagan Camp bank account. This man wanted to remain anonymous, so we won't mention his name. But on behalf of the John H. Reagan Camp, "THANK YOU" for going the extra mile!

**Prayer List**

- **Compatriot Forrest Bradberry**
- **Compatriot J.B. Mason**
- **Past Reagan Camp Historian Gary Williams**
- **Rod Skelton (former Camp Chaplain)**
- **Former Camp Commander Rudy Ray**
- **United Daughters of the Confederacy**
- **The Sovereign State of Texas**
- **The United States of America**

**CALENDAR OF EVENTS**

**The Reagan Camp will have monthly meetings on the 3rd Tuesday of each month. You can contact Commander Thornton by email for the location for the meeting.**

**November 17, 2020 - November 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.reaganscvcamp.org](http://www.reaganscvcamp.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-

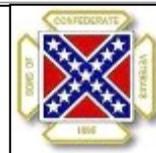
"DUTY IS THE MOST SUBLIME WORD IN OUR LANGUAGE. DO YOUR DUTY IN ALL THINGS. YOU CANNOT DO MORE. YOU SHOULD NEVER WISH TO DO LESS."

-GENERAL ROBERT E. LEE-



## JOHN H. REAGAN CAMP

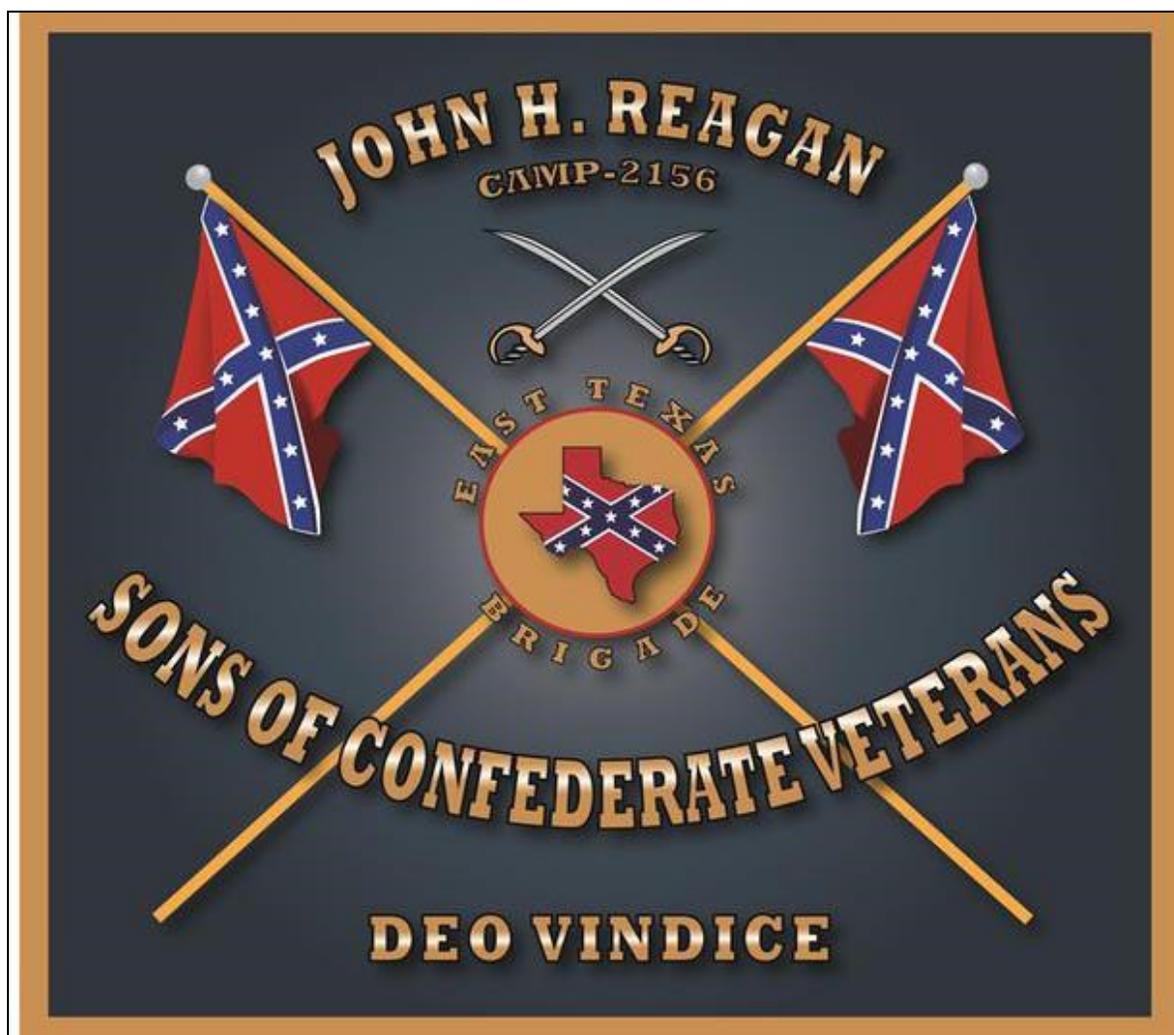
### OCTOBER MEETING

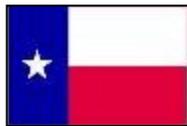


The October meeting was held at the Commercial Bank of Texas which is located on the corner of North Mallard and East Lacy streets in Palestine. We appreciate the bank for allowing us to use their banquet room for our meetings. They have always been supportive of the community and different organizations.

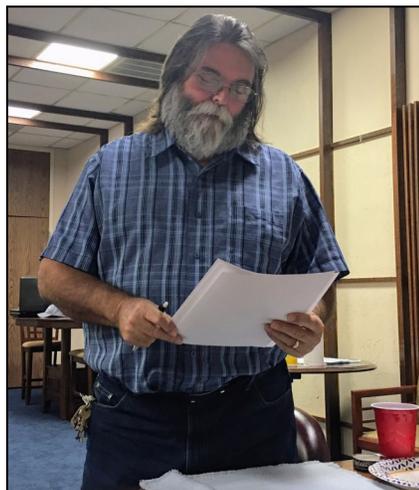
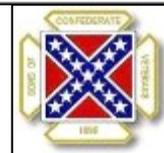
After a meal together, Calvin Nicholson presented a program on "The Free State of Van Zandt". We appreciate Calvin for the unique program and for taking the time and effort to bring us such a good program.

