



SONS OF CONFEDERATE VETERANS, TEXAS DIVISION

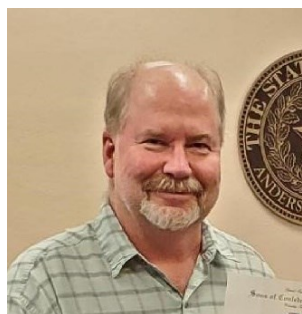
THE JOHN H. REAGAN CAMP NEWS

www.reaganscvcamp.org

VOLUME 16, ISSUE 3

MARCH 2024

COMMANDER HEITMAN'S DISPATCH



Gentlemen of Camp Reagan,

It is disappointing to say that I was unable to attend our March meeting due to Corvette electrical gremlins while in transit to Palestine. The subject matter of March's "Historical Presentation", given by our member Mac McGuyre, is a little discussed part of WONA history – the Confederate Secret Service. The book *Come Retribution: The Confederate Secret Service and the Assassination of Lincoln* served as the reference material for Mac's presentation.

On a personal note, I plan to attend the 160th Anniversary of the Battle of Mansfield, April 6th-2024.

Of course, the actual battle occurred on April 8th-1864 .. but that date falls on Monday and not a convenient Saturday .. like the 6th of April.

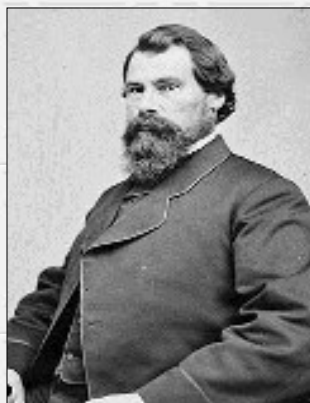
Here is the Facebook link for the event: <https://www.facebook.com/events/926117602405806>

It is always intriguing to visit the Mansfield battlefield where my Great-Grandfather William Ferguson and three of his brothers fought .. defending Texas from an attempted invasion by Bank's 30,000 man Army of the Gulf. Banks' plan was to capture the hub-city of Shreveport – on the Red River - and enter Texas through the Marshall area.

The youngest of the Ferguson brothers, Robert [17], perished from wounds received at the Battle of Mansfield .. the news of which brought great sorrow to the Ferguson family in Guadalupe County, Texas.

As was so common [and almost always expected] during The War, the Confederate troops at Mansfield [General Taylor - commanding] whooped 21,000+ engaged Union troops with an army of only 8800.

Being in close proximity to Natchitoches is always a welcome opportunity to enjoy a Lasyone's Meat Pie or other local creole delight [Mansfield Battleground is only a pleasant 50 mile drive



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

from Natchitoches].

Keep in mind .. had it not been for the gallant efforts of General Richard Taylor's cavalry regiments, historic Natchitoches might have succumbed to the same diabolical efforts of yankee arsonists, just as its sister river-city to the south suffered .. Alexandria, Louisiana.

Hope to see you at the April meeting.

Ed Heitman - Commander



CAMP MEETINGS

4th 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.

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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.**



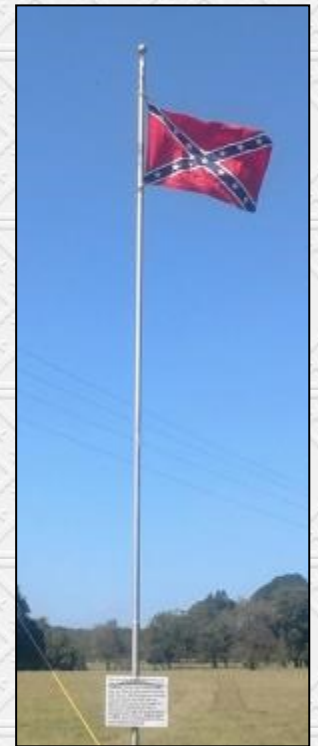
The Battle of Pea Ridge, also known as the Battle of Elkhorn Tavern, took place on March 6-8, 1862 near Leetown, northeast of Fayetteville, Arkansas.

Prayer List

- Compatriot Forrest Bradberry
- Compatriot Gary Gibson & his wife, Lynn
- Compatriot J.B. Mason
- Compatriot Doug Smith (complications from 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

- April 23, 2024 - Camp Meeting 6:30 pm**
- May 28, 2024 - Camp Meeting 6:30 pm**
- June 25, 2024 - Camp Meeting 6:30 pm**
- July 23, 2024 - Camp Meeting 6:30 pm**

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

“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-

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.

