

MERRY CHRISTMAS FROM THE JOHN H. REAGAN SCV CAMP



You can order the card above and other Confederate Christmas Cards from website https://www.scuppernonpress.com/Scuppernon_Press/CARDS.html



SONS OF CONFEDERATE VETERANS, TEXAS DIVISION

THE JOHN H. REAGAN CAMP NEWS

www.reaganscvcamp.org

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DECEMBER 2024

COMMANDER HEITMAN'S DISPATCH



"Christmas" movie *Gods and Generals* cements my seasonal recollection of Fredericksburg. Since the Directors-Cut version of this movie is almost 5 hours long .. the *Christmas* scenes 'only' occupy about 90 minutes.

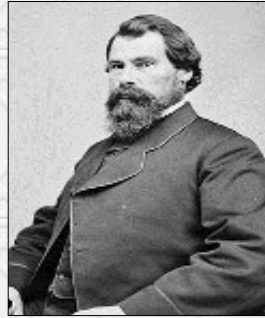
Fellow Gentlemen of the South,

Due to circumstances provided by the general toils of life .. You are reading this Newsletter several weeks after the Christmas Holiday.

As I mentioned in last month's Dispatch, my frequent travels and extended stays on the Texas Caprock have delayed my required contributions to this Newsletter.

During the wanderings and abbreviated journeys of my mind* during the month of December, I often recall the Union Invasion and Looting of Fredericksburg .. followed by the Confederate fighting-retreat and final battle on Marye's Heights [December 11-15, 1862]. The superb

As it probably can be for many other amateur scholars of history .. watching *Gods and Generals* always reminds me of the slaughter and folly of any war .. especially war conducted by imbeciles [read: Union General "Sideburns"]. Any compassionate viewer that witnesses the wholesale slaughter of Union forces, whom are ordered to take the defensive heights occupied west-southwest of the ransacked town of Fredericksburg, will have sympathy for even the yankee looters as they are shot down during their march towards Lee's entrenched Army of Northern Virginia.



John H. Reagan

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

Though Lee was outnumbered almost two-to-one [as usual], his army prevails like so many other occasions before and after Fredericksburg. It is seldom remembered that this decisive engagement on the Rappahannock River involved more troops than any other conflict during The War - over 200,000 men. In addition, this battle began with an opposed river crossing and the ensuing urban fighting, the first such occurrences during The War.

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CAMP MEETINGS

4th Tuesday of Each Month
 06:30 PM
 With a meal served at each meeting.

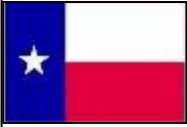
Guests are welcome!
 Bring the family.

www.reaganscvcamp.org



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COMMANDER'S DISPATCH CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1



Since this extended-version of *Gods and Generals* is so long, I often times just watch ‘short’ one-hour sections of the film .. a fast-forwarding skill I honed from precision ‘locating and watching’ the chase scene of *Bullitt* .. once the movie became available on the easily navigable DVD format.

Moving on to matters of the Camp in 2025. I am delighted to announce we have a new member that recruited our Camp through his investigative endeavors – Taylor Carter. Taylor’s historical and genealogical research is a stellar and rather exhaustive effort. Taylor has located several Confederate ancestors on both his paternal and maternal sides of his family. Though, he was faced with the difficult decision of which family member to use for his SCV candidacy, Taylor submitted Thomas Aills, Private - Co. H, 18th Texas Infantry, his 3rd Great-Grandfather to have the honor to grace his SCV Ancestor Certificate.

Taylor’s research is so thorough and informative, I have considered requiring all current Camp Members to re-submit their supporting data for their SCV Membership Application along the same qualities of Taylor’s. I’ll let y’all know when to get started on your renewed research efforts ... ☺

I will conclude my scatter-shooting thoughts this month with a quote from that famous ex-Confederate of Quantrill’s Regiment, Rooster Cogburn.

Rooster is kind enough to give us our Word-of-the Month [*Clabber*: curdled soured milk]. Rooster’s quote concerns his experience and observations of the business demeanor of his prior employer:

“There is no generosity in women. They want everything coming in and nothing going out. They show no trust. Lord God, how they hate to pay you! They will get the work of two men out of you and I guess they would beat you with whips if they were able to. No sir, not me. Never. A man will not work for a woman, not unless he has clabber for brains.”

Charles Portis, [True Grit](#)

Yes .. it is time again to watch this cinematic classic.

With Confederate Affections,
I Remain,
Ed Heitman – *Commander*

* These “wanderings and abbreviated journeys of the mind” are not to be confused with the much more astute “rivers of my memory” that Glen Campbell, speaks of in his song *Gentle on My Mind*.

The John H. Reagan Camp is requesting donations from those who would be willing to contribute financially to help keep the Confederate Heroes Memorial Plaza landscape manicured. **If you would be willing to donate, please contact Richard Thornton at 903-731-1557 or email tx_tsar@hotmail.com.**



- Prayer List**
- Compatriot Forrest Bradberry
 - Compatriot Gary Gibson & his wife, Lynn
 - Compatriot J.B. Mason
 - Compatriot Doug Smith (complications from several hip surgeries)
 - Past Reagan Camp Historian Gary Williams
 - Former Camp Commander Rudy Ray
 - United Daughters of the Confederacy
 - The Sovereign State of Texas

Officers for 2024
Commander - Ed Heitman
1st Lt. - David Franklin
Adjutant/Treasurer - Richard Thornton
Sgt at Arms - Marc Robinson
Judge Advocate - Martin Lawrence
Chaplain - Dwight Franklin

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

The Reagan Camp will have monthly meetings on the 4th Tuesday of each month in the Commercial Bank of Texas meeting room

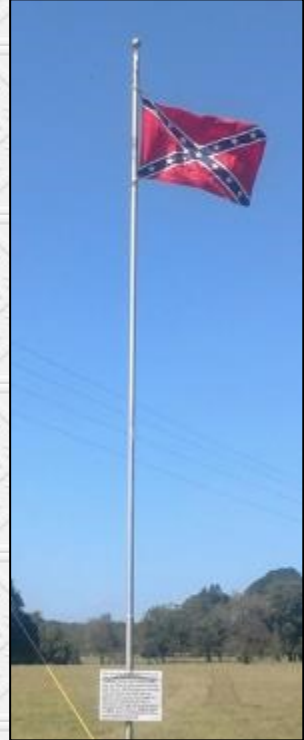
The December Christmas Party will be held on December 17th at the Crockett Road Church of Christ Activity Building.