Our next meeting will be held on November 17th at 6:30pm. With the covid-19, we are never certain of where the meeting will be held until just a day or so before the meeting, So please check with Commander Thornton to be sure of the location.





**OCTOBER PROGRAM**  
**BY CALVIN NICHOLSON**  
**“THE FREE STATE OF VAN ZANDT”**



## The Free State of Van Zandt

Van Zandt County was named for Issac Van Zandt, who served as a member of Congress of the Republic of Texas 1840-1841 and was sent as its diplomatic agent to the United States by President Sam Houston in 1842.

Several explanations have been proposed for the origin of the name, “Free State of Van Zandt”, for Van Zandt county.

The first is that when Van Zandt and Kaufman counties were formed from Henderson County all the debts for the area were retained by Henderson County. Consequently, Van Zandt became known as a debt free territory. Resentful politicians of Henderson County thereafter referred to Van Zandt County as a, “free state”.

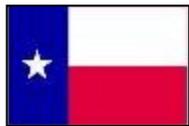
Another explanation states that in 1861 some 350 residents attended a meeting to protest secession. They reasoned that if Texas could leave the Union then Van Zandt County could leave the state of Texas. These residents tried to organize their own government and rejoin the United States. An intervention of Texas Confederate troops put an end to all that “nonsense” before it got off the ground.

In another story, a slave holder from out of state came through Van Zandt County seeking a place to keep his slaves after some Confederate setbacks, asked if Van Zandt County would suffice the man replied, “Hell no, I had as soon take them to a free state. I came all the way from Quitman and never saw so much as a slave.”

In yet another explanation, and if ever in Van Zandt County the most agreeable, is this...

