



SONS OF CONFEDERATE VETERANS, TEXAS DIVISION

THE JOHN H. REAGAN CAMP NEWS

www.reaganscvcamp.org

VOLUME 16, ISSUE 8

AUGUST 2024

COMMANDER HEITMAN'S DISPATCH



Fellow Gentlemen of the South,

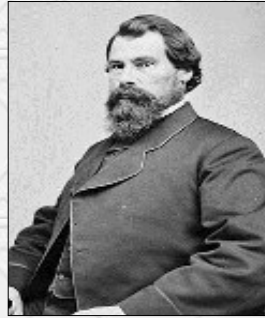
I begin this month's Notes with a quote. I have edited the quote modestly to avoid exposing the time-period with which it is written. The usage of an asterisk [\*] denotes where almost any novel and fashionable [radical] social endeavor of today may be inserted without harm to sentence syntax.

"It may be inferred again that the present movement for \*\*\*\*\* rights will certainly prevail from the history of its only opponent: Conservatism. This is a party which never conserves anything. Its history has been that it demurs to each aggression of the progressive party, and aims to save its credit by a respectable amount of growling, but always acquiesces at last in the innovation. What was the resisted novelty of yesterday is today one of the accepted principles of conservatism; it is

now conservative only in affecting to resist the next innovation, which will tomorrow be forced upon its timidity and will be succeeded by some third revolution; to be denounced and then adopted in its turn. *American conservatism is merely the shadow that follows Radicalism as it moves forward towards perdition. It remains behind it, but never retards it, and always advances near its leader. The pretended salt hath utterly lost its savor: wherewith shall it be salted? Its impotency is not difficult to explain. It is worthless because it is the conservatism of expediency only, and not of sturdy principle.*

*It intends to risk nothing serious for the sake of the truth, and has no idea of being guilty of the folly of martyrdom. It always when about to enter a protest very blandly informs the wild beast whose path it essays to stop, that its "bark is worse than its bite," and that it only means to save its manners by enacting its decent role of resistance:*

*The only practical purpose which it now serves in American politics is to give enough exercise to Radicalism to keep it "in wind," and to prevent its becoming pursy and lazy, from having nothing to whip.*



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

*No doubt, after a few years, when \*\*\*\*\* rights shall have become an accomplished fact, conservatism will tacitly admit it into its creed, and thenceforward plume itself upon its wise firmness in opposing with similar weapons the extreme of \*\*\*\*\*; and when that too shall have been won, it will be heard declaring that the integrity of the American Constitution requires at least the refusal of suffrage to jack-asses. There it will assume, with great dignity, its final position. In this day innovations march with rapid strides.*

- Continued on the next page -

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



INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Commander's Dispatch	1-2
Calendar of Events	3
John H. Reagan	4-6
Meeting Pictures	7
August Historical Program	8-12
Anderson County in the Civil War	13
Battle of Wilson's Creek	14-17
Battle of 2nd Manassas	18
August in the life of John H. Reagan	19
Honoring Your Ancestor	20
Robert E. Lee Calendar	21
Civil War History for August	22
Confederate Memorial Plaza	23
Contact Info & Confederate Charge	24



## COMMANDER'S DISPATCH

BY ED HEITMAN PG 2



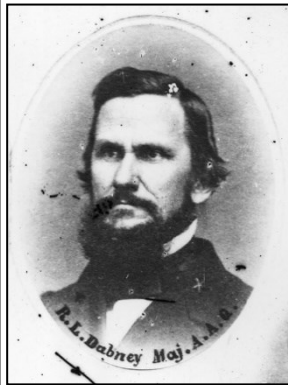
*The fantastic suggestions of yesterday, entertained only by a few fanatics, and then only mentioned by the sober to be ridiculed, is today the audacious reform, and will be tomorrow the recognized usage. Novelties are so numerous and so wild and rash, that even in conservative minds the sensibility of wonder is exhausted and the instinct of righteous resistance fatigued. Yet .. truth is never out-of-date."*

Things Never Really Change. Same Circumstances - Different Times.

Yes .. it is certainly plausible this quote originated from this past July [e.g. Republican Convention].

But .. our quoted speaker is much more talented at navigating the unabridged English language than our contemporaries, so that is certainly a clue that our speaker is not "you know" from "like" our "awakened" times.

Our speaker is Robert L. Dabney [1820 – 1898], the great ecclesiastical philosopher of the 19<sup>th</sup> century .. and former Chief-of-Staff to General Thomas J. Jackson.



Dabney was so disgusted with post-war corruption in the South that he considered leaving the violently restored Union for New Zealand. Friends of Dabney persuaded him to seek other 'distant' destinations similar to New Zealand .. so he chose Texas .. where he became the founding chair of the School of Philosophy in 1883 – the year UT was first established. UT was a relative newcomer to advanced education opportunities in Texas, where several colleges in Texas originate from the 1840's.

Had it not been for Dabney's illness and eventual blindness while at UT .. Coach Dabney may have been Texas' first opportunity for gridiron success .. and thereby preventing several embarrassing losses to Grayson County's own .. the mighty Kangaroos of Austin College .. all prior to 1900.

I will end with two of my favorite quotes from Parson Dabney.

"The education of children for God is the most important business done on earth."

Robert Dabney



I predict that the time will come in this once free America when the battle for religious liberty will have to be fought over again, and will probably be lost, because the people are already ignorant of its true basis and conditions.

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](mailto:tx_tsar@hotmail.com).**



The Battle of Richmond, Kentucky was fought on August 29-30, 1862. It was one of the most complete Confederate Victories in the war by Major General Edmund Kirby Smith against Union Major General William "Bull" Nelson's forces which were defending the town. You can read about this battle at <https://warfarehistorynetwork.com/article/battle-of-richmond-kentucky-cannae-in-the-bluegrass-state/>

**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**


Sept 24, 2024 - Camp Meeting 6:30 pm

October 22, 2024 - Camp Meeting 6:30 pm

**We will NOT have a November meeting**

**Date for December meeting to be announced**

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) 

“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-



## JOHN HENNIGER REAGAN

[HTTPS://WWW.TSHAONLINE.ORG/HANDBOOK/ENTRIES/REAGAN-JOHN-HENNIGER](https://www.tshaonline.org/handbook/entries/reagan-john-henniger)



**REAGAN, JOHN HENNIGER (1818–1905).** John Henninger Reagan, Texas Democratic Party leader and Confederate postmaster general, the eldest son of Timothy Richard and Elizabeth Reagan, was born on October 8, 1818, in the shadow of the Great Smoky Mountains in Sevier County, Tennessee. His early life was not unlike that of many young men who grew to maturity in frontier America. Although having moments to hunt and fish, he worked with his father at a tannery and on their small farm. Seldom did he have time for books and schooling, and he only briefly attended nearby Nancy Academy. In 1831 his mother died, and the added duties of caring for four brothers and a sister were thrust upon him. In 1834 Reagan, whose desire for learning permeated his life, decided to follow his ambitions. After a year of hiring out to a local planter, he attended Boyd's Creek Academy for fifteen months. When funds ran low, he worked to finance a year of study (1837) at Southwestern Seminary in Maryville. In 1838 Reagan left Tennessee to seek greater monetary gain. Briefly he managed a plantation near Natchez before being lured to Texas, where a job at Nacogdoches supposedly

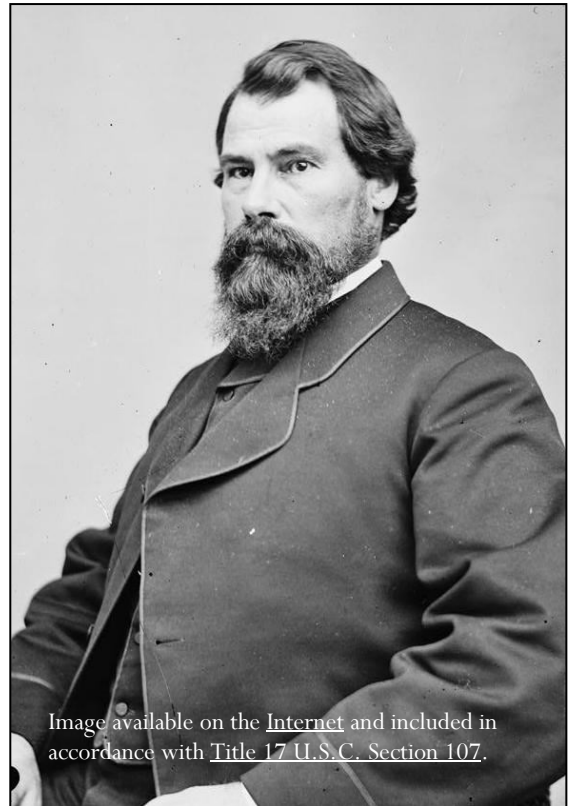
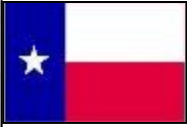


Image available on the Internet and included in accordance with [Title 17 U.S.C. Section 107](#).

awaited him. Soon after arrival, however, he became involved in the Cherokee War and, on July 15, 1839, participated in an engagement in which the Indians were routed and their leader, Chief Bowl, was killed. For the next two years Reagan worked as a deputy surveyor and frontier scout before being elected a justice of the peace and captain of a militia company in Nacogdoches. For several years thereafter he also studied to be an attorney until, in 1846, he procured a temporary law license and opened an office at Buffalo on the Trinity River.