Jan 28, 2025 - January Meeting

Feb 25, 2025 - February 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



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-



REAGAN CAMP CHRISTMAS PARTY PICTURES



The John H. Reagan SCV Camp Christmas Party was held on December 17, 2024. We had several who had to miss due to family illnesses, but the 13 who were able to attend had a great time. We had enough food to feed 30 people, and everything was delicious. Even though Richard Thornton was ill, his wife brought 3 crock pots which had pork loin, Irish potatoes with gravy, and sweet potatoes. Linda and Delmar Wilson brought sweet potatoes and a homemade Coconut Cake. David and Sheri Franklin brought purple hull peas, cornbread, and homemade banana pudding. Randy Huffman brought his homemade corn dip. Martin Lawrence brought a sweet potato pie. Dwight and Shelly Franklin brought smoked ham, Cajun injected turkey, and a sweet potato casserole. Forrest Bradberry brought a green bean casserole, and Marc Robinson brought a banana pudding that he learned to make from his Grandmother. Everything was delicious!!! We had Sheriff Rudy Flores, his wife, and Lynda and Delmer Wilson as our guests. Dan Manuel provided the entertainment. It was a wonderful Christmas party!





CHRISTMAS PROGRAM ENTERTAINMENT

DAN MANUEL



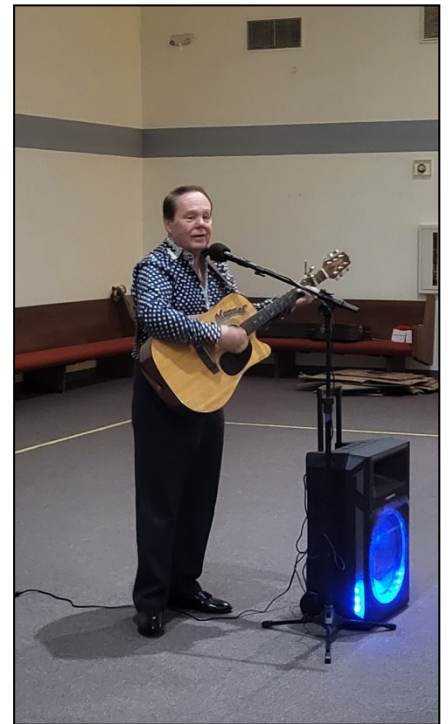
The program for the December meeting was provided by DAN MANUEL. This was the TENTH year in a row that he has provided the entertainment for our Christmas Party. We appreciate him for always being willing to do this for us. Dan has been the producer and an entertainer of the Dogwood Jamboree (a Branson style country music show) since it began 20 years ago. He has been the minister at the Crockett Road Church of Christ for the past 53 years and has been the host of the acclaimed TV show, "Give Me the Bible" for the 36 years that it has been in production.

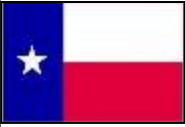
After singing Christmas songs, he sang several of the songs from the 50s, 60s and 70s from various country and pop artists. He sang songs from Elvis Presley, Marty Robbins, Willie Nelson, Julio Iglesias, Joe Bonsall (the late Oak Ridge Boys singer), Kris Kristofferson, Nat King Cole, Johnny Cash and others. He put on a great show, and everyone really enjoyed it. It was a wonderful program. Dan has always been a great friend to the Reagan Camp, and we appreciate him very much.



We appreciate Dan for coming to the meeting and for providing the entertainment. His program was great! Not only did he provide the entertainment, but he also allowed us to use the Activity Building for our Christmas Party.

Following the program, David Franklin presented Dan with an appreciation gift. (see below)





How the Civil War Changed Christmas in the United States

Article from <https://www.history.com/news/civil-war-christmas>



As a divided nation fought, the holiday became more important than ever. As the Civil War's first Christmas neared, a pair of your lovers, Nathaniel Dawson and Elodie Todd, a Confederate soldier and his eventual bride, wrote to one another with increasing melancholy. They were separated by hundreds of miles, and their communication was often interrupted by delays in the mail and the desperation of the Civil War.

"I wish I could be with you at Christmas, the festal season, where age is rejuvenated and lives again in the merry carols of youth," Dawson wrote to Todd (sister of Mary Todd Lincoln) on December 22, 1861. On the holiday itself, he wrote to describe his regiment's rowdy celebrations. "Bad whiskey is abundant and pleasure and sorrow drowned in large potatoes," he said.

Dawson and Todd's lives changed dramatically during the war, as the Confederacy crumbled and their personal lives stretched to their limits. But they weren't alone in wishing they could celebrate Christmas together. As the fractured United States fought, the holiday took on new meaning.



The above Christmas card "Christmas in the camp" is available at https://www.scuppernongpress.com/Scuppernong_Press/CARDS.html

By the end of the war in 1865, Christmas had gone from a relatively unimportant holiday to the opposite—a day rooted in an idealized vision of home. The way Americans observed the holiday changed too, setting the stage for the more modern Christmas holiday we know today.

CHRISTMAS HAD NOT BEEN AN OFFICIAL HOLIDAY

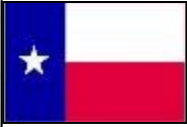
Before the Civil War, Christmas was not an official holiday in the United States. Nor was it celebrated uniformly across the country. In early New England, Christmas was looked down upon by Puritans and Calvinists, who felt the day should be observed for strict fasts and rituals, if it was observed at all. During the 17th century, Massachusetts imposed a fine on colonists who celebrated the holiday, and after it became a state, its businesses and schools did not observe the holiday at all.

Elsewhere, Christmas was celebrated in a variety of ways, most depending on the country of origin of the immigrants who celebrated it. But by the mid-19th century, the holiday's importance—and distance from religious tradition—was already starting to grow. Songs and carols like "Jingle Bells" (1857) and poems like "A Visit from St. Nicholas" (1823) set the stage for a fun, secular holiday that revolved around gift-giving and celebration with food and drink.

