



SONS OF CONFEDERATE VETERANS, TEXAS DIVISION

THE JOHN H. REAGAN CAMP NEWS

www.reaganscvcamp.org

VOLUME 17, ISSUE 2

FEBRUARY 2025

REAGAN CAMP MOURNS 2 LOSSES

February is a month that is always one of the coldest winter months in our part of East Texas. It may only have 28 days, but it seems to always leave some things to memory. This year February brought great sadness to the men of the Reagan Camp. That was because we lost two of our friends; men who were faithful members of the John H. Reagan Camp.

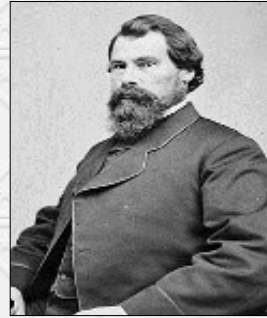
The first loss of the month was when long time Compatriot Doug Smith lost his lengthy battle from an infection that he got from a hip replacement surgery several years ago. Doug had undergone many hip surgeries since that time while the doctors tried over and over and over to get the infection under control.

Doug was always optimistic and was a fighter to the end.

Several years ago, Doug had been the camp adjutant when no one else would take the job. He did a great job as adjutant, even though he did not ask for the job. He was a friend to all, and he will be missed.

On February 24th, the camp lost another good friend when compatriot J.B. Mason passed away after courageously fighting a lengthy with illness.

J.B. very seldom missed a camp meeting, even though he had to drive all the way from Fairfield to Palestine to attend. He was a quiet man, but he was a man who was a joy to be around. J.B. was not a man who said much, but when he talked, he had something that was worth listening to. He was proud of his confederate heritage, and he didn't mind anyone knowing it.



**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

J.B. was a great friend to the Reagan Camp, and he will be missed.

Losing these two Compatriots in one month is a big hit for the Reagan Camp. Both were not only good friends, but they were also loyal compatriots to the Sons of Confederate Veterans. Each of them will be missed.

Please keep both of their families in your prayers.



CAMP MEETINGS

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

Guests are welcome!  
 Bring the family.

www.reaganscvcamp.org



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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).**



Jefferson Davis was inaugurated as President of the Confederate States of America on February 22, 1862.

**Prayer List**

- Compatriot Forrest Bradberry
- Compatriot Gary Gibson & his wife, Lynn
- Family of Compatriot J.B. Mason who passed away this month
- Family of Compatriot Doug Smith who passed away this month
- Past Reagan Camp Historian Gary Williams
- Former Camp Commander Rudy Ray
- United Daughters of the Confederacy
- The Sovereign State of Texas

**Officers for 2025**

- 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**


**Feb 25, 2025 - February Meeting**

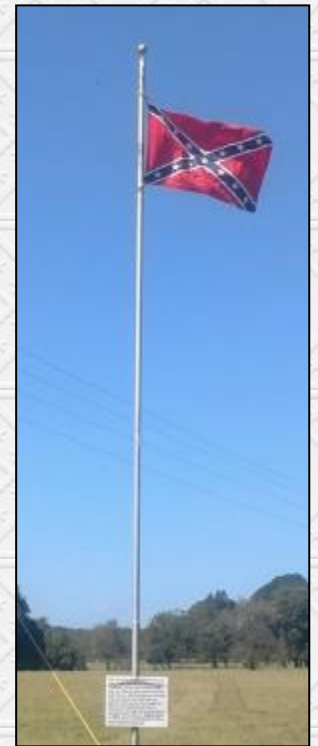
**March 25, 2025 - March Meeting**

**April 22, 2025 - April Meeting**

**May 27, 2025 - May Meeting**

This flag flies in honor and memory of over 1,000 Confederate veterans from Anderson County who marched off to war, one third of whom never returned, and the over 500 Confederate veterans from all across the South who are buried in this county. They fought for liberty and independence from a tyrannical and oppressive government.

Provided by the John H. Reagan Camp #2156, Sons of Confederate Veterans.  
[www.reaganscvcamp.org](http://www.reaganscvcamp.org) 



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

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

-PRESIDENT JEFFERSON DAVIS-

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

-GENERAL ROBERT E. LEE-





# REAGAN CAMP MOURNS THE PASSING OF COMPATRIOT & FRIEND—DOUG SMITH

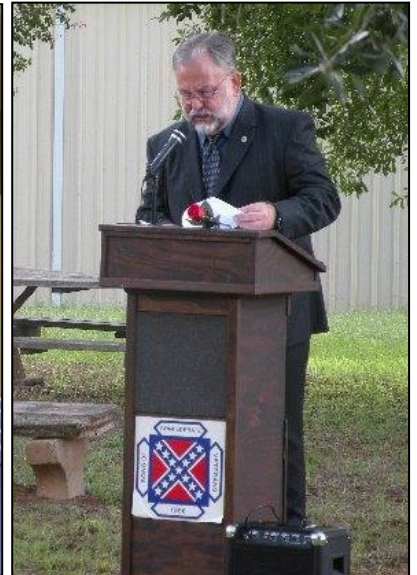
October 29, 1951—February 6, 2025



The Reagan Camp mourns the loss of our friend and compatriot Doug Smith. Doug fought infections from hip replacement surgery for the past several years. He has had several hip replacements after the initial surgery ended up becoming infected. Throughout all of his surgeries, Doug remained optimistic and kept his positive attitude.