“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-



ATM NATIONAL SCV EVENT BATTLE OF MANSFIELD



ARMY OF THE TRANS-MISSISSIPPI NATIONAL SCV EVENT SATURDAY, APRIL 6, 2024

Mansfield State Historic Site
15149 LA-175, Mansfield, LA 71052
10am - 3pm

**The Army of the Trans-Mississippi invites you to the
1st Annual ATM National SCV Event!**

Guest Speakers include:

- **Scott Dearman, Mansfield Site Manager (ret.)**
- **Charles Lauret, ATM Councilman**
- **Dr. John Goddard**
- **Chuck McMichael, Past SCV Commander in Chief**

Music will be provided by The PineKnotz!

**Mark your calendars today for this
Historic Event to commemorate the
160th Anniversary of the Battle of Mansfield
& 125 years of the Louisiana Division.**

**Admission \$4. The fee is for everyone over 12 & under 62.
This includes the museum. Please bring a chair for the event. You may
also bring a small cooler for snacks & drinks. Don't miss out on this commemorative event!**

**For more information please contact ATM Commander JC Hanna, 318-560-7076
or Louisiana Division Commander Brian McClure, 318-480-1948.**

**BATTLE OF MANSFIELD
OR SABINE CROSS ROADS**
April 8, 1864
Rail Fence Used as Barricade
Here the Federal line extending
from the South turned East along
a rail fence forming a V. General
Mouton's Division charged this line
in the bloodiest part of battle.
In this, the first Confederate charge,
General Mouton was killed and the
gallant Polignac took command of
his division.



JOHN H. REAGAN CAMP

MARCH MEETING PICS



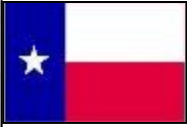
The Reagan Camp SCV meeting for March was held on March 26th, in the Commercial Bank of Texas' Community room. We had 10 members and 2 visitors attend this month's meeting. Everyone enjoyed a delicious meal together before Mac McGuyre presented the historical program from the book "Come Retribution."



It is always nice to be able to visit with one another and to learn more about the war that our ancestors participated in. You won't hear the truth about the war by listening to the news media. You can only find it from written history of those who wrote what they saw.

Our meetings are held at 6:30 p.m., on the 4th Tuesday of each month, at the Commercial Bank of Texas. All are invited to attend. We start each meeting with a good meal and then follow that up with a historical program.





MARCH HISTORICAL PROGRAM
THE CONFEDERATE SECRET SERVICE
BY MAC MCGUYRE



Compatriot Mac McGuyre presented the Historical Program at the March meeting. His program was from the book *Come Retribution*, and it was about the Confederate Secret Service.

Mac started off by reminding us that the War of Northern Aggression was different from most wars, because everyone spoke the same language. This was both good and bad when it came to having spies and secret service work. It was good that you could understand what the enemy was saying, but it made it where it was very hard to detect when spies had infiltrated your side.

All kinds of people were used as spies in different areas. They even had artists and photographers who would go in advance of the troops to make maps of the land before battle. This information was very valuable as it helped in the preparation of battle plans.

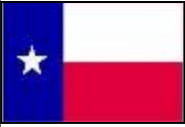
The Confederacy ran a lot of covert operations in the north, but they had to be very careful not to alienate the citizens in that area.

Those who operated behind enemy lines were very successful in many ways that we never think of today. They thought outside of the box. Something that they used that was very efficient was bombs that looked like a lump of coal or firewood. These would be smuggled in to where the Union army would use them for fuel, which would cause them to detonate. This was effectively used in the fireboxes of train engines. When they threw what they thought was coal or firewood into the firebox, it would detonate and blow up the train's engine.

Many times friend and relatives were used for gaining information about the Union army or something else that could help the Confederates have an advantage. There were a lot of people who lived in the north but were still southern sympathizers. These people were able to help the Confederacy throughout the war. Maryland and Washington D.C. had a lot of Southern sympathizers. Maryland was even going to succeed from the Union and join the Confederacy, but Lincoln found out about it and sent Union troops in which stopped this from happening.