CHRISTMAS IN THE SOUTH

In the antebellum South, plantation owners used the holiday as a way to show off their paternalism toward the people they enslaved, write historians Shauna Bigham and Robert E. May. During lengthy Christmas celebrations, they gave enslaved people passes to marry, provided food and alcohol, and gave gifts.

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How the Civil War Changed Christmas in the United States

Article from <https://www.history.com/news/civil-war-christmas>



Though enslaved people managed to create some of their own Christmas traditions, many of which incorporated traditions from Africa, they were also expected to help absolve slaveowners' guilt over the holidays by enthusiastically opening gifts and showing their gratitude. "So far as their owners could tell," Bigham and May write, "most slaves played their prescribed role to the hilt throughout the holiday."

But the Civil War disrupted not just the relations between plantation owners and the people they enslaved, but those within families and communities. As both sides shifted their resources to war, the ability to give gifts and celebrate was dramatically curtailed. People cast their decision to have more modest Christmas celebrations as a patriotic one, and children got in on the act, too. Instead of giving and receiving store-bought gifts, they made more humble gifts like popcorn balls or crude homemade toys. And they learned to temper their expectations of Santa.

One Confederate family's children were told "not to expect a visit from St. Nick because the Yankees had shot him," writes historian James Alan Marten, "while other parents offered more sensitive explanations. As a Yankee, Santa would be held up by Confederate pickets or perhaps Union blockading vessels had interrupted his journey."

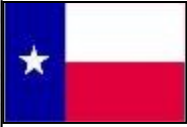
Meanwhile, those children's mothers, aunts and sisters experienced Christmas as an agonizing reminder of the danger faced by men who had gone to war. Civil War-era diaries and letters document how many women felt anxiety, grief and depression around Christmas.



You can order these and other Confederate Christmas Cards from website https://www.scuppernongpress.com/Scuppernong_Press/CARDS.html

In 1861, Margaret Cahill wrote to her husband, Thomas, a Union officer, that she felt so "nervous and lonely" that she could not write to him on Christmas. "Will you say? Why did you not write to me on Christmass [sic] Day" she wrote. "Well to tell you the truth I was not able." "Never before had so sad a Christmas dawned upon us," wrote Sallie A Brook, a Confederate woman from Richmond, of Christmas 1861.

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How the Civil War Changed Christmas in the United States

Article from <https://www.history.com/news/civil-war-christmas>



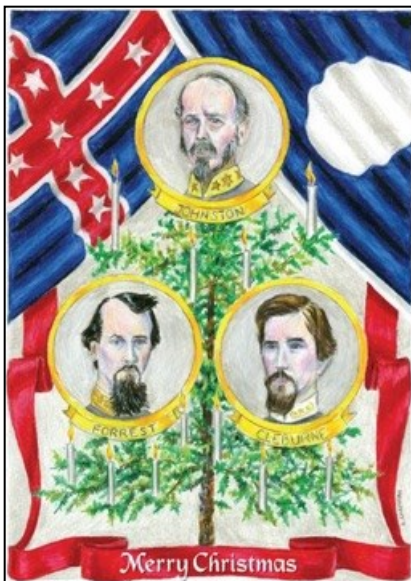
Christmas on the Battlefield

On the battlefield, men on both sides tried to celebrate Christmas by giving gifts, eating and drinking, and taking time off. In his memoir, James A. Wright, a sergeant in the First Minnesota Volunteer Infantry Regiment, recalls eating beef soup and greeting his fellow soldiers on Christmas in camp. “The men had been allowed as much liberty as consistent with discipline and were ‘circulating around’ among their acquaintances in other regiments,” he recalled. “I was frequently invited to ‘smile,’” or take a drink. In 1863, a Confederate soldier from North Carolina wrote to his mother asking for a bottle of brandy and some sugar so he could make eggnog for his fellow soldiers.

Popular media did its best to increase the morale of both soldiers and their families at home around Christmas. *Harper’s Weekly*, the most popular periodical at the time, published a variety of Christmas stories and illustrations during the war. The most famous were drawn by illustrator Thomas Nast, who portrayed not just sad wives and husbands, but happy Christmas Day traditions. He is credited with solidifying how the nation imagined Santa Claus with illustrations of a jolly, bearded S. Nick who handed out good cheer to soldiers and families alike.

Though individual traditions still varied, the upheaval of the Civil War made the holiday seem more and more important to separated families. “The Christmas season [reminded] mid-19th century Americans of the importance of home and its associations, of invented traditions,” writes historian David Anderson.

When the war ended, the magazines and newspapers that had underlined the importance of the holiday kept promoting it, and reunited families, devastated by the losses of the war, kept cherishing it. In 1870, in the aftermath of the war, Congress passed the first federal holiday law and made Christmas an official holiday. Four years of war had changed the holiday from a loose celebration to an essential one.

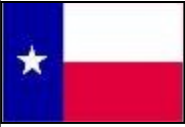


“Confederate Heroes Army of Tennessee”



“Christmas as Moss Neck”

The pictures above are the fronts of Confederate Christmas Cards. You can order these and other Confederate Christmas Cards from website https://www.scuppernongpress.com/Scuppernong_Press/CARDS.html



DECEMBER CONFEDERATE VICTORY

THE BATTLE OF FREDERICKSBURG DECEMBER 11-16, 1862



The following article was found online at <https://www.battlefields.org/learn/civil-war/battles/fredericksburg>

With nearly 200,000 combatants—the greatest number of any Civil War engagement—Fredericksburg was one of the largest and deadliest battles of the Civil War. It featured the first opposed river crossing in American military history as well as the Civil War’s first instance of urban combat.

HOW BEGAN

Confederate victory. The Union Army of the Potomac suffered more than 12,500 casualties. Lee’s Confederate army counted approximately 6,000 losses. The Federals retreated, losing an opportunity to advance further into Confederate territory and capture the capital of Richmond.