When Texas became a state in 1846, Reagan began his political career. In April he was elected the first county judge of Henderson County. The next year he became a member of the Second Legislature of Texas. Although he helped obtain the reapportionment of both the House and Senate, Reagan unsuccessfully tried to amend a bill for the Peters colony that, at first glance, seemed to benefit settlers but actually initiated costly litigation. In the race for the state Senate in 1849, this legislative measure was the chief issue of the campaign and one that led to Reagan's defeat. Yet in 1852 the Peters' colonists, who had previously opposed him, hired him to represent them after his predictions proved to be correct. As a result, when the judge of the Ninth Judicial District died in September, Reagan was popular enough to win a hastily called election. After 1855 Reagan became increasingly prominent. In East Texas he helped the Democratic party defeat the surging American (Know-Nothing) party; this victory contributed to his reelection as judge in 1856 as well as to his popularity. Consequently, in the summer of 1857 the Democrats nominated and elected him United States congressman from the Eastern District of Texas. In Washington he attended to constituent needs and dealt with the controversy over the status of slavery in Kansas. He soon feared for the safety of the Union. Thus in 1859 he assumed the somewhat contradictory position of officially supporting secessionist Democratic candidate Hardin Runnels against Unionist Sam Houston in the state governor's race while campaigning for his own reelection to Congress on a middle-of-the-road, pro-Union platform. Both Houston and Reagan won impressive victories.



## JOHN HENNIGER REAGAN

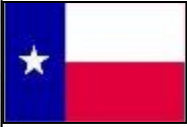
[HTTPS://WWW.TSHAONLINE.ORG/HANDBOOK/ENTRIES/REAGAN-JOHN-HENNIGER](https://www.tshaonline.org/handbook/entries/reagan-john-henniger)



After John Brown attacked the federal arsenal at Harper's Ferry on October 16, 1859, all hope of maintaining the Union vanished as far as Reagan was concerned. With Republicans in the House inexorably opposed to southerners no matter what the issue, and with southern rights' men equally adamant, any hope of compromise was remote. Then when Abraham Lincoln was elected in November 1860, the breakup of the Union began. On January 15, 1861, Reagan resigned his congressional seat. Two weeks later he returned to Texas; for the next four years he served the Confederate States of America. In Austin on January 30, 1861, he attended the state Secession Convention and met with Governor Houston to persuade him to "submit to the will of the people" and recognize the convention. Texas withdrew from the Union on February 2, and two days later delegates elected Reagan one of the state's seven representatives to the secession convention at Montgomery, Alabama. Within a month Reagan was appointed postmaster general of the Confederacy, whereupon he raided the United States Post office of its documents and southern personnel. Upon the selection of Richmond, Virginia, as the Confederate capital late in the spring of 1861, he began seeking ways to make his department self-sufficient by March 1, 1863, as prescribed by the Confederate Constitution. He therefore abolished the franking privilege and raised postal rates. He also cut expenses by eliminating costly routes, inducing competition for mail runs, and employing a smaller, more efficient staff. He was even able to persuade railroad executives to cut transportation charges in half and accept Confederate bonds in whole or partial payment. Although such stringent measures were necessary, the public became dissatisfied with Reagan, despite the fact that Union armies had disrupted routes, demolished postal facilities, and interrupted mail with increasing frequency.

On April 2, 1865, the end of the Confederacy was at hand. President Jefferson Davis and his cabinet were forced to flee southward from Richmond. For five weeks the Confederate government eluded Union patrols in both North and South Carolina. After Secretary of the Treasury George A. Trenholm resigned on April 27, Reagan was entrusted with the duties of the Treasury Department, but not for long. On May 9, near Abbeville, Georgia, Jefferson Davis, former Texas governor Francis R. Lubbock, and Reagan were captured. The harsh realities of losing awaited the Confederate leaders. On May 25, 1865, Reagan and Vice President Alexander H. Stephens of Georgia were sent to Fort Warren in Boston harbor, where for the next twenty-two weeks Reagan was in solitary confinement. After reading northern journals and newspapers that revealed the depth of animosity and bitterness toward the South, he wrote on August 11 an open communication to the people of Texas in which he appealed to them, as conquered people, to recognize the authority of the United States, renounce immediately both secession and slavery, and, if commanded by the federal government, extend the "elective franchise" to former slaves. Otherwise, he predicted, Texas would face the "twin disasters" of military despotism and universal Black suffrage. After his release from Fort Warren and return to Texas early in December 1865, Reagan discovered that most Texans had politically disinherited him because of the Fort Warren letter. He retired to Fort Houston, his family home at Palestine, and farmed his neglected fields.

Reagan's letter, which was published in Texas in October 1865, arrived in the state on the eve of the Constitutional Convention of 1866, called by provisional governor A. J. Hamilton, at which delegates grappled with carrying out federal mandates and solving immediate state problems. Taking a fairly conservative approach, the convention recognized the end of secession and slavery, offered limited rights to Blacks, and canceled the state's war debt. The election of former Confederate James Webb Throckmorton as governor the same year reinforced the Texans' belief that they could resolve their problems without the drastic measures Reagan had advocated. However, when the federal government sensed the continuing instability in southern states, it passed the Reconstruction Act of March 2, 1867. With this act the efforts of state governments were replaced by military districts (*see* FIFTH MILITARY DISTRICT). In Texas, Throckmorton was removed by Gen. Philip Sheridan and replaced in July 1867 by Governor Elisha M. Pease. Several more years of political upheaval followed for Texas. The Constitutional Convention of 1868-69 provided full voting rights for Blacks; the resignation of Pease resulted in the election in 1869 of Republican Edmund J. Davis, who was hated and feared by Texas conservatives.



## JOHN HENNIGER REAGAN

[HTTPS://WWW.TSHAONLINE.ORG/HANDBOOK/ENTRIES/REAGAN-JOHN-HENNIGER](https://www.tshaonline.org/handbook/entries/reagan-john-henniger)



The new governor also faced frontier problems and a general sense of lawlessness in the state. Reagan, now respected by Democrats for his prophetic letter, became known as the "Old Roman," a modern-day Cincinnatus who had sacrificed popularity and political power on behalf of his fellow Texans. Reagan and other Democrats worked to regain power and restore political harmony. Their efforts culminated in the 1873 election of Democrat Richard Coke as governor and the writing of a new constitution in 1876. In the meantime Reagan was granted amnesty, and his full citizenship was restored. In 1874 he received the Democratic nomination for the First Congressional District and was easily elected.

Reagan and other Democrats worked to regain power and restore political harmony. Their efforts culminated in the 1873 election of Democrat Rickard Coke as governor and the writing of a new constitution in 1876. In the meantime Reagan was granted amnesty, and his full citizenship was restored. In 1874 he received the Democratic nomination for the First Congressional District and was easily elected.

From 1875 to 1887 Reagan served in Congress but also participated in state politics. In 1875 he was a delegate to the Texas Constitutional Convention that framed the Constitution of 1876. In Congress he chaired the Committee on Commerce, which was responsible for passage of the Interstate Commerce Act in 1887. The law, which represented fulfillment of many years of effort for Reagan, regulated railroads through a five-man commission and included provisions against pooling and rebates. Although the law was an effort to control the railroad industry, Reagan had the support of some railroad groups, as well as independent oil men, merchants, and farmers across the country who believed that the Interstate Commerce Commission would stabilize rates and end undue competition.

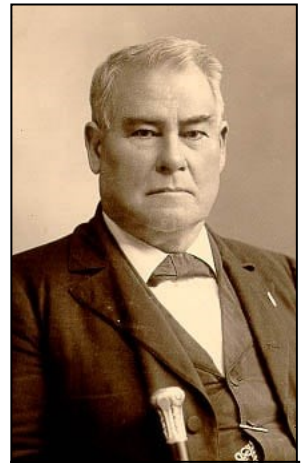
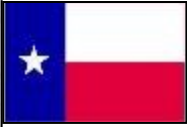


Image available on the [Internet](#) and included in accordance with [Title 17 U.S.C. Section 107](#).