By the time the War Between the States was over, the good citizens of Van Zandt had had enough of the Confederacy, Texas and the United States and decided it was high time to go it alone. So, a convention was called in 1867, delegates were elected, and these delegates voted to secede from Texas and the United States. They even wrote their own Declaration of Independence, modeled after the American Declaration, of course.

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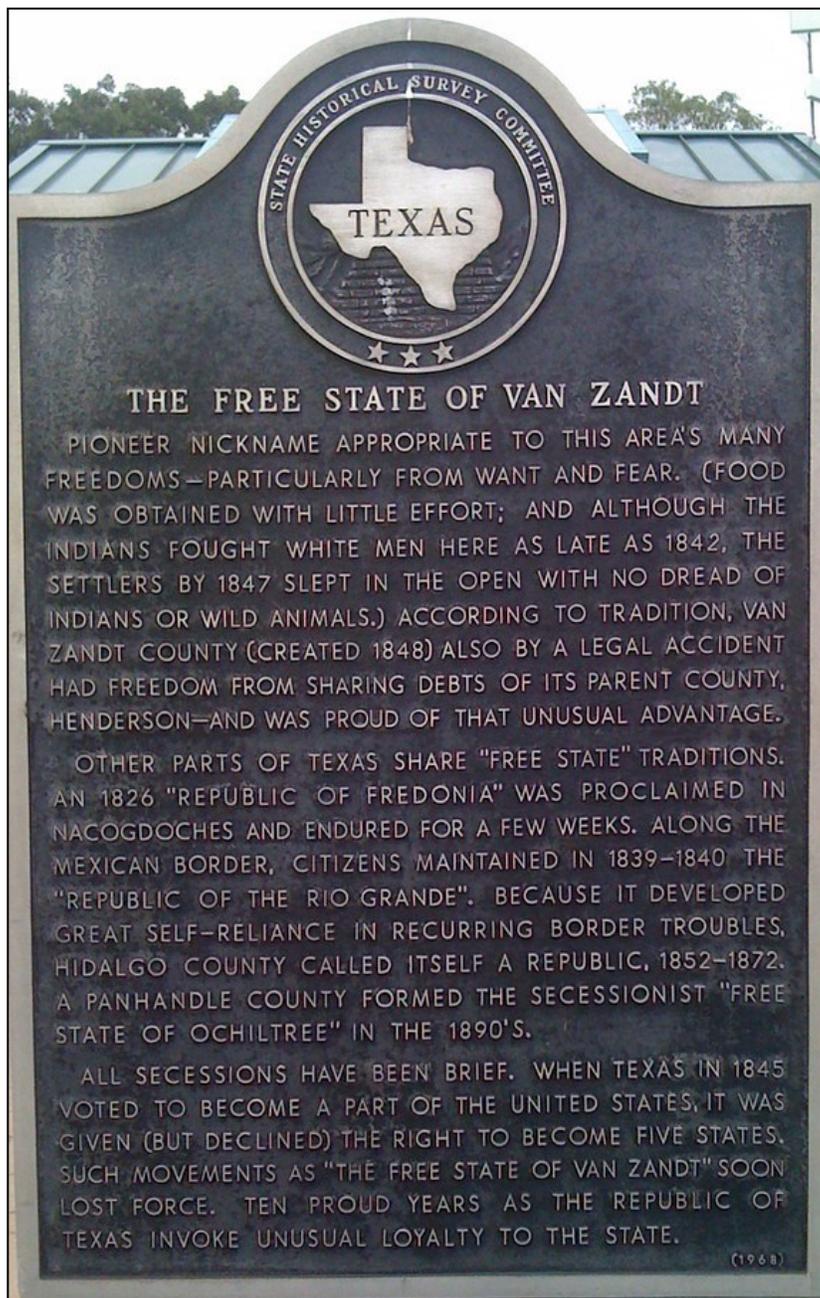
**OCTOBER PROGRAM**  
**BY CALVIN NICHOLSON**  
**“THE FREE STATE OF VAN ZANDT”**



Things went along as usual for a short time, at least until the American military got wind of Van Zandt's actions. This was during Reconstruction, after all, and United States military forces were stationed in Texas to enforce the Laws of the United States. Those forces, under the command of General Philip Sheridan, were called upon to quell the new rebellion. Sheridan sent in a cavalry unit to retake Van Zandt County. At receiving word of this, the new Van Zandt government promptly declared war on the United States. The stage was set for the Second American Civil War.