HOW IT ENDED

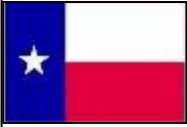
After failing to pursue Gen. Robert E. Lee’s army aggressively after the Battle of Antietam, Maj. Gen. George B. McClellan was removed from command of the Army of the Potomac. His replacement, Maj. Gen. Ambrose E. Burnside, feeling pressure from Washington to move quickly, developed a plan to beat Lee to the Confederate capital city of Richmond.

From his camps around Warrenton, Virginia, Burnside planned to abandon the army’s movement southwest in favor of a quick dash southeast toward the lower Rappahannock River. There, he would cross quickly and position himself between Lee and the direct route to Richmond. The plan had great promise, but, to accomplish it successfully, speed was essential.

BEFORE THE BATTLE

Leaving the Warrenton area on November 15, Burnside moves his 100,000-man army 35 miles to Falmouth on the north bank of the Rappahannock in just two days. Opposite Falmouth is the river port town of Fredericksburg, occupied by only a few hundred Confederates. Located halfway between Richmond and Washington D.C., Fredericksburg has largely escaped the ravages of the war. The bridges across the river there have been destroyed earlier, however, so Burnside orders portable pontoon bridges to be sent forward to his army. Arriving in Falmouth, Burnside discovers that bureaucratic and logistical tie-ups in Washington have delayed the bridges and his carefully devised plan to surprise Lee is in jeopardy.

While Burnside waits for his bridges, Lee gathers his army. Gen. James Longstreet’s wing moves east from Culpeper, and Gen. Thomas J. “Stonewall”’s men hurry toward the Rappahannock from the Shenandoah Valley. Longstreet takes up a position on Marye’s Heights, overlooking Fredericksburg from the west. To the south, Jackson’s men are entrenched in a line stretching over Prospect Hill and onto Hamilton’s Crossing, four miles from the town.

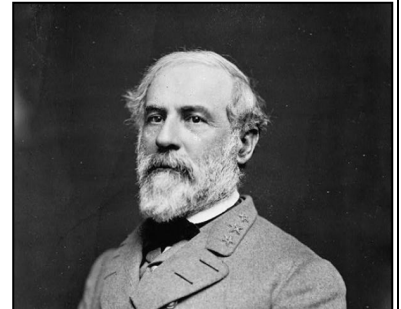
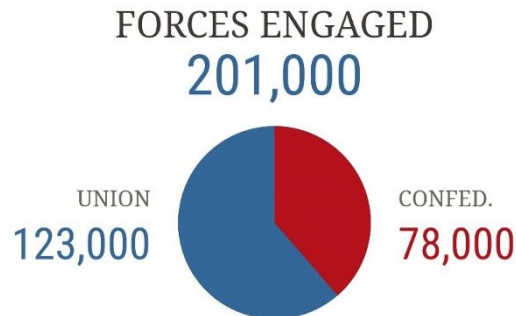
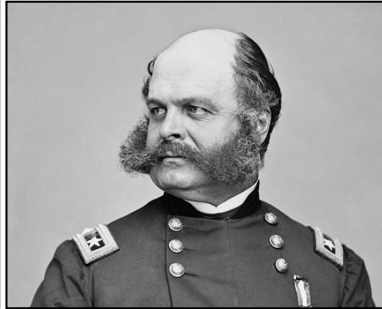


DECEMBER CONFEDERATE VICTORY

THE BATTLE OF FREDERICKSBURG DECEMBER 11-16, 1862



DURING THE BATTLE



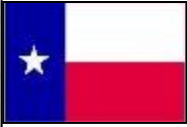
December 11. An engineer regiment begins to assemble the pontoon bridges opposite the town in the foggy pre-dawn hours. Confederate riflemen, hiding in buildings along the riverbank, harass the engineers and slow their work. Senior Union commanders confer as the bridging process grinds to a halt. Burnside approves a plan to shell the town and drive out the Confederate snipers. Late that morning, over 150 Federal guns arrayed on Stafford Heights bombard the Fredericksburg, blasting scores of buildings and terrifying the civilians, many of whom cower in their cellars. After four hours of shelling, the engineers return to their bridgework and the riflemen resume their shooting.

Another option is desperately needed. Burnside meets with his officers and approves a plan to send a landing party across the river to hunt down the Confederate snipers and secure a bridgehead in the town. Colonel Norman Hall, a brigade commander in the nearby Second Corps, volunteers his brigade to row across the river. Under fire, regiments from Michigan and Massachusetts successfully cross the Rappahannock and drive the riflemen from the riverbank. More Union regiments follow across the river, and the Confederates withdraw after a few hours of house-to-house fighting in the street of town.

December 12. The remainder of Burnside's army crosses the river and occupies Fredericksburg. His strategy is to use the nearly 60,000 men in Maj. Gen. William B. Franklin's Left Grand Division to crush Lee's southern flank held by Jackson, while the rest of his army holds Longstreet in position on Marye's Heights and supports Franklin if needed.

December 13. The Union main assault against Jackson produces initial success. In an area later known as the Slaughter Pen, Maj. Gen. George G. Meade's division briefly pierces Jackson's line and threatens the Confederate right. However, lack of coordinated reinforcements and Jackson's powerful counterattack stymie the effort. Both sides suffer heavy losses with no gain on either side.

Burnside's "diversion" against Longstreet's veteran Confederate soldiers produce horrific Union casualties. The front of Longstreet's position is a sunken farm lane at the foot of Marye's Heights, full of Confederates three ranks deep. Wave after wave of Federal soldiers advance over open ground to take the road, but each is met with devastating rifle and artillery fire from the nearly impregnable Confederate position. Confederate artillerist Edward Porter Alexander's claim that "a chicken could not live on that field" proves to be prophetic. Lee, appalled by the carnage, remarks, "It is well that war is so terrible. We should grow too fond of it."