Communications were much more difficult in the 1860s. A Union army officer figured out how to use flags for a Morse Code type communication. The Union didn't think it was a good way to communicate and dismissed the idea. The assistant of the Union officer happened to be a southerner. He reported to the Confederate Army how to use this for communication. The Confederates used it the first time at the Battle of Manassas, and won that battle. We can't say for sure if this helped them win the battle, but it is possible that it did.





MARCH HISTORICAL PROGRAM
THE CONFEDERATE SECRET SERVICE
BY MAC MCGUYRE



The U.S. Mail was also used to send Confederate information. Letters would often be put in an envelope addressed to where it needed to eventually end up. But that letter would be put inside another envelope that would be sent somewhere far north. After the outside envelope was opened (far from enemy lines), it would be mailed to the address of the envelope that was stuffed inside. This way the letter could be sent without it appearing to have anything to do with the war.



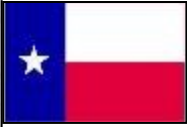
Another way that the Confederacy received information was from country doctors. These doctors could travel freely, and they could gather a lot of information while doing so. This information was valuable.

The Union Army used a signal book to decode messages. A copy of this book was captured when the Confederates captured a ship, but the Confederates still needed to learn how to use the book before they could decode the messages. Since they had captured a Union soldier that was in possession of the book, they secretly implanted a Confederate soldier as a captured Yankee. While incarcerated, the Union soldier taught the undercover soldier how to use the book to decode messages. Using this book, the South could decode captured messages. They were able to do this throughout the war.

Those of Irish descent were not welcomed during the days that the war was fought. They even had signs up north that told the Irish that they were not welcome. Because of their mistreatment, many of the Irishmen that were drafted by the Union army deserted and joined the Confederacy.

Since the war was fought so long ago, we don't often give them enough credit. They would take boats and mount them on wagons. This would allow them to be able to put boats in rivers and large bodies of water so they could attack Union ships.

A Confederate steamship that was used in the war, the *Marie "Florie" Maffitt*, was innovative in that the exhaust went under water instead of having a plume of smoke. It was one of the first stealth ships used in war. This allowed it to navigate without being seen from the plume of smoke.



MARCH HISTORICAL PROGRAM
THE CONFEDERATE SECRET SERVICE
BY MAC MCGUYRE



By being able to navigate without being seen as others ships were, the Florie was able to destroy 29 Union Ships.

Both the Union and Confederate armies had various types of explosive devices that were available. Land mines were effective, but General Robert E. Lee did not like the use of them. He thought that they were inhumane. Torpedoes were used to sink enemy ships. They even had electric mines that they could place in the water that would detonate if they came into contact with a metal boat.

The Confederate legislature created the position of Intelligence Director in February 1865 after seeing how overwhelmed President Jefferson Davis was with trying to keep up with everything.

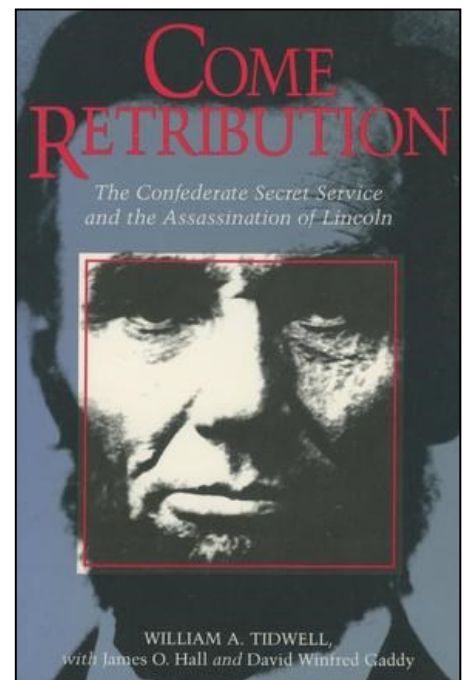
Mac told us that once he got to Chapter 8 in “Come Retribution”, it mentioned John Wilkes Booth. The only reference that it had at that part of the book was that Booth met with an agent in Montreal, Canada. (A picture of the book is below).

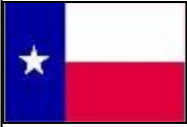
Jefferson Davis was asked if he would give approval for the assassination of President Abraham Lincoln, and he informed that he would not.