As further appreciation for his legislative record Texans elected Reagan to the United States Senate in January 1887, but before the end of his term he changed jobs. Because his good friend Governor James Stephen Hogg had run on a platform of state regulation of railroads, Reagan was persuaded to resign his Senate seat and accept the chairmanship of the newly formed Railroad Commission of Texas. The commission, formed in 1891, was an effort to regulate commerce on a state level as an extension of the Interstate Commerce Commission's federal work. Attempts to establish such a commission in Texas dated to 1876. After five legislative failures, an amendment to the state constitution providing for a railroad commission was submitted to voters in 1890. With the amendment's ratification and Hogg's election as governor, the commission became a reality. Its powers included setting rates, classifying freight, requiring adequate railroad reports, and prohibiting and punishing discrimination and extortion by corporations. As Reagan led the Railroad Commission, it served not as a neutral regulator of Texas railroads but more as an institution capable of aiding the state's manufacturers and thus directing the growth of the state's economy. He accomplished this effort by having the commission set rates for Texas railroads that, in effect, created tariff barriers against products from other states and fostered native Texas industries. The commission survived a Supreme Court ruling in 1894 and thereafter became an even more vigorous supervisor of Texas railroads.

Reagan made an unsuccessful bid for the 1894 Democratic nomination for governor. He remained chairman of the Railroad Commission until his retirement in January 1903. His tenure provided the leadership and prestige necessary to the early years of this extremely powerful state regulatory body. In the latter part of his life Reagan was much concerned about recording history as well as preserving his heritage. In 1897 he helped found the Texas State Historical Association. On a number of occasions he attended meetings of Confederate veterans throughout the state. After retirement in 1903 he worked for two years to complete his *Memoirs* (published in 1906 and reprinted in 1968). On March 6, 1905, the "Old Roman" of Texas died of pneumonia; he was buried in Palestine. He had been married three times—in 1844 to Martha Music, who died in 1845; in 1852 to Edwina Moss Nelms, who bore six children before her death in 1863; and in 1866 to Molly Ford Taylor, who, with three of her five children, survived him.



# JOHN H. REAGAN CAMP AUGUST MEETING PICTURES



We had 13 compatriots in attendance at the August meeting. We had a delicious meal of barbeque chicken, Chic-fil-A nuggets, pinto beans with ham, cornbread, enchiladas, homemade cobbler, key lime pie, and chocolate chip brownies.



We appreciate Mac McGuyre, Calvin Nicolson, Charles Steen, Richard Thornton, David Franklin, and Dwight Franklin for bringing the food. Everything was delicious. After the meal, Andrew Petty presented the historical program. It was great! We appreciate Andrew for the program. Our next meeting will be held on September 24th at 6:30 p.m.



## AUGUST HISTORICAL PROGRAM A Picture Worth A Thousand Words: Repainting History in The Battle of Atlanta

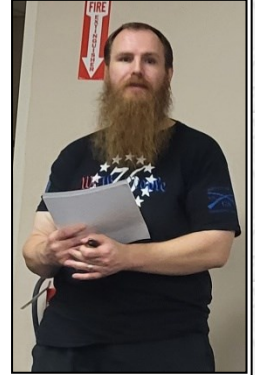


Andrew Petty provided the Reagan Camp's historical program at the March meeting. Andrew always brings something that is both interesting and little known when he presents a program. The following are notes from Andrew's program.

### A Picture Worth A Thousand Words" Repainting History in the Battle of Atlanta.

The Battle of Atlanta was a defining moment in one of the most tumultuous years of the Civil War. Fought on July 22, 1864, it precipitated the eventual fall of the city and arguably helped secure Abraham Lincoln's successful reelection. It was the final turning point which seemingly concluded the last chapter on the Confederacy. However, The Battle of Atlanta would rage on for several more decades, not on the battlefield, but in the brushstrokes of a painting meant to commemorate the historic events of that day.

In the 1880s, cycloramas were all the rage in the United States. They were buildings specifically designed to house panoramic paintings and surround the audience with a 360° perspective. Just twenty years removed from the Civil War, many of these commissioned artworks depicted scenes from the battle. At the height of their popularity there existed 40 such buildings in the country; now only 4 currently exist- the Gettysburg Cyclorama, the Behalt in Berlin, Ohio which chronicles the history of the Amish, the Bunker Hill Cyclorama in Boston, Massachusetts (which has since closed down) and the one in Atlanta. (see picture)



The painting itself was produced by the American Panorama Company, a short lived production studio headquartered out of Chicago, with a separate painting studio located in Milwaukee. The project was a colossal undertaking, so the studio hired 17 German immigrants led by Friedrich Heine, many of whom had painted similar depictions of European battles in the cycloramas on that continent. Also hired on was Theodore Davis, war illustrator of Harper's Weekly who had actually witnessed the Battle of Atlanta and lent a firsthand narrative so that the artists could better capture the story on canvas. Fully completed, the painting measured 371 feet long, 49 feet wide, and weighed a whopping 9,334 pounds.

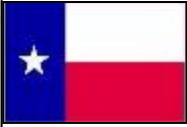
It was a masterpiece of both optics and late 19th century technology. The painters actually visited the battlefield and spoke with veterans to get the details as accurate as possible. In order to create a truly immersive experience, the artists used forced perspective as well as tensioning rods in a hyperbolic shape so that the painting could be precisely hung- which necessitated the construction of a forty foot scaffold. The project took over two years to complete, but by June 1886, the finishing touches had been applied and the painting was ready for exhibition.



- Continued on the next page -

Above: Painters on a scaffold in front of a section of the huge canvas painting.





## AUGUST HISTORICAL PROGRAM

### A Picture Worth A Thousand Words: Repainting History in The Battle of Atlanta



The work was ordered to depict a crucial scene in the Battle of Atlanta- precisely 4:45 p.m. on July 22, 1864, when General John Logan led a counterattack on Confederate lines and turned the battle in the Union's favor. Logan was the one who took command over the Army of the Tennessee in the aftermath of General James Birdseye McPherson's mortal wounding. It was long rumored that Logan himself had been a financial backer of the painting, as he had ran unsuccessfully for vice-president in 1884 and was supposedly going to launch another campaign for President in 1888. However, Logan died on December 26, 1886, just a few months before the painting would make its debut.

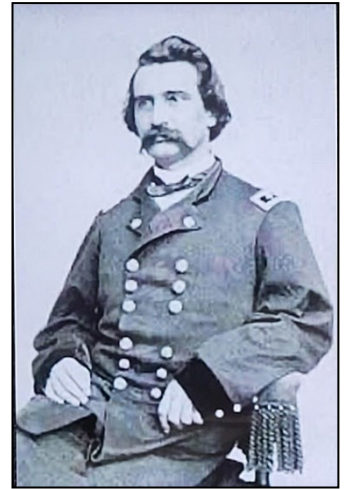
It premiered the following February in Detroit, and would stay there a few months before landing in Milwaukee for the next year. As interest began to wane, the owners of the cyclorama had a novel idea- they relocated to Indianapolis in May 1888, which happened to be the hometown of Presidential hopeful Benjamin Harrison. Even though Harrison was not present at the Battle of Atlanta (having been fighting a few miles away at Peachtree Creek), his

likeness was nevertheless painted over the image of Theodore Davis. It was even billed as "Harrison at Atlanta". Harrison would go on to win the election, and many credited his insertion into the painting as boosting his chances. When it was discovered that Harrison was not, in fact, present at the Battle of Atlanta, he was denounced as a fraud with stolen valor and Joseph Perry, manager of the cyclorama, was forced to resign.

The fortunes of the American Panorama Company took a sharp downturn and the studio went bankrupt in 1890, selling the painting to settle their outstanding debts. The painting would later change hands a few more times before winding up in the possession of Paul Atkinson, who purchased the painting for \$2500. Atkinson was already in possession of another Civil War cyclorama painting, *The Storming of Missionary Ridge and Battle Above the Clouds*, and intended to originally put the painting in his cyclorama at Chattanooga. In a stroke of genius though, he swapped the location of Missionary Ridge (which was moved to Chattanooga) with the Battle of Atlanta. Missionary Ridge was later destroyed in a hurricane in 1893.

Atkinson knew that a painting depicting an inevitable Union victory would never sell in the South. He also had a personal vendetta- his four older brothers had all served in the Confederacy. As he would later write in a letter to a friend, "This is all right to the son of a federal soldier, but it don't sit so well with the son of a Confederate." He made subtle changes to the painting. The scene where Confederate soldiers were prisoners of war was recast, the gray uniforms made over in blue, to alter the meaning to show cowardly Union soldiers running away from the heat of battle. The defeated Confederate flags, lying in the field, were edited out by having grass painted over them. Due to the nature of the scene, it was a moment in the battle where the Union had not quite won and the Confederacy not quite lost, and by making these small alterations, Atkinson had managed to completely repaint the narrative from an impending Union victory to a humiliating Northern defeat.