DECEMBER CONFEDERATE VICTORY

THE BATTLE OF FREDERICKSBURG DECEMBER 11-16, 1862



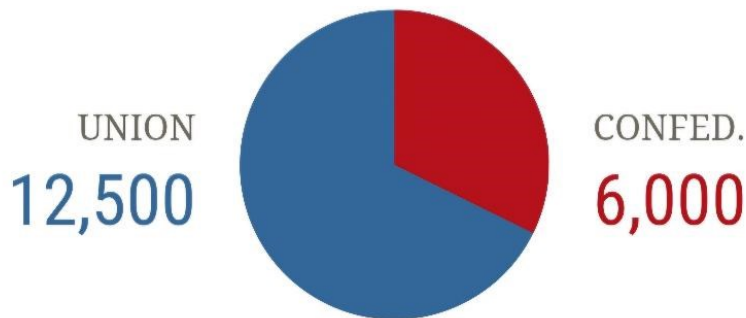
December 14. That evening, as darkness falls on the battlefield strewn with dead and wounded, it is clear that a Confederate victory is at hand.

December 15. Burnside retreats across the Rappahannock, ending the campaign of 1862 in the Eastern Theater.

AFTERMATH

ESTIMATED CASUALTIES

18,500



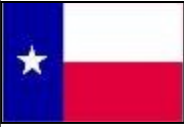
After the battle, the Federals withdraw across the Rappahannock to avoid being trapped, relinquishing the gains they made. The embarrassing and crushing Union defeat sparks recriminations in Washington, causing a crisis among members of Lincoln's cabinet, which the president deftly remedies. Six weeks after the battle, Lincoln removes Burnside from command and appoints Maj. Gen. Joseph Hooker commander of the Army of the Potomac.

For the Confederates, the victory at Fredericksburg boosts morale and reinvigorates Lee's Army of Northern Virginia, which goes on to triumph again at Chancellorsville in May 1863.

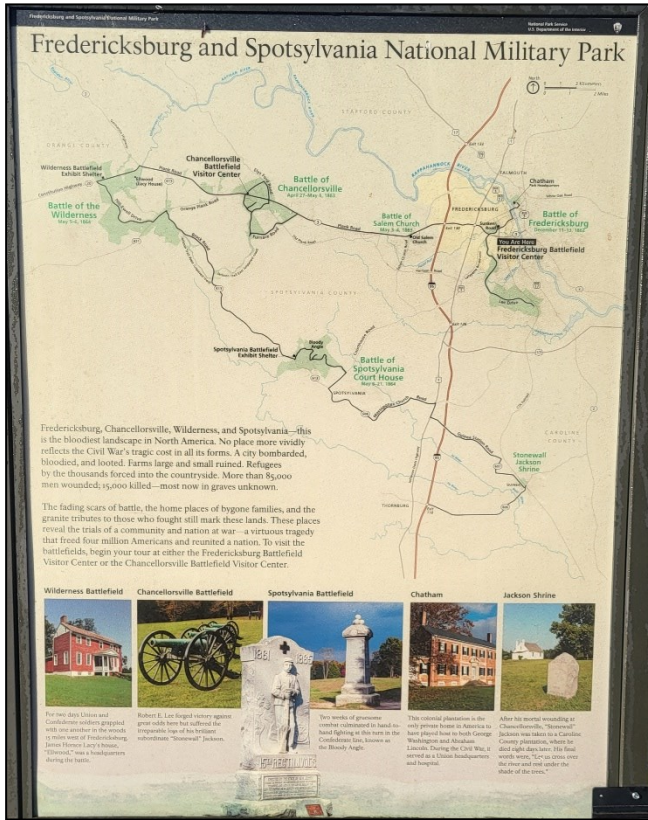
The war continued for two-and-a-half more years.

This article was found online at
<https://www.battlefields.org/learn/civil-war/battles/fredericksburg>





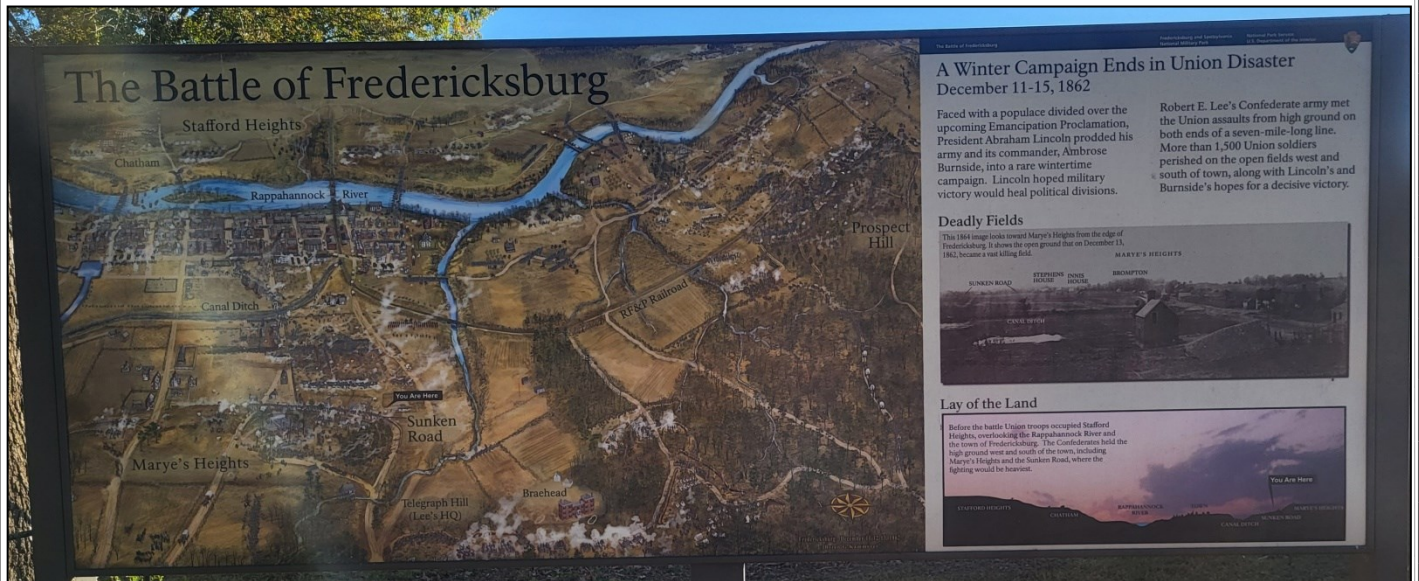
FREDERICKSBURG, VIRGINIA INFORMATIONAL MARKERS



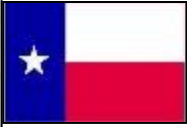
The marker above shows the locations of several battles that were held around Fredericksburg.