On the other hand, General Kilpatrick asked permission to assassinate Confederate President Jefferson Davis and was given permission. He and Col Ulric Dahlgren, set out to do so and to set Richmond, Virginia ablaze. The attempt to do so failed, but they found a letter on the subordinate commander stating their mission.

We appreciate Mac for the program. It was very interesting, and it was full of a lot of information that we had never heard before.

Mac will continue with his historical program on the rest of the book next month. It will be “The John Wilkes Booth Story”.





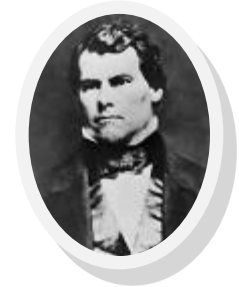
JOHN H. REAGAN CAMP

MARCH IN THE LIFE OF JOHN H. REAGAN



March 6, 1861

Texas admitted to Confederacy, John H. Reagan accepted post of Postmaster General for C.S.A.



March 19, 1858

John H. Reagan delivered speech in US Congress on Kansas state Adm. And Slavery.

March 20, 1862

John H. Reagan officially appointed Postmaster General of Confederate States of America.



March 22, 23,27,29, 1872 John H. Reagan delivered address on Houston & GN RR building through Anderson Co. In Fosterville, Kickapoo, Washington Mills and Pilgrim.



March 6, 1905

Death of John H. Reagan in Palestine, Texas.

March 8, 1905

Funeral of John H. Reagan; State Leg. Attended in mass; Arrived by special train. Buried in East Hill Cemetery.

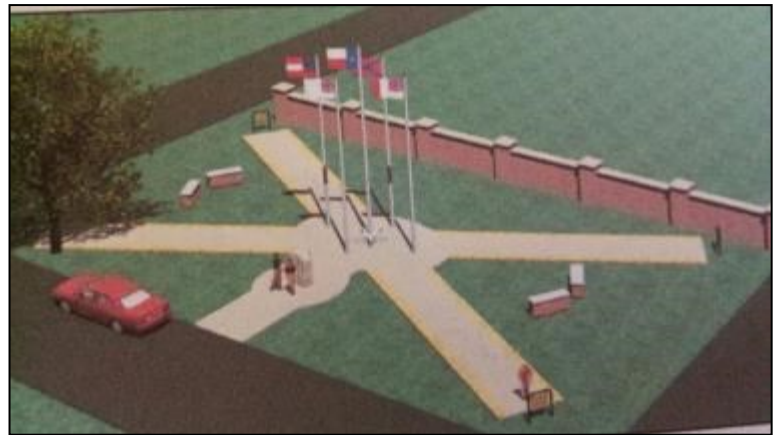




A GREAT WAY TO ENSURE THAT YOUR ANCESTOR'S SERVICE AND HONOR IS NOT FORGOTTEN



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 D. 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.