Despite the blatant historical inaccuracies, Atkinson's plot worked: ticket sales went through the roof, and crowds flocked. One Atlanta newspaper even proudly proclaimed it, "the only Confederate victory ever painted". However, the success was short-lived. By the next year he went bankrupt and sold the painting for a mere \$937 in October 1892 to an investor from Chicago. While plans were made for the painting to be moved there, it never materialized. To make matters worse, a large snowstorm in January 1893 caved in part of the cyclorama's roof and caused considerable damage to the painting. For weeks, it sat exposed to the elements and further deteriorated.



General John "Blackjack" Logan



## AUGUST HISTORICAL PROGRAM A Picture Worth A Thousand Words: Repainting History in The Battle of Atlanta



In August of that year, George Gress, who owned the Atlanta Zoo, bought the painting at auction and moved it into Grant Park (named for Atlanta railroad magnate Lemuel P. Grant, who donated the land to the park and not General Ulysses S. Grant) hoping to boost tourism at the zoo. But Gress failed to draw any kind of sustained interest, and soon he too was destitute. In 1898, the cyclorama with the painting was bequeathed to the city of Atlanta, and hastily restored in time for a reunion of Confederate veterans, who waxed nostalgic and pointed out where they were on the battlefield that day. After this one off though, the painting was consigned to storage, largely forgotten and neglected for the next two decades.

In 1921, the painting was resurrected when a new fireproof cyclorama building was built in Grant Park. (see pic below) Designed by John Francis Downing and built in the southern antebellum style, the new complex was filled with artifacts and exhibits pertaining to the history of Atlanta. However, the cyclorama's architects discovered that the painting was too large for its new accommodations. In order to make the painting fit, their solution involved lopping off almost two feet of sky, further butchering the work of art. Still, the painting was destined to enjoy a revival, especially with the addition of the locomotive *Texas* to the exhibit in 1927, made famous its chase with the *General* in the Andrews raid.



In 1934, a three dimensional diorama was added to the base of the painting to further draw viewers into their surroundings, an initiative of FDR's Works Progress Administration. A total of 128 plaster molds, ranging from 18 inches high to four feet tall, were added to the base and painted with auto paint (to last longer) to represent dead soldiers. Real Georgia clay taken from the excavation site was used to give the painting a more authentic look, and a cannon was also inserted. The diorama portion took a total of 33 months to complete. (See picture below)

A subsequent 1936 attempt at restoration almost resulted in disaster for the *Battle of Atlanta*. Joseph Llorens, who had constructed the diorama, tried treating the painting with linseed oil to remove the cracks. However, the oil wound up bunching the paint colors together. In an attempt to counteract the effects of this failure, Llorens then added a treatment of buttermilk to coat the painting. When the buttermilk dried though, it wound up leaving behind a thin yellow layer over the entire work. In addition, the real life diorama had attracted real life critters such as ants and moths, so the painting was sprayed with poison when the building was fumigated, which further degraded the delicate paint. One notable edit to the painting itself occurred when local painter Wilbur Kurtz changed the Union uniforms of



the prisoners of war back to their original (and historically accurate) Confederate garb.

The painting would garner some Hollywood attention in 1939. The blockbuster film *Gone with the Wind*, which prominently featured the Battle of Atlanta in its plot, was showing on every theater screen in the nation. The stars of the movie later toured the cyclorama, and Clark Gable himself was quite impressed with the painting.

- Continued on the next page -



## AUGUST HISTORICAL PROGRAM A Picture Worth A Thousand Words: Repainting History in The Battle of Atlanta



Clark Gable remarked that there was only one thing wrong with it- "I'm not in it." Ever willing to accommodate, the cyclorama had one of the dying soldiers in the diorama repainted to look like Rhett Butler. (see pic at right) Several years later, Victor Jory, who played Jonas Wilkerson, voiced the narration for the exhibit. The overwhelming success of the film translated over to the painting, and the cyclorama enjoyed perhaps its greatest prosperity during the following decade, as southern soldiers returning home from WWII were eager for a feel-good story. One of them quipped, "We want these Yankees to see what a good fight the Confederates put up."



And therein lied an insidiously complex issue- the painting's legacy had devolved into full-fledged southern historical revisionism, as the story behind the artwork became more fanfare and rooted deeper into Lost Cause mythology. Music was now added to the stage, appropriately Dixie. A revolving door of lecturers, some grizzled veterans of the war, and later when their numbers dwindled; the Daughters of the Confederacy, continued the litany of lies and spewed falsehoods: "The only charges made that day were the Confederates." "The high moment of the day for Confederate forces". "Confederate troops were courageously flinging themselves from entrenched lines and fending off the Union troops." Perhaps the most egregious- "The painting represents Confederate victory, strength, and courage in the face of unbeatable odds, including how U.S. troops ran from their forces." After yet another brief heyday, the painting was again relegated to an afterthought, largely ignored, and left to decay.

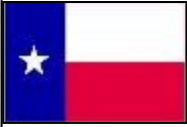
Another fight would play out in the ensuing years, this one amongst the backdrop of the civil rights movement. As most of Atlanta's black population became more prominent, they migrated away from the suburbs to the downtown area, where Grant Park was located. Not surprisingly, many members of the African-American community called for the painting to either be destroyed altogether or at least be relocated closer to Stone Mountain, another landmark celebrating the Confederate cause. That's when Maynard Jackson, Atlanta's first black mayor, stepped in. While many thought because he was black, he would pronounce a death sentence on any restoration efforts, he surprised everybody by profoundly stating, "The Cyclorama depicts the Battle of Atlanta, a battle that the right side won. It was a battle that helped free my ancestors and I'll make sure that depiction is saved."



Mayor Maynard Jackson

True to his word, Jackson oversaw an \$11 million restoration effort to bring the *Battle of Atlanta* back to its former glory. This proved a more monumental task than anticipated. Because it hadn't (and couldn't) been properly tensioned, the painting was noticeably sagging in the middle, bearing wrinkles and stretch marks from being improperly stored. Insects had eaten away the bottom 20% of the canvas, and the pigments had faded so much that many of the faces had become obscured and almost unrecognizable. Over the 1970s, the painting was painstakingly brought back to its illustrious state through the efforts of Gustav Berger, who used state of the art techniques to restore the vivid colors of the painting. The diorama, whose natural elements had previously attracted bugs, was replaced by fiberglass. The cyclorama had a grand re-opening in 1982, and sold 300,000 tickets its first year. In 1983, none other than esteemed voice actor James Earl Jones was hired to conduct the narration.

Yet, the drama filled chronology of the *Battle of Atlanta* was not yet complete- indeed, it was about to take its most suspenseful turn yet. Dennis Walters, who possessed degrees in both history and anthropology, had dreamed of being appointed director of the cyclorama. He had submitted his application to the city council several times, but was continually passed over as the city hired a series of interim black directors.



## AUGUST HISTORICAL PROGRAM A Picture Worth A Thousand Words: Repainting History in The Battle of Atlanta



Feeling he was eminently more qualified for the job, Walters sued the city in 1985 and won nearly \$250,000 in a reverse discrimination lawsuit, as well as being appointed the position. He immediately made such changes such as hand painting the cannons in the diorama so they blended better; and insisted the building become a screening place for *Birth of a Nation*, a film Walters claimed to have never seen. The new mayor of Atlanta, Andrew Young, called him a “nut”, which sadly proved prophetic. Walters’s tenure as director would come to a violent end on August 9, 1990, when he shot his wife four times in the back, killing her; then shooting himself in the head. He died the next day.

As it entered into the 21st century, the interest in Civil War history and thus the creation from a bygone era slowly declined, facilitating the need for yet another massive restoration. In 2012, the Atlanta History Center purchased a 75 year lease for the cyclorama and all related exhibit material. A new facility designed especially for the painting was built in Buckhead, eight miles to the north. The first step was making some long overdue changes to the work of art. Using old photographs, the painting was carefully retouched back to its original 1886 design. The entire missing section of sky was re-added and meticulously painted to maintain the illusion of a three dimensional perspective. Yet another edit was the return of Theodore Davis after more than 125 years, Benjamin Harrison finally relinquished his starring role.

The next daunting task was actually moving such a mammoth piece into the new building. A seam in the middle of the painting permitted it to be bisected into two sections. Once this was done, a dedicated crew of two hundred contractors carefully removed the painting by rolling each section around an enormous 45 foot metal tube, lifting the tubes with a hydraulic crane, and loading them onto a flatbed truck. They then re-installed the painting, taking careful measures to tension it properly so that the desired panoramic illusion was achieved. The process was completed in 2017 and cost \$35 million. Exactly 127 years after its initial debut, on February 22, 2019, the *Battle of Atlanta* would once again take center stage to captivate future generations.



In the picture above, you can see the massive canvas being moved after being rolled up.

We appreciate Andrew for all of his hard work in preparing & presenting the program. It was very interesting.