The marker above tells details about the Battle of Fredericksburg. This battle destroyed much of the city.



The Informational Marker above shows a map of the Battle of Fredericksburg and also describes how the battle in December 11-15, 1862 ended in Union Disaster. You can still stand where the Confederates stood as they defeated the Union army in that battle. About 100 buildings were burned or destroyed by the Union troops during the battle.



FREDERICKSBURG, VIRGINIA INFORMATIONAL MARKERS



The photo on the left is of a display located inside the Fredericksburg Battlefield Visitor's Center. The display depicts how the Union army destroyed the homes and business of Fredericksburg while shelling the city. The damage was so bad that some of the citizens of Fredericksburg never returned.

From Lee's Headquarters on Lee's Hill, General Lee was able to have a birds eye view of the Union army below. This was the perfect place, and it helped the Confederates with their lopsided victory.
(see pic on the right)

Lee's line extended approximately 8 miles, from the left on the Rappahannock River to his right at Massaponax Creek.

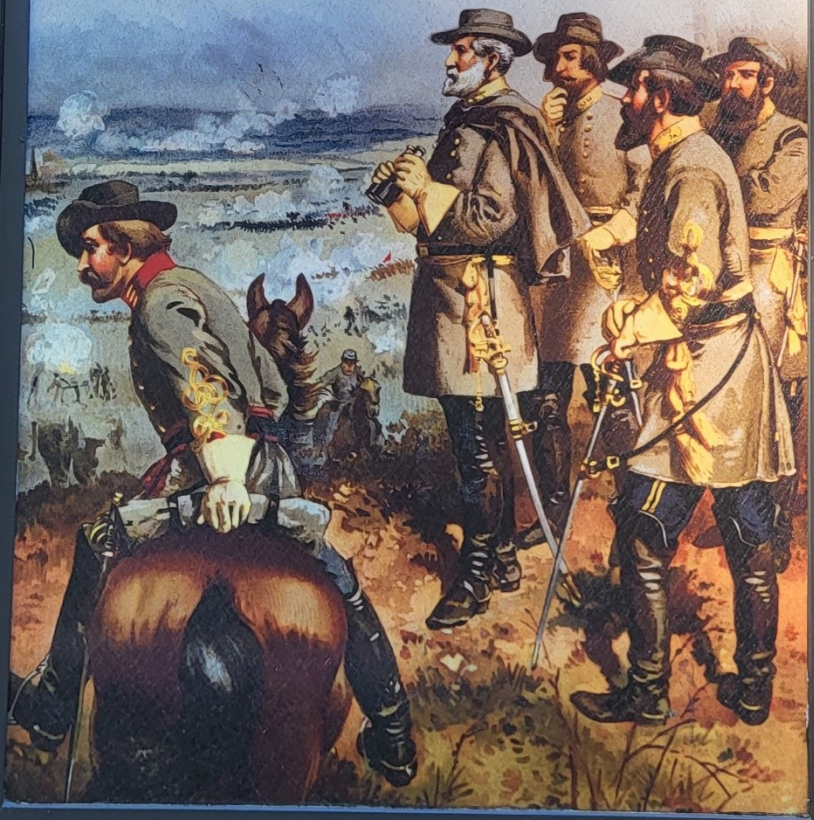
Between those two points, Lee's troops constructed miles of formidable earthworks. Some were in place at the time of the battle; most were built shortly thereafter. Virtually all of them survive today and can be seen as you tour the battlefield.

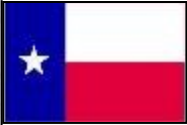
Lee's Headquarters

The hill in front of you, once called Telegraph Hill but now known as Lee's Hill, served as General Robert E. Lee's headquarters during the Battle of Fredericksburg. Throughout the afternoon of December 13, 1862, Lee and his generals watched uneasily as the Union army repeatedly attacked Southern troops in the Sunken Road. The Federal infantry became easy targets for Confederate artillery atop this hill and Howison Hill (a quarter mile to your left). The Union attacks failed.

This trail leads to Lee's command post. Although only about .25 mile long, the trail is steep. Allow 45 minutes for the roundtrip hike.

The grandeur of the struggle stirred Lee, and here he uttered one of his most famous quotes: "It is well that war is so terrible, or we would grow too fond of it." Still, the victory at Fredericksburg little satisfied Lee—the Union army escaped damaged but intact. The enemy "suffered heavily," he later wrote his wife, "...but it did not go far enough." Lee's relentless efforts to destroy the Union army would continue.





FREDERICKSBURG, VIRGINIA INFORMATIONAL MARKERS



The marker above is located on Lee's Hill. Inscribed on the marker is the following:

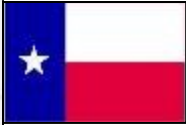
"This point, densely wooded when first chosen, became the most important, perhaps, in the entire scene as the position afforded the best view of all the field..."

Brig. Gen. W. N. Pendleton

Lee's Chief of Artillery



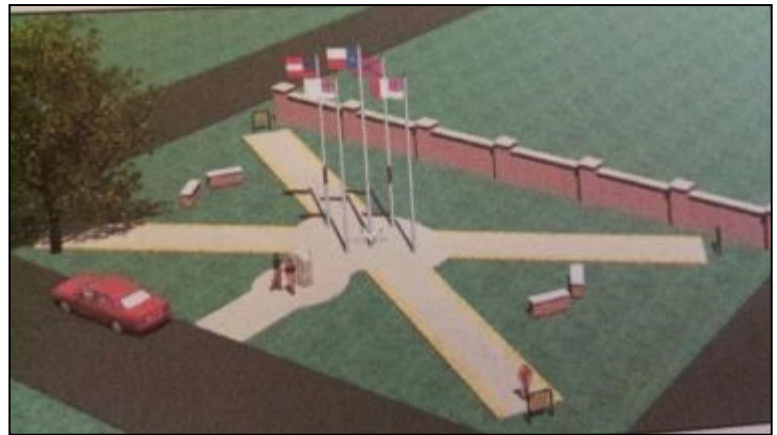
Confederate Trenches are still visible and easily accessible for visitors to the Fredericksburg Battlefield. (see pic on left)



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.