The following is a story by Mr. M.N. Creastman, a Dallas lawyer. The story was given to him by Reverend S.N. Allen, his mother's brother, a Methodist minister....

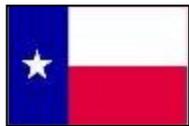
“Following the casting of ballots in 1867, which sent Texas back into the Union, a convention was held in



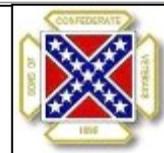
Van Zandt County where upon it was declared by the citizens that there county be a free and independent state, free of the State of Texas, the Southern Confederacy, and the United States of America, and put themselves in a position to fight for their liberty.

General Sheridan had his headquarters at New Orleans, and when he heard that there was a “rebellion” in Texas, sent a troop of cavalry to quell the riot.

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**OCTOBER PROGRAM**  
**BY CALVIN NICHOLSON**  
**“THE FREE STATE OF VAN ZANDT”**



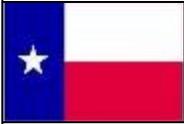
The woods in those days were such that horsemen were handicapped and the boys of the used the process of “Pot-Shot” on the Yankees soldiers, in time the cavalry became disorganized and had to retreat with casualties of one man bucked rom his horse. Not being able to find the Union soldiers the “victorious” rebels assembled in the town of Canton, the capital of the Free State of Van Zandt and proceeded to celebrate the victory of defeating the state and the nation. But they imbibed the current standard of liquor to excess (and forgot to post guards). In the height of their celebration Sheridan’s (now reformed) troops came riding from every point of the compass and captured the entire Army of the Free State. Federal soldiers proceeded to build a stockade by setting upright on the ground, long and large logs encircling a few acres in or near the present site of Canton, Texas, each prisoner bereft of his weapons, had a pair of anklets safely locked on him. Guards were put on duty around the prison, but the Free State boys were model prisoners, somewhat enjoying the food.”

Two of the prisoners were ex-Confederate soldiers, W.A. Allen and Hardy Allen. W.A. had a knife hidden on his person that the guards hadn’t bothered to check for, so he used it to wear down his anklets and escape. (made his way to Indian territory and return later and became a model citizen).

The rest of the men became model prisoners, causing no trouble and doing as they were told. Due to their cooperation, it was decided the number of guards posted would be reduced to one.

Pretty soon the rainy season began. The rain fell and fell, making the ground soft and soggy. With that, the Van Zandt men decided that the time to regain their freedom had come. They managed to loosen several of the log pickets by throwing their bodies against them since they were loosened in the ground by the rain. This they did until the logs gave way and they escaped. The men went to farms in the area, where sympathetic farmers struck the leg irons off the men’s ankles, after which they returned home.

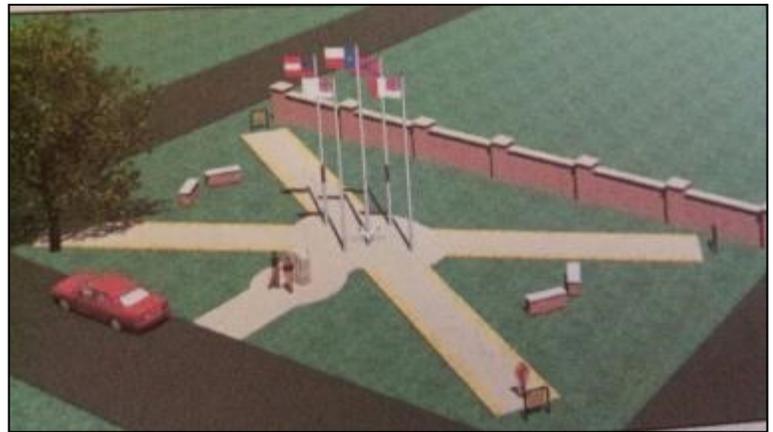
After the escape, things just sort of died down. Arrest warrants were issued be were left unserved, and none of the men ever went to trial. No peace treaty was ever signed, either, nor has Van Zandt ever formally rescinded its Declaration of Independence. It is said there is a sign on a highway leading into Canton that reads, “You are entering the free State of Van Zandt”.