#### Works Cited

- Auchmutey, Jim. “Redeeming the Cyclorama: Why the century old attraction is anything but a monument to the Confederacy”. *Atlanta Magazine*, February 15, 2019
- Brown, Jessica. “Exhibition, Narrative, and Civil War Memory: The History of the Battle of Atlanta Cyclorama”. Thesis, Georgia State University, 2021
- Davis, Stephen. “Cyclorama”. *New Georgia Encyclopedia*, July 24, 2019
- Emerson, Bo. “Atlanta’s Cyclorama: A Timeline and History of the Battle of Atlanta Painting”. *The Atlanta Journal-Constitution*, February 12, 2019
- Galloway, Jim. “The Cyclorama and an End to a 40-Year Fight over Confederate History”. *The Atlanta Journal-Constitution*, July 15, 2015
- Hitt, Jack. “Atlanta’s Famed Cyclorama Mural Will Tell the Truth about the Civil War Once Again”. *Smithsonian Magazine*, December 2018
- Keenan, Sean Richard. “On eve of Cyclorama’s return, highlights from a fascinating deep-dive into its history”. *Curbed Atlanta*, Atlanta Historic Preservation, November 30, 2018
- Kravitch, Phyllis, Glenda Hatchett, Elbert Tuttle, et al. “Walters v. City of Atlanta”. Opinion Issued by United States Court of Appeals, Eleventh Circuit, November 10, 1986
- Judt, Daniel. “Atlanta’s Civil War Monument, Minus the Pro-Confederate Bunkum”. *The Atlantic*, March 17, 2019
- Parker, Jason and Brenna Beech. “Cyclorama Secrets: The Hidden Details in The Battle of Atlanta Painting”. WABE, March 5, 2015
- Wray, Suzanne. “A Tale of Two Cycloramas: The Gettysburg and Atlanta Cycloramas”. National Park Service, from “Are We There Yet? Preserving Roadside Architecture and Attractions”, April 10-12, 2018



## ANDERSON COUNTY IN THE CIVIL WAR LOCATED AT CONFEDERATE VETERANS PLAZA



### ANDERSON COUNTY IN THE CIVIL WAR

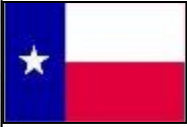
AFTER THE CREATION OF ANDERSON COUNTY IN 1846, MOST SETTLERS CAME FROM SOUTHERN STATES, SHAPING THE COUNTY'S DESTINY IN THE CIVIL WAR. WHEN TEXAS BECAME THE SEVENTH STATE TO SECEDE FROM THE UNION ON MARCH 2, 1861, THE COUNTY VOTE, 870 TO 15, WAS OVERWHELMINGLY IN FAVOR OF SECESSION. NOTABLE CITIZENS JOHN H. REAGAN, A. T. RAINEY, S. G. STEWART AND T. J. WORD WERE DELEGATES TO THE SECESSION CONVENTION IN AUSTIN, AND RAINEY AND REAGAN SIGNED THE TEXAS ORDINANCE OF SECESSION. BEFORE THE VOTE, GOVERNOR SAM HOUSTON SPOKE AGAINST SECESSION ON THE STEPS OF THE OSCEOLA HOTEL IN PALESTINE.

MORE THAN 1,100 ANDERSON COUNTIANS HELPED FORM TWELVE INFANTRY AND CAVALRY COMPANIES FOR THE CONFEDERATE ARMY, INCLUDING SEVEN COMPANIES ENTIRELY OF LOCAL MEN. MORE THAN 300 DIED IN THE WAR AND ARE BURIED AT FAMED BATTLEFIELDS FROM NEW MEXICO TO PENNSYLVANIA. THOSE ON THE HOME FRONT CONTRIBUTED GREATLY TO THE WAR EFFORT. FACTORIES NEAR MOUND PRAIRIE AND PLENITUDE PRODUCED FLOUR, CLOTH, RIFLES, AMMUNITION, TIN GOODS, SHOES, HARNESSSES, BRIDLES AND OTHER LEATHER GOODS. THE SALT WORKS WEST OF PALESTINE FILLED A NEED FOR FOOD AND MEAT PRESERVATION. LADIES KNITTED SOCKS AND BLANKETS AND SEWED SHIRTS AND TROUSERS BOUND FOR THE WAR FRONT. THE HUNTER HOTEL SERVED AS A MAKESHIFT HOSPITAL, HOSTING MEN OF THE 10TH TEXAS INFANTRY IN MAY 1862; NINE OF THEM ULTIMATELY SUCCEMDED TO THEIR WOUNDS AND ILLNESSES AND WERE BURIED IN THE OLD CITY CEMETERY.

SEVERAL CITIZENS SERVED LEADING ROLES IN THE CONFEDERACY, INCLUDING REAGAN, WHO WAS POSTMASTER GENERAL AND TREASURY SECRETARY OF THE GOVERNMENT AT RICHMOND. HE AND CONFEDERATE PRESIDENT JEFFERSON DAVIS WERE CAPTURED TOGETHER AT THE CLOSE OF THE WAR. ANDERSON COUNTY IS THE FINAL RESTING PLACE OF MORE THAN 500 VETERANS FROM ALL ACROSS THE SOUTH, AND THE PRESENT HOME OF THOUSANDS OF DESCENDANTS OF THOSE VETERANS.

(2012)

MARKER IS PROPERTY OF THE STATE OF TEXAS

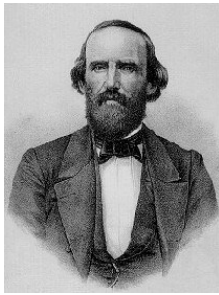


## CONFEDERATE VICTORY

### THE BATTLE OF WILSON'S CREEK AUG 10, 1861



Maj. Gen Sterling  
Price, MSG



Brig. Gen Ben  
McCulloch, CSA



Brig. Gen. Nicholas  
Bartlett Pearce, CSA

The  **Battle of Wilson's Creek**, also known as the  **Battle of Oak Hills**, was the first major battle of the Trans-Mississippi Theater of the American Civil War. It was fought on August 10, 1861, near Springfield, Missouri.

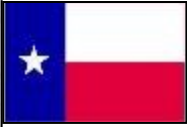
In August, Confederates under Brigadier General Benjamin McCulloch and Missouri State Guard troops under Maj.

Gen. Sterling Price approached Brig. Gen. Nathaniel Lyon's Army of the West, camped at Springfield. On August 10, Lyon, in two columns commanded by himself and Col. Franz Sigel, attacked the Confederates on Wilson's Creek about 10 miles southwest of Springfield. Confederate cavalry received the first blow and retreated from the high ground. Confederate infantry attacked the Union forces three times during the day but failed to break through. Eventually, Sigel's column was driven back to Springfield, allowing the Confederates to consolidate their forces against Lyon's main column. When Lyon was killed and General Thomas William Sweeny wounded, Major Samuel D. Sturgis assumed command of the Union forces. When Sturgis realized that his men were exhausted and lacking ammunition, he ordered a retreat to Springfield. The battle was reckoned as a Confederate victory, but the Confederates were too disorganized and ill-equipped to pursue the retreating Union forces.

Although the state remained in the Union for the remainder of the war, the battle effectively gave the Confederates control of southwestern Missouri. The victory at Wilson's Creek also allowed Price to lead the Missouri State Guard north in a campaign culminating at the siege of Lexington, Missouri.



Above: The battle as depicted on a mural in the Missouri State Capitol



## CONFEDERATE VICTORY

### THE BATTLE OF WILSON'S CREEK AUG 10, 1861



At the beginning of the American Civil War, Missouri declared that it would be an "armed neutral" in the conflict, and not send materials or men to either side. On April 20, a secessionist mob seized the arsenal in Liberty, Missouri, increasing Union concerns in the state. The neutrality was put to a major test on May 10, in what became known as the Camp Jackson Affair. Governor Claiborne F. Jackson had called out the Missouri Volunteer Militia (MVM) to drill on the edge of St. Louis in Lindell Grove. The governor had clandestinely obtained artillery from the Confederacy and smuggled the pieces into the militia encampment – referred to as "Camp Jackson". Capt. Nathaniel Lyon was aware of this shipment and was concerned the militia would move on the St. Louis Arsenal. Thomas W. Sweeny was put in command of the arsenal's defense, and Lyon surrounded the militia camp with Union troops and home guards, forcing the surrender of the militia. When he marched the prisoners through the streets to the arsenal, some angry members of the crowd began to press against the procession. Taunts and jostling eventually led to gunfire and many deaths. Most of the dead were civilians, but several soldiers and members of the militia were also killed.