WILLIAM C FRANKLIN CO D 12 BTNN ARK SHARP SHOOTERS	JOHN DANIEL LILES PVT DIED 4 25 1865 POW	WILLIAM J. CHAFFIN CO H 5 TEX CAV CSA 1829 - 1908	JOHN H. REAGAN SCV CAMP #2156 PALESTINE TEXAS	PVT WM. H. FOSTER CO. H 1ST TEX INF DIED AS POW OCT 63
JASPER N. CARNES CO B 8 REGIMENT TEXAS INFANTRY	RICHARD A. HODGES CO K 22 TX INF CSA 1833 - 1905	ANDREW J BEAUCHAMP CO F 13 TEX INF 12-9-1834 9-1-1894	GEORGE KNOX GIBSON PVT. CO. B 12TH TEXAS CAVLRY, CSA	WILLIAM H. CRIST COMPANY I 7 TX CAV C.S.A.
JACOB L. SHERIDAN CAPT CO I 1ST REGT TEXAS INFANTRY	JOHN H. SHERIDAN PVT. CO I 1ST REGT TEXAS INFANTRY	COL. A.T. RAINEY CO. H 1 TEX. INF. HOOD'S TEX. BRIG	PVT. R. M. LUMMUS 53 GEORGIA INF. COMPANY B C.S.A	PVT ALLEN G TURNER CO A 7TH BATTALION MISS INF. CSA
L. E. SHERIDAN PVT. CO I 1ST REGT TEXAS INFANTRY	PVT WM. N SHERIDAN CO C 6 BATTALION TEXAS CALVARY	STEPHEN O. RAINEY CAPTAIN 1ST BATT. TEX CAV	SGT. AMOS G. HANKS CO F. 1ST TEX INF HOODS BRIGADE CSA	WILLIAM H. DYER PVT CO K MISS INF C.S.A.

Above are some pictures of some of the pavers in the plaza. If you would like to purchase a paver for your ancestor, you can pick what you want to have inscribed on it. These pictures will give you some ideas to what you might want on your paver.

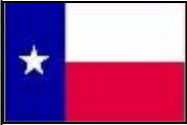


ROBERT E. LEE CALENDAR

DECEMBER 2024



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>1 Dec, 1866— To Markie Our communication with the world beyond the Mountains is reduced to one stage a day & the tri-weekly packet boat.</p>	<p>2 Dec, 1862 - to wife I tremble for my country when I hear of confidence expressed in me. I know too well my weakness & that our only hope is in God.</p>	<p>3 Dec, 1860 - to Rooney As an American citizen I prize the Union very highly & know of no personal sacrifice that I would not make to preserve it, save that of honour.</p>	<p>4 Dec, 1863 - I believe a kind God has ordered all things for our good</p>	<p>5 Dec, 1860 - to Custis The education of a man or woman is never completed till they die. There is always before them much to lean & more to do.</p>	<p>6 Dec, 1846 - To Wife I am one of those silly persons when I have anything to do I can't rest satisfied till it has been accomplished.</p>	<p>7 undated - To Wife It is satisfactory always to have facts to go on; they restrain supposition & conjecture, confirm faith, & bring contentment.</p>
<p>8 undated - With a grateful heart I thank him for his preservation of you thus far & trust to his mercy and kindness for the future.</p>	<p>9 Dec, 1869 - While moderation & temperance in all things are commendable & beneficial, abstinence from spirituous liquors is the best safeguard of morals and health.</p>	<p>10 undated - I shall think of you & my grandson very often during the season when families are united & though absent from you in person, you will always be present in mind.</p>	<p>11 undated - to S.G. Miller Practice habitual temperance, so that you may form the habit in youth & not feel the inclination to depart from it in manhood.</p>	<p>12 Dec, 1851 - To Custis Do your best, and I shall be satisfied.</p>	<p>13 Dec, 1862 - at Mary's Heights It is well that war is so terrible; we should grow too fond of it.</p>	<p>14 Dec, 1860 - to Custis Pay all your debts as soon as possible</p>
<p>15 Dec, 1866 - to Fitzhugh I know of no fitter resting place for a soldier than the field on which he has nobly laid down his life.</p>	<p>16 undated - to wife I expect to die a pauper & I see no way of preventing it. So that I can get enough for you & the girls I am content.</p>	<p>17 undated - to a friend If I could only have my children around me, I could be happy</p>	<p>18 Dec, 1869 - to son I must begin by wishing you a pleasant Christmas & many Happy New Years, & may each succeeding year bring to you & yours increasing happiness.</p>	<p>19 undated - to Mildred I trust many of you will be assembled around the family hearth at dear Arlington for another Christmas. Though absent, my heart will be in the midst of you.</p>	<p>20 undated - to Mildred I hope you will find time to read & improve your mind. Read history, works of truth. Get correct views of life & learn to see the world in its true light.</p>	<p>21 Dec, 1866 - to daughter Mildred Experience will teach you that you will never receive such a love as is felt for you by your father and mother.</p>
<p>22 Dec, 1866 - If I was an artist I would draw a true picture of Traveller. Such a picture would inspire a poet. But I am no artist & can therefore only say he is a Confederate grey.</p>	<p>23 undated - I shall think of you on that holy day & shall pray to the God of heaven to shower his blessings upon you in this world & to unite you all in his courts in the world to come.</p>	<p>24 Dec, 1846 - to sons I hope Santa Claus will fill Rob's stocking tonight; that Mildred's, Agnes's & Anna's may break down with good things. If he only leaves for you one half of what I wish, you will want for nothing.</p>	<p>25 Dec, 1862 - to Mildred You must study hard, gain knowledge & learn your duty to God & your neighbor; that is the great object of life.</p>	<p>26 undated - Occupy yourself in aiding those more helpless than yourself.</p>	<p>27 Dec, 1863 - to M. Stuart Thus is link by link the strong chain broken that binds us to earth & our passage soothed to another world.</p>	<p>28 undated - to Custis There is nothing so military as labour & nothing so important to an army as to save the lives of its soldiers</p>
<p>29 Dec, 1863 - The object of this life is to prepare for a better and brighter world.</p>	<p>30 Dec, 1864 - to Wife I pray daily & almost hourly to our Heavenly Father to come to the relief of you & our afflicted country.</p>	<p>31 undated - to a student We cannot undo the past; that is forever gone; but the future is in our hands</p>				