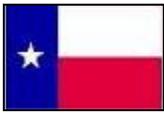
## A GREAT WAY TO ENSURE THAT YOUR ANCESTOR'S SERVICE AND HONOR IS NOT FORGOTTEN



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 CLAW PLANO	WILLIAM L. WALTERS PRIVATE CO K 37TH MISS INF REGT	JESSIE C. ROBERTS 1ST LIEUTENANT 20TH TEXAS CAVALRY



# Robert E. Lee Calendar



## October 2020

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 undated - to his wife: I am opposed to officers surrounding themselves with their sons & relatives.	2 Oct 1865 - at Washington college I shall devote my remaining energies to training young men to do their duty in life.	3 Oct, 1865 - to Gen Beauregard: The South requires the aid of her sons now more than at any period of her history.
4 Undated - to Gen Beauregard Every one should do all in his power to collect & disseminate the truth in the hope that it may find a place in history & descend to posterity.	5 Undated - War is a terrible alternative & should be the very, very last resort.	6 Oct, 1865 - to R.H. Chilton I have entered upon the duties of my new office, in the hope of being of some service; but I should prefer to be on a small farm.	7 Oct, 1865 - to wife: I am sorry the armies cannot keep with the expectations of the editors of papers. I know they can regulate matters satisfactorily on paper. I wish they could do so in the field.	8 Oct, 1852 - to Markie: carry a brave as well as true heart for every occasion of life.	9 Oct, 1865 - Life is gliding away & I have nothing good to show for mine that is past. I pray I may be spared to accomplish something for the benefit of mankind & the honour of God.	10 undated If I could only have my children around me, I could be happy
11 undated - Charity should have no beginning or ending.	12 Oct, 1870 - Lee died at 9:30 Strike the tent!	13 Oct, 1870 - from Mrs. Lee: I have never so truly felt the purity of his character as now, when I have nothing left but his memory.	14 undated - to Anna Fitzhugh: A man may manifest & communicate his joy, but he should conceal & smother his grief as much as possible.	15 Undated - My only pleasure is in my solitary evening rides, which give me abundant opportunity for quiet though.	16 Oct, 1837 - to wife: I pray God to watch over & direct our efforts in guarding our dear son, that we may bring him up 'in the way he should go.'	17 Undated - Human virtue should be equal to human calamity.
18 Undated - no honest man can take long to deliberate which side he will choose.	19 Undated - to Rooney: We must unite in doing our duty & earnestly work to extract what good we can out of the evil that now hangs over our dear land.	20 Undated - to wife: Our little boy seems to have the reputation of being hard to manage, a distinction not at all desirable, as it indicates self-will & obstinacy.	21 Undated - to Robert: You could raise money on your farm only by mortgaging it, which would put you in debt at the beginning of life, & I fear in the end would swallow up your property.	22 Oct, 1837 - to Jack Mackay: Life is too short for them [his children] & their mother to be in one place, & I in another.	23 Undated - to Gen Beauregard: I fear the South has yet to suffer many evils, & it will require time, patience, & fortitude to heal her affliction.	24 Undated - to Robert: I am clear for your marrying, if you select a good wife; otherwise you had better remain as you are.
25 Oct, 1864 - to Wife: I am glad you had the opportunity of partaking of the blessed communion. May it serve to keep our Redeemer in our hearts & minds.	26 Oct, 1862 - to wife: I cannot express the anguish I feel at the death of our sweet Annie. To know that I shall never see her again on earth is agonizing in the extreme.	27 Undated - to Gen. Longstreet: I am of the opinion that all should vote for the most intelligent, honest, & conscientious men eligible to office, irrespective of former party opinions.	28 Oct, 1863 - to wife: I am glad you have some socks for the army. Tell the girls to send all they can. We have thousands of barefooted men.	29 Oct, 1865 - to Mildred: Traveller is my only companion; I may also say my pleasure. He & I, whenever practicable, wander out in the mountains.	30 Oct, 1865 - to Robert: If I find I can accomplish no good for her [Washington College], I will endeavor to pursue the course to which my inclinations point [farming].	31 Undated - to Robert: We must not, however, yield to difficulties, but strive the harder to overcome them.