Doug was not only a valuable member to the Reagan Camp, but he was a valuable member to the community.

Please remember his wife and family in your prayers. Doug will be missed, but he will never be forgotten.







## REMEMBERING COMPATRIOT DOUG SMITH



### DOUG SMITH OBITUARY

*It is with great sorrow that we announce the passing of Guy Douglas Smith, III, age 73, of Palestine, Texas. Doug, as he was best known to his family and friends, passed away at Christus Mother Frances Hospital in Tyler, Texas on the 6th day of February 2025, with the love and support of his family by his side. He was born in Dallas, Texas, on the 29th day of October 1951 to parents Guy Douglas Smith, Jr. and Patricia Ann Page Smith.*

*Doug's commitment to public service was evident through his tenure as a City Councilman, where he dedicated himself to the betterment of Anderson County. His passion for justice and rehabilitation led him to a fulfilling career as a parole officer with the Texas Department of Criminal Justice, from which he retired in 2011. Doug was a previous member and "the voice of the Westwood Panthers" on KLIS where he was devoted to delivering exciting play by plays on the radio for fans for many years. Later in life, he reprised his role of radio commentator on KNET for a few more Westwood Panthers games to round out his radio career.*

*A man of faith, Doug was a proud and long-standing member of the Trinity Valley Community Church praise team and was an invaluable piece of the church in any facet he was in. His love for the arts shone brightly as he took to the stage with the Palestine Community Theatre, where he delighted audiences with his singing and dancing. Doug's patriotism was evident as a member and former ride captain of the East Texas Patriot Guard Riders.*

*Doug's civic engagement extended to his participation in "Citizens on Patrol," where he worked to ensure the safety and security of his neighborhood. A staunch supporter of the Second Amendment, he was also a proud member of the Texas State Rifle Association. His political involvement was a significant part of his life, as evidenced by his active role in the Republican National Committee.*

*Volunteering was second nature to Doug; he generously gave his time to anyone or any organization in need. His outgoing and outspoken nature meant he never met a stranger, and he could often be found engaging in lively discussions on a wide range of topics, especially politics.*

*Above all, Doug cherished his family, particularly his grandchildren, who were the light of his life. His memory will be cherished and kept alive in the hearts of all who were fortunate enough to know him.*

*He is preceded in death by his parents; grandparents, Nell Mccauley, Newman Page, Guy Douglas Smith, Irene Smith; brother-in-law, Kevin Wood; sister-in-law, Kaye Morgan; uncle, Jack Page; aunt, Doris Mullens; and dear friend, Juaniece Henry.*

*Doug leaves behind his beloved wife of over 40 years, Debbie Smith; daughter, Shannon Fitzgerald and husband Thommas; son, Thomas Sistrunk; sister, Stefani Wood; grandchildren, Madeline Sistrunk, Caitlyn Sistrunk, Tanna Adams, Jenna Fitzgerald, Tristan Fitzgerald, Kaysi Fitzgerald, and Cortney Flores; aunt, Sandy Page; nieces, Madison Wood and husband Justin Gilpin, Mackenzie Duke and husband Allan, Jennifer Morgan; nephews, Dylan Wood and wife Mandi Moore, Ben Schoberle and wife Silvia; great-niece, Sophie Duke; great-nephews, William Avila, Samuel Avila, Bennett Gilpin and Everett Wood; cousin, Traci Schoberle and husband Frank; along with family friends, Kay Hardy and Sammye Wood. He is also survived by other family members and a multitude of friends.*

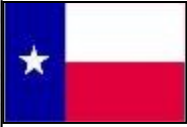
*The family will host a Celebration of Life service at one o'clock in the afternoon on Saturday, the 15th day of February 2025 at The Texas Theatre.*

*Honorary pallbearers include Dr. Sidney Chadwell, John Lamb, Dr. Richard Yates, Gerry Don Goodwin, Mike Henry, and Jim Vincill.*

*In lieu of customary remembrances, memorial contributions can be directed towards The Texas Theatre, P.O. Box 80, Palestine, Texas 75802 or [breastcancer.org](https://www.breastcancer.org).*

*A special thanks to Enhabit Home Health Care and Christus Mother Frances in Tyler, Texas.*

*You can leave electronic condolences at <https://www.rhonefuneralhome.com/obituary/Doug-Smith>*



# REAGAN CAMP MOURNS THE PASSING OF COMPATRIOT & FRIEND—J.B. MASON