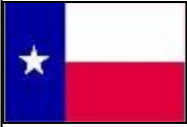
A day later, the Missouri General Assembly created the Missouri State Guard (replacing the MVM) theoretically to defend the state from attacks by perceived enemies on either side of the war. The governor appointed Sterling Price as the commander with the rank of major general of state forces. The state guard was divided into divisions, with each division consisting of units raised from a military district of Missouri and commanded by a brigadier general. Because many of the organization's recruiting areas were behind Union lines, many divisions were the size of a brigade, consisting of only a few regiments. Fearing Missouri's tilt to the South, William S. Harney, the Federal commander of the U.S. Army's Department of the West (which included Missouri) negotiated the Price-Harney Truce on May 12, which nominally created cooperation between the U.S. Army and the MSG to maintain order in Missouri and protect it from outside interference. Jackson publicly declared his support for the truce, while secretly requesting that Confederate forces enter Missouri to "liberate" Missouri from Federal control.

After complaints by Missouri Unionists, Harney was replaced by Lyon (who was promoted to brigadier general of volunteers), further undermining the fragile truce. On June 12, Lyon and Jackson met at the St. Louis' Planter's House Hotel in a last attempt to avoid a resumption of fighting. Both sides were inflexible, with Lyon demanding the right to inspect any area of the state for Confederate intervention, and Jackson refusing and demanding that Federal forces be restricted to the St. Louis metropolitan area. Colonel Snead, the only surviving witness to that meeting, stated that the meeting ended with Lyon reportedly saying:

...rather than concede to the State of Missouri for one single instant the right to dictate to my Government in any matter however unimportant, I would see you, and you, and you, and every man, woman, and child in the State, dead and buried. This means war. In an hour one of my officers will call for you and conduct you out of my lines.

Lyon sent a force under Sweeney to Springfield while his own forces quickly captured the capital and pursued Jackson, Price, and the now-exiled state government across Missouri. Skirmishes followed, including the Battle of Boonville on June 17 and the Battle of Carthage on July 5. In light of the crisis, the delegates of the Missouri Constitutional Convention that had rejected secession in February reconvened. On July 27, the convention declared the governor's office vacant and selected Hamilton Rowan Gamble to be the new provisional governor.

By July 13, Lyon's army of approximately 5,430 men was encamped at Springfield. His force was composed of the 1st, 2nd, 3rd, and 5th Missouri infantry, the 1st Iowa Infantry, the 1st and 2nd Kansas infantry, as well as several companies of regular army infantry and cavalry and three batteries of artillery.



## CONFEDERATE VICTORY

### THE BATTLE OF WILSON'S CREEK AUG 10, 1861



He divided the units into four brigades commanded by Major Samuel D. Sturgis, Colonel Franz Sigel, Lieutenant Colonel George Andrews, and Colonel George Dietzler.

By the end of July, the Missouri State Guard was camped about 75 mi (121 km) southwest of Springfield and had been reinforced by Confederate Brigadier General Benjamin McCulloch and Arkansas state militia Brigadier General N. Bart Pearce, making the mixed Missouri/Arkansas/Confederate force about 12,120 strong. Price and McCulloch developed plans to attack Springfield, but Lyon marched out of the city on August 1 in an attempt to surprise the Southern forces. The armies' vanguards skirmished at Dug Springs, Missouri on August 2. The Union force emerged as the victor, but Lyon learned he was outnumbered by more than two-to-one and retreated back to Springfield. McCulloch, now in command of the Missouriian army, gave chase. By August 6, his force was encamped at Wilson's Creek, 10 miles (16 km) southwest of the city. Price favored an immediate attack on Springfield but McCulloch, doubtful about the quality of the Missouri State Guard, preferred to remain in place. After Price threatened to launch an attack without his support, McCulloch agreed to an attack at dawn on the 10th but when a rainstorm started during the evening of the ninth, he canceled his plans and ordered his troops back to camp.

Outnumbered, Lyon planned to withdraw northeast to Rolla to reinforce and resupply, but not before launching a surprise attack on the Missouriian camp to delay pursuit. Sigel proposed striking McCulloch in a pincer movement, which would split the already outnumbered Union force; he planned to lead 1,200 men in a flanking maneuver while the main body under Lyon struck from the north. Lyon concurred, and in accord with Sigel's plan, the Union army marched out of Springfield on the rainy night of August 9, leaving about 1,000 men to protect supplies and cover the retreat.

At first light on the morning of August 10, the Union began a surprise attack on the opposing forces. Lyon's force overran the enemy camps and took the high ground at the crest of a ridge, which would become known as "Bloody Hill". Early Union hopes for a rout were dashed, however, when the artillery of the Pulaski Arkansas Battery unlimbered and checked the advance, which gave Price's infantry time and cover to organize lines on the south slope of the hill. Lyon organized a line on the southern slope of Bloody Hill, from which he launched an unsuccessful counterattack. Price launched a series of frontal and flank attacks but was also unsuccessful; a shortage of ammunition in the Confederate army was a factor in the Confederate defeats.

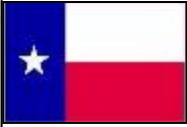
The two Union forces lost contact with each other, with no means of communicating or supporting each other if anything went wrong. Sigel's attack was successful at first; the brigade arrived in the Confederate rear soon after dawn. Artillery fire routed the Confederate cavalry units, which were encamped at Sharp's farm. Sigel began a pursuit, but stopped along Skegg's Branch. During the break, he failed to post skirmishers, leaving his left flank open for an attack. Meanwhile, McCulloch rallied several Confederate units, including the 3rd Louisiana Infantry and the 3rd Division from the Missouri State Guard, to lead a counterattack. Sigel's men mistook the 3rd Louisiana for the 1st Iowa Infantry (which also wore gray uniforms) and withheld their fire until the Confederates were nearly upon them.



His flank was consequently devastated by the counterattack, and his brigade was routed, losing four cannons. Sigel and his men fled the field, leaving the force under Lyon, Sweeny, and Sturgis holding out alone.

Picture at left: The Ray House is located on the eastern end of Wilson's Creek National Battlefield.





## CONFEDERATE VICTORY

### THE BATTLE OF WILSON'S CREEK AUG 10, 1861



With the rout of Sigel's flank, the momentum of the battle shifted in the South's favor. Lyon was wounded twice, and worried that "the day was lost", he attempted to lead a counterattack. However, Lyon was shot in the heart, and the charge fell apart after his death. Lyon became the first Union general to be killed in the war. General Sweeny was shot in the leg, and Major Sturgis, as the highest ranking Regular Army officer, assumed command of the Union army. Despite still being in a defensible position atop the hill, Union supplies were low and morale was worsening. By 11:00 a.m., the Union forces had already repulsed three separate Confederate charges. Ammunition and men were nearly exhausted, and Sturgis retreated rather than risk a fourth Confederate attack. Henry Clay Wood, in command of a company that helped cover the retreat, later received the Medal of Honor for the heroism he displayed in keeping his company organized and functioning as it left the battlefield.

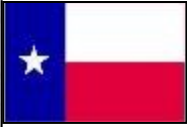
The casualties were about equal on both sides – around 1,317 Union and an estimated 1,232 Confederate/Missourian/Arkansan soldiers were either killed, wounded, or captured. Though the Confederate force won the field, they were unable to pursue the retreating Union forces to Rolla. Price wanted to start a pursuit of the Union force immediately, but McCulloch refused, worried about the quality of the Missouri State Guard and the length of his supply line back to Arkansas. With the victory, Price's Missouri Guard began an invasion of northern Missouri that culminated in the First Battle of Lexington on September 20. The Confederate and Arkansas forces withdrew from the state.

After falling back to Springfield, Sturgis handed command of the Union army over to Sigel. At a council of war that evening, it was agreed that the army had to fall back to Rolla, beginning at 3 a.m. the next morning. However, Sigel failed to get his brigade ready at that time, forcing a delay of several hours. Along the retreat route, Sigel's men took several lengthy delays to prepare meals; this caused the other officers to force Sigel to turn command back over to Sturgis.

The Battle of Wilson's Creek was the first major battle fought west of the Mississippi River. The battle was known as the Battle of Oak Hills in the Confederacy, and is sometimes called the "Bull Run of the West".