## JOHN H. REAGAN CAMP

### TEXAS CIVIL WAR HISTORY IN OCTOBER



October 4 - On this day in 1862, on the second day of the battle of Corinth, Mississippi, Confederate General Earl Van Dorn called for a series of headlong frontal attacks against a heavily fortified federal position. Col. William Peleg Rogers of the Second Texas Infantry was ordered to lead the vanguard of the assault on Battery Robinett, a small fort anchoring the center of the Union line. After one bloody repulse, Rogers led a second desperate charge. Remaining on horseback in the face of a barrage of cannon and musket fire, and finally carrying the regimental colors himself, Rogers reached the deep trench fronting Battery Robinett, dismounted, and led several hundred Texans and Alabamans down into the trench, up the steep embankment, and into the fort. Suddenly federal reinforcements closed in from both flanks. Rogers shouted, "Men, save yourselves or sell your lives as dearly as possible." A few seconds later he was struck by multiple rifle shots and died instantly. Scores of others fell with him, and the battle soon ended. The Second Texas Infantry had lost more than half its numbers in casualties. The failure of Rogers's attack sealed Van Dorn's defeat at Corinth. In a remarkable tribute to Rogers's personal bravery, Union general William S. Rosecrans ordered his burial attended with full military honors, a ceremony normally reserved only for Confederate general officers.

Oct 8 - John H. Reagan's Birthday. (He was born in 1818 & passed away March 6, 1905).

Oct 12 - On this day in 1870, Robert E. Lee passed away.

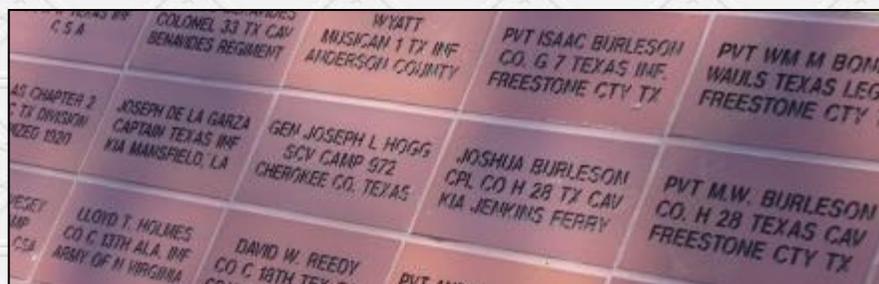
October 23 - On this day in 1863, the First Texas Cavalry, USA, left New Orleans for South Texas as part of the Union effort to interdict the lucrative trade between Confederate Texas and Mexico. The First was one of two regiments of Unionist cavalry from Texas to serve in the Civil War; the Second was formed in Brownsville after the Rio Grande campaign got underway. Loyalty to the Union was anything but a major consensus in Texas during the Civil War. A total of 1,915 Texas men served the Union cause, in contrast to the many thousands who served the Confederacy. Brownsville was a center of Unionist sentiment. Significant numbers of civilians who supported the North fled to the lower Rio Grande, where a provisional state government was set up under Andrew J. Hamilton, and where Edmund J. Davis and others recruited cavalrymen for the North. Davis had formed the First Texas Cavalry, USA, in New Orleans in 1862. In November 1864 the regiment was merged with the Second into the First Texas Volunteer Cavalry. This new twelve-company regiment engaged in patrolling and reconnaissance duties until the end of the war, and was mustered out of service on November 4, 1865.



## 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: [danieldyer497@yahoo.com](mailto:danieldyer497@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](http://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.

Email Commander Thornton for the  
monthly meeting's location.