JOHN H. REAGAN CAMP

TEXAS CIVIL WAR HISTORY IN DECEMBER

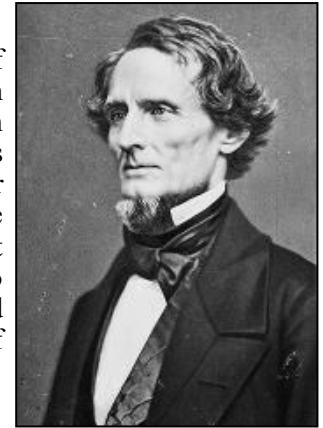
From the Texas State Historical Association



On December 2nd, 1862, the Confederate government issued \$100 notes bearing a portrait of the renowned Southern beauty Lucy Pickens. Lucy Holcombe was born in 1832 in Tennessee. Between 1848 and 1850 the Holcombes moved to Wyalucing plantation in Marshall, Texas. Lucy became highly acclaimed throughout the South for her "classic features, titian hair, pansy eyes, and graceful figure." In the summer of 1856 she met Francis Wilkinson Pickens, twice a widower and twenty-seven years her senior. Her acceptance of his marriage proposal, it is said, hinged on his acceptance of a diplomatic post abroad. President James Buchanan appointed him ambassador to Russia, and Pickens and Lucy were wed in 1858 at Wyalucing. Lucy was a favorite at the Russian court, but Pickens resigned his

diplomatic post in the fall of 1860 in anticipation of the outbreak of the Civil War. Upon his return home he was elected governor of South Carolina. By selling the jewels that had been given her in Russia, Lucy helped outfit the Confederate Army unit that bore her name, the Lucy Holcombe Legion. Her portrait was also used on the one-dollar Confederate notes issued on June 2, 1862 and 1863, and the \$100 bill of 1864. She was the only woman to appear on Confederate currency. She died in 1899.

On December 6th, 1889, Jefferson Davis, former president of the Confederate States of America, died in New Orleans. Davis, born in Kentucky in 1808 but later a senator from Mississippi, was first in Texas as an army officer during the Mexican War in 1847 with Zachary Taylor's force on the Rio Grande. In 1854, while Davis was United States secretary of war, he recommended the Texas or thirty-second-parallel route for construction of a railroad to the Pacific Ocean, and in 1856 he sent camels to Camp Verde to test the animals' suitability as military transportation. After Reconstruction a movement was launched in Dallas to purchase a homestead for Davis and invite him to move to Texas. In 1875 he was offered the presidency of the newly established Agricultural and Mechanical College of Texas. In declining the appointment, he wrote of his hopes of revisiting Texas, but he never did so.



On December 16th, 1863, Confederate colonel Sul Ross assumed command of a brigade formed from the Third, Sixth, Ninth, and Twenty-seventh Texas Cavalry regiments, and the men in these units thereafter fought together as Ross's Brigade. Lawrence Sullivan Ross was born in Iowa in 1838; his family moved to Texas a year later. He realized his early ambition to become an Indian fighter like his father, Shapley Ross, when he served in campaigns with the Texas Rangers against the Comanches in 1858 and 1860; in the latter year he led the raid that resulted in the recapture of Cynthia Ann Parker. With the coming of the Civil War he joined the Confederate forces and rose to command the Sixth Texas Cavalry. He was promoted to the rank of general soon after taking command of Ross's Brigade. Under his able leadership, his brigade saw action in the Atlanta and Franklin-Nashville campaigns, although Ross was in Texas on furlough when his men surrendered at Jackson, Mississippi, in May 1865. After the war he served Texas as a state senator and then as governor from 1886 to 1891.

December 21, 1861: On this day in 1864, the state legislature established the Frontier Regiment to patrol west of the line of settlements from the Red River to the Rio Grande. Less than a month later, the Confederate Congress authorized the secretary of war to receive the regiment into Confederate service for the protection of the Indian frontier of Texas. President Jefferson Davis vetoed the bill, however, because it withheld the control of the executive of the Confederate States over the troops. In early 1863, after James E. McCord replaced James M. Norris as commander. State authorities finally transferred the regiment to Confederate control in 1864, but only after the legislature approved the establishment of the Frontier Organization to ensure the continued protection of the frontier. During the last eighteen months of the Civil War, the regiment increasingly devoted itself to enforcing Confederate conscription laws, arresting deserters, and tracking down renegades and outlaws.

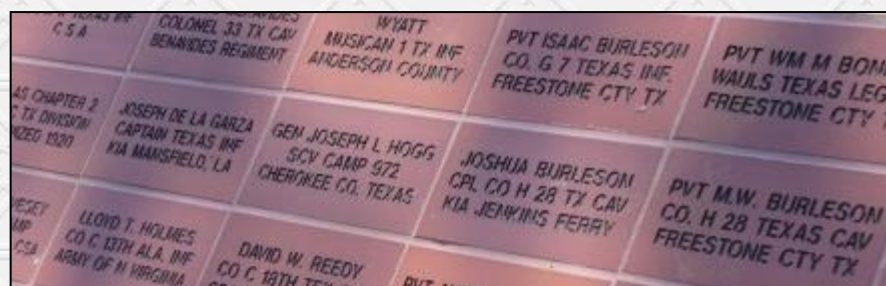
(Information provide by Texas State Historical Association's "Day By Day" website. You can see other events listed for each day of December on their calendar online at <https://texasdaybyday.com/>)



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 Commander Ed Heitman, E-mail: edheitman@gmail.com; Phone: (903-504-6674) or Dan Dyer at E-mail: danielyer497@yahoo.com; Phone: (903) 391-2224 or Richard Thornton, Adjutant/ Treasurer at E-mail: tx_tsar@hotmail.com



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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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: 4th Tuesday Each
Month - 06:30 PM
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.