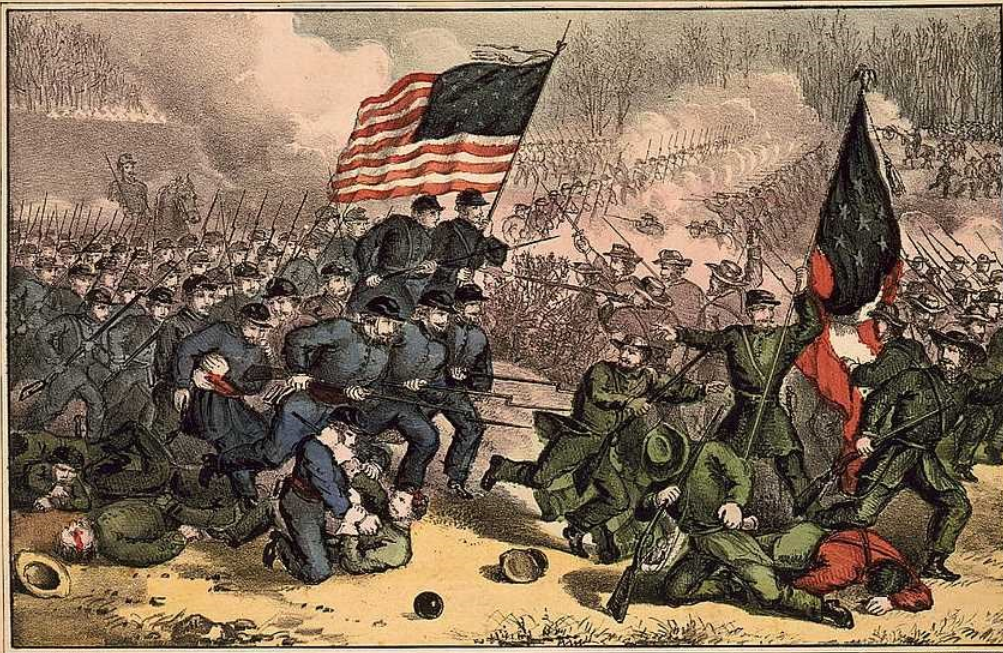
The site of the battle has been protected as Wilson's Creek National Battlefield. The National Park Service operates a visitor center featuring exhibits, a fiber optic map displaying the course of the battle, and a research library. Living history programs depicting various aspects of the soldier's experience of that area are presented on weekends seasonally. With the exception of the vegetation and the addition of interpretive hiking trails and a self-guided auto tour route, the 1,750 acres (7.1 km<sup>2</sup>) battlefield has changed little from its historic setting, allowing visitors to experience the battlefield in nearly pristine condition. The home of the Ray family, which served as a Confederate field hospital during the battle, has been preserved and represents one of only two structures in existence during the battle to still be extant on the park today (the other being a springhouse). In addition, the American Battlefield Trust has preserved 278 acres (1.13 km<sup>2</sup>) of the Wilson's Creek battlefield.





## AUGUST CONFEDERATE VICTORY

### THE BATTLE OF SECOND MANASSAS AUG 28-30, 1862



THE SECOND BATTLE OF BULL RUN, FOUGHT AUGUST 29<sup>TH</sup> 1862.

*Between the Army of Virginia, under Maj. Gen. John Pope, and the combined forces of the Rebel Army under Lee, Jackson, and others. This terrific battle was fought on the identical battle field of Bull Run, and lasted with great fury from daylight until after dark, when the rebels were driven back, and the Union Army rested in triumph on the field.*

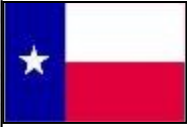
After the collapse of Maj. Gen. George B. McClellan's Peninsula Campaign in the Seven Days Battles of June 1862, President Abraham Lincoln appointed John Pope to command the newly formed Army of Virginia. Pope had achieved some success in the Western Theater, and Lincoln sought a more aggressive general than McClellan.

The **Second Battle of Bull Run** or **Battle of Second Manassas** was fought August 28–30, 1862, in Prince William County, Virginia, as part of the American Civil War. It was the culmination of the Northern Virginia Campaign waged by Confederate Gen. Robert E. Lee's Army of northern Virginia against Union Maj. Gen. John Pope's Army of Virginia, and a battle of much larger scale and numbers than the First Battle of Bull Run (or First Manassas) fought on July 21, 1861, on the same ground.

Following a wide-ranging flanking march, Confederate Maj. Gen. Thomas J. “Stonewall” Jackson captured the Union supply depot at Manassas Junction, threatening Pope's line of communications with Washington, D.C.. Withdrawing a few miles to the northwest, Jackson took up strong concealed defensive positions on Stony Ridge and awaited the arrival of the wing of Lee's army commanded by Maj. Gen. James Longstreet. On August 28, 1862, Jackson attacked a Union column just east of Gainesville, at Brawner's Farm, resulting in a stalemate but successfully getting Pope's attention. On that same day, Longstreet broke through light Union resistance in the Battle of Thoroughfare Gap and approached the battlefield.

Pope became convinced that he had trapped Jackson and concentrated the bulk of his army against him. On August 29, Pope launched a series of assaults against Jackson's position along an unfinished railroad grade. The attacks were repulsed with heavy casualties on both sides. At noon, Longstreet arrived on the field from Thoroughfare Gap and took position on Jackson's right flank. On August 30, Pope renewed his attacks, seemingly unaware that Longstreet was on the field. When massed Confederate artillery devastated a Union assault by Maj. Gen. Fitz John Porter's V Corps, Longstreet's wing of 25,000 men in five divisions counterattacked in the largest simultaneous mass assault of the war. The Union left flank was crushed and the army was driven back to Bull Run. Only an effective Union rear guard action prevented a replay of the First Manassas defeat. Pope's retreat to Centreville was nonetheless precipitous.

Success in this battle emboldened General Robert E. Lee to initiate the ensuing Maryland Campaign.



## AUGUST IN THE LIFE OF JOHN H. REAGAN



August 3, 1857: John H. Reagan  
Defeated Lemuel D. Evans by a vote  
of 341 to 9,929 in the race for U.S.  
Representative.

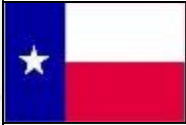


August 1, 1859 John H. Reagan defeated William B. Ochiltree  
by a vote of 23,977 to 3,464 for a 2nd term as a U.S.  
Representative



August 1, 1946: Home site of John H.  
Reagan deeded to Anderson County  
by Mrs. Jeff D. Reagan