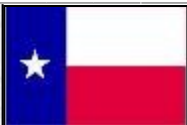


ROBERT E. LEE CALENDAR

MARCH 2024



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 1864 Kilpatrick's raid goes awry as troops and horses succumb to fatigue.	2 1863: Much of East Coast digs out after crippling snowstorm.	3 1865: 38th U.S. Congress meets for the final time to outline aid for displaced African Americans.	4 1865: Lincoln delivers his greatest speech, a 750 word second inaugural address.
5 1864: CSA government demands half of all space on blockade runners.	6 1865: Clara Baron attends Lincoln's inaugural ball at the White House	7 1862: Largest battle west of the Mississippi continues at Pea Ridge, Ar.	6 1865: Clara Baron attends Lincoln's inaugural ball at the White House	7 1862: Largest battle west of the Mississippi continues at Pea Ridge, Ar.	8 1865: Sherman enters North Carolina, having advanced some 350 miles through the Deep South.	9 1862: Modern naval warfare begins as ironclads clash off Virginia coast.
10 1809: U.S. Navy Admiral David Porter is born.	11 1861: Confederate Congress adopts constitution that specifically allows slavery.	12 1864: Admiral Porter leads a fleet of 13 ironclads into the Red River.	13 1865: President Davis signs law allowing African Americans to Carry arms for Confederacy	14 1865: African Americans seen in Richmond for the first time in soldier uniforms.	15 1866 Texas repeals the actions of the Secessionist Convention	16 1861: Robert E. Lee promoted by Lincoln to colonel of U.S. 1st Cavalry.
17 1862: McClellan's army begins its deployment to Fort Monroe on Virginia's Peninsula.	18 1861: In Texas, war hero Sam Houston refuses to take oath of allegiance to Confederacy.	19 1865: Heavy fighting erupts around Raleigh, NC, near the Harper House.	20 1865: Battle of Bentonville continues to rage outside Raleigh	21, 1864 Abe Lincoln signs legislation allowing Nevada & Colorado to become states even though they don't meet requirements	22 1864: After a wet snowfall, Confederate soldiers enjoy a huge snowball fight in Richmond.	23 1862: Stonewall Jackson opens famous Valley Campaign outside Winchester, Va.
24 1863: The last attempt to take Vicksburg, Ms, by water fails.	25 1865: In his last assault of the war, Lee attacks Union lines at Fort Stedman, Va.	26 1863: West Virginia voters approve gradual emancipation of slaves.	27 1865: Lincoln meets with Grant, Sherman, and Porter on riverboat to discuss war's ending.	28 1862: Battle of Glorieta Pass rages near Santa Fe, New Mexico	29, 1861 Mississippi ratifies the Confederate Constitution	30 1865: In pouring rain, U.S. forces probe Lee's fatally overstretched lines.
31 1862: Lincoln meddles with McClellan and recalls some 15,000 troops to defend Washington.						



TEXAS CIVIL WAR HISTORY IN MARCH



From the Texas State Historical Association— <https://texasdaybyday.com/#feedCarousel>

March 1, 1861: Texas accepted as a state by the provisional government of the Confederate States of America.

March 2, 1861: Texas Secessionist Convention reconvenes.

March 5, 1861: Texas secessionist convention accepts Confederate statehood.

March 11, 1846: U.S. Troops move into disputed land between Nueces and Rio Grande Rivers.

March 28, 1864: Civil War guerrilla leader William Quantrill was arrested by Confederate forces in Bonham, Texas. The Ohio native, wanted for murder in Utah by 1860, collected a group of renegades in the Kansas-Missouri area at the beginning of the Civil War. He fought with Confederate forces at the battle of Wilson's Creek in August 1861 but soon thereafter began irregular independent operations. Quantrill and his band attacked Union camps, patrols, and settlements. While Union authorities declared him and outlaw, Quantrill eventually held the rank of colonel in the Confederate forces. After his infamous sack of Lawrence, Kansas, and the massacre of Union prisoners at Baxter Springs, Quantrill and his men fled to Texas in October of 1863. There he quarreled with his associate, William "Bloody Bill" Anderson, and his band preyed on the citizens of Fannin and Grayson counties. Acts of violence proliferated so much that regular confederate forces had to be assigned to protect residents from the activities of the irregular Confederate forces, and Gen. Henry McCulloch determined to rid North Texas of Quantrill's influence. On March 28, 1864, when Quantrill appeared at Bonham as requested, McCulloch had him arrested on the charge of ordering the murder of a Confederate major. Quantrill escaped that day and returned to his camp near Sherman, pursued by more than 300 state and Confederate troops. He and his men crossed the Red River into Indian Territory. Except for a brief return in May, Quantrill's activities in Texas were at an end. Quantrill was killed by Union forces at the very end of the war.

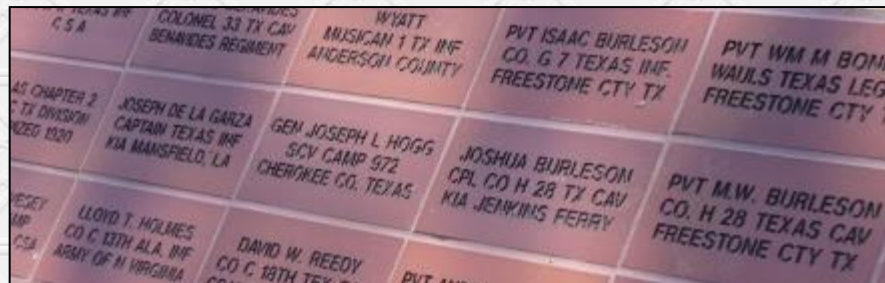
March 31, 1861: General John Bankhead Magruder reassigned from Arkansas to Texas.



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: 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.