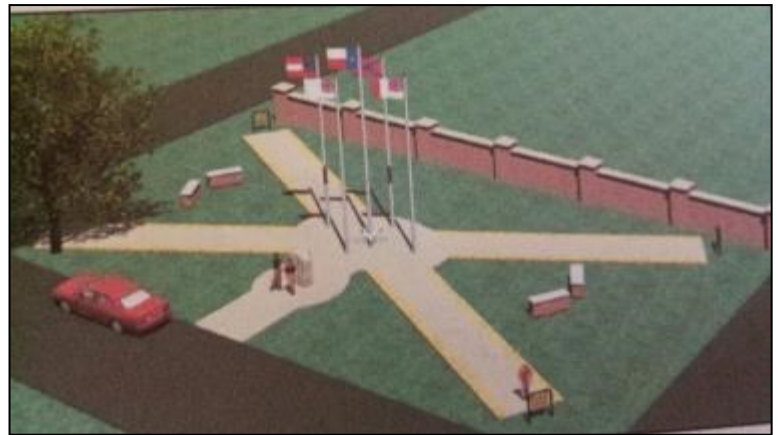




## A GREAT WAY TO ENSURE THAT YOUR ANCESTOR'S SERVICE AND HONOR IS NOT FORGOTTEN



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



AUGUST 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			<p>1 <b>undated</b> - to Annie</p> <p>I wish you to be very good, very wise, very healthy, &amp; very happy</p>	<p>2 <b>undated</b> -</p> <p>If the subject of education could be of more importance at one period of our history than at another, that period is the present.</p>	<p>3 <b>undated</b> -</p> <p>My only object is to endeavor to make students see their true interest, to teach them to labor diligently &amp; to prepare themselves for the great work of life.</p>	<p>4, <b>August 1861</b> - to wife.</p> <p>What a glorious world Almighty god has given us. How thankless &amp; ungrateful we are, &amp; how we labour to mar his gifts.</p>
<p>5, <b>August 1867</b> - to Robert</p> <p>A farmer's life is one of labour, but it is also one of pleasure.</p>	<p>6 <b>undated</b> -</p> <p>We must expect reverses, even defeats. They are sent to teach us wisdom &amp; prudence, to call forth greater energies, &amp; to prevent our falling into greater disasters.</p>	<p>6 <b>undated</b> -</p> <p>We must expect reverses, even defeats. They are sent to teach us wisdom &amp; prudence, to call forth greater energies, &amp; to prevent our falling into greater disasters.</p>	<p>7 <b>undated</b></p> <p>I dislike to have more than I actually require</p>	<p>8 <b>undated</b> - to Jeff Davis</p> <p>I know how prone we are to blame others for the nonfulfillment of our expectations. This is unbecoming in a generous people &amp; I grieve to see its expression.</p>	<p>9 <b>undated</b> - to Jeff Davis</p> <p>No matter what may be the ability of the officer, if he loses the confidence of his troops disaster must sooner or later ensue.</p>	<p>10, <b>August</b> - to Rooney</p> <p>I shall endeavor to procure some humble, but quiet, abode for your mother &amp; sisters, where I hope they can be happy.</p>
<p>11 <b>undated</b> -</p> <p>To succeed it is necessary to set the example.</p>	<p>12 <b>undated</b> -</p> <p>Incubating discipline is a painful tedious process, &amp; is not apt to win popular favour.</p>	<p>13, <b>August 1863</b> -</p> <p>God is our refuge &amp; strength. Let us humble ourselves before Him. Let us beseech Him to give us a higher courage, a purer patriotism, &amp; more determined will</p>	<p>14 <b>undated</b> - to Eliza Stiles</p> <p>It is sad to see a soldier die, &amp; heart rending to announce it to his parents.</p>	<p>15 <b>undated</b> - to Charlotte.</p> <p>Teach him that his only refuge is in Him, the greatness of whose mercy reacheth unto the heavens, &amp; His truth unto the clouds.</p>	<p>16 <b>undated</b>— to a son.</p> <p>I hope you will continue never to exceed your means. It will save you much anxiety &amp; mortification.</p>	<p>17 <b>undated</b>— to Judge Andrew Magrath</p> <p>The best troops are ineffective without good officers.</p>
<p>18, <b>August 1865</b>—To Carter Lee</p> <p>I have to labour for my living and I am ashamed to do nothing that will give me honest support.</p>	<p>19 <b>undated</b>—</p> <p>That is a political question, Mr. Hill &amp; you politicians must determine it; I shall endeavor to take care of the Army.</p>	<p>20 <b>undated</b> to Custis</p> <p>Do not dream. It is too ideal. Live in the world you inhabit. Look upon things as they are. Take them as you find them</p>	<p>21, <b>August 1835</b> - to wife</p> <p>I must not consent to do aught that would lower me in your eyes, my own &amp; that of others.</p>	<p>22 <b>August 1866</b> - to H. C. Saunder</p> <p>I prefer remaining silent to doing anything that might excite angry discussion.</p>	<p>23 <b>undated</b> - to College Trustees</p> <p>I think it the duty of every citizen, in the present condition of the country, to do all in his power to aid in the restoration of peace &amp; harmony.</p>	<p>24 <b>August, 1865</b> - to College Trustees</p> <p>it is particularly incumbent on those charged with the instruction of the youth to set them an example of submission to authority.</p>
<p>25 <b>undated</b> -</p> <p>I speak of the proper rule in republics, where, I think, we should have neither military statesmen nor political generals.</p>	<p>26 <b>undated</b> - to Jack Mackay</p> <p>It is so much more easy to make heroes on paper than in the field.</p>	<p>27 <b>August 1864</b> - to Custis</p> <p>I have only one earthly want, that God in His infinite mercy will send our enemies back to their homes.</p>	<p>28 <b>August 1865</b> -</p> <p>There is no labour so beneficent, so elevated &amp; so sublime, as the teaching of salvation to every man.</p>	<p>29 <b>undated</b> - to Gov. Letcher</p> <p>It is the part of wisdom to acquiesce in the result.</p>	<p>30 <b>undated</b> - to B. Duncan</p> <p>Every man must do his part in this great work. He must carry into the administration of his affairs industry, fidelity &amp; economy.</p>	<p>31 <b>undated</b> - to E. Pollard</p> <p>My thanks for the compliment by your proposition to write a history of my life. Independently of the few national events it presents little to interest the reader.</p>



## TEXAS CIVIL WAR HISTORY IN AUGUST



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

August 9, 1946 - On this day, the last Confederate reunion was held at Camp Ben McCulloch. This golden Jubilee included a memorial service for the camp's last two members, who had died the previous year. The camp, near Driftwood, in Hays County, was organized in the summer of 1896 as a reunion camp for Confederate veterans and named for Confederate General Benjamin McCulloch. Annual three-day reunions were held at the camp, often with 5,000 to 6,000 persons attending. In 1930, Ben McCulloch was said to be the largest Confederate Camp in existence. Subsequently, the camp became the location of the annual meetings of the Sons and Daughters of the Confederacy, with various activities and services spanning a week in early June. The campsite, on a branch of Onion Creek, also remains a popular picnic area for residents of northern Hays County.

August 10, 1862 - On this day, Confederate soldiers attacked a force of Hill Country Unionists camped in route to Mexico beside the Nueces River in Kinney County. The skirmish is known as the battle of the Nueces. The sixty-odd Unionists, mostly German intellectuals, had camped without choosing a defensive position or posting a strong guard. Nineteen of them were killed and nine were wounded. The wounded were executed by the Confederates later in the day. Two Confederates were killed and eighteen wounded. Of the Unionists who escaped from the battle, eight were killed on October 18 while trying to cross into Mexico. After the war, the remains of the Unionists were gathered and interred at Comfort, where a monument commemorates them.

August 13, 1906 - On this day, black soldiers of the Twenty-fifth U.S. Infantry allegedly attacked citizens of Brownsville. The event resulted in the largest summary dismissals in the history of the United States Army. The soldiers, newly arrived at Fort Brown from the Philippines and Nebraska, confronted racial discrimination for some businesses and suffered physical abuse from some federal customs collectors. A reported attack on a white woman during the night of August 12 so enraged the citizens that Maj. Charles W. Penrose, after consultation with Mayor Frederick Combe, declared an early curfew. Just after midnight on the thirteenth, a bartender was fatally shot and a police lieutenant was wounded. Various citizens claimed to have seen soldiers running through the streets shooting, even though it was dark. Several civilian and military investigations presumed the guilt of the soldiers without identifying individual culprits. When suspects were not forthcoming, the army inspector general charged a "conspiracy of silence." On November 5, president Theodore Roosevelt discharged "without honor" all 167 enlisted men garrisoned at Fort Brown. This action fueled political and "due process" arguments for more than sixty years. In 1972, the Nixon administration awarded honorable discharges, without back pay, to the soldiers involved. The only surviving veteran, Dorsie Willis, received a \$25,000 settlement.

August 20, 1866 - On this day, President Andrew Johnson, declaring that "the insurrection in the State of Texas has been completely and everywhere suppressed and ended," officially ended the Civil War by issuing a proclamation of peace between the United States and Texas. Johnson had declared a state of peace between the U.S. and the other ten Confederate states on April 2, 1866. The last land battle of the Civil War took place at Palmito Ranch near Brownsville on May 13, 1865, more than a month after Robert E. Lee surrendered at Appomattox Courthouse.

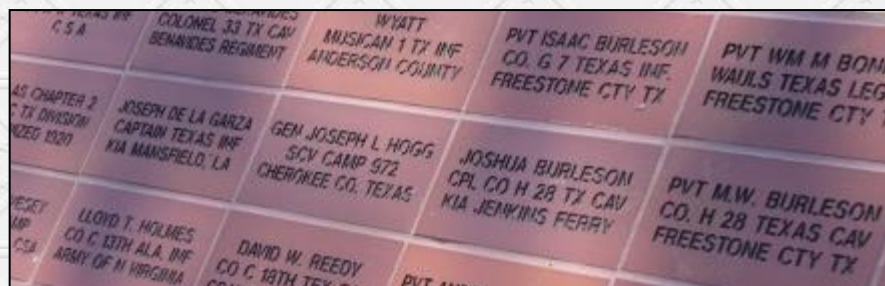
August 30, 1862 - On this day, Hood's Texas Brigade played a distinguished part in the battle of Second Manassas. After a Union assault was broken up by artillery fire, Confederate General Longstreet launched his First Corps, with the Texas Brigade in the lead, in one of the most successful counterattacks of the Civil War. The Fourth Texas Infantry, under the command of Lt. Col. B. F. Carter; captured a federal battery of artillery, losing eleven killed and twenty wounded in the process. After the battle the commander of the brigade, Gen. John Hood, encountered the commander of the Army of Northern Virginia, Robert E. Lee, who playfully asked him what had become of the enemy. Hood answered that the Texans had chased them across Bull Run "almost at a double quick." A regiment of New York Zouaves was shattered by the assault, and, seeing their brightly uniformed bodies scattered about the next morning, a Texas officer wrote that they gave the battlefield "the appearance of a Texas hillside when carpeted in the spring by wildflowers of many hues and tints."



## 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: [danielder497@yahoo.com](mailto:danielder497@yahoo.com) or Phone: (903) 391-2224 or Richard Thornton, Adjutant/Treasurer at E-mail: [tx\\_tsar@hotmail.com](mailto: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

**Ed Heitman, Commander**  
E-mail: [edheitman@gmail.com](mailto:edheitman@gmail.com)  
Phone: (903-504-6674)

Richard Thornton, Adjutant/Treasurer  
Palestine, Texas  
E-mail: [tx\\_tsar@hotmail.com](mailto:tx_tsar@hotmail.com)  
Phone: 903-731-1557

Dwight Franklin, Chaplain/Newsletter  
Editor: [dwrightfranklin1@yahoo.com](mailto:dwrightfranklin1@yahoo.com)

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: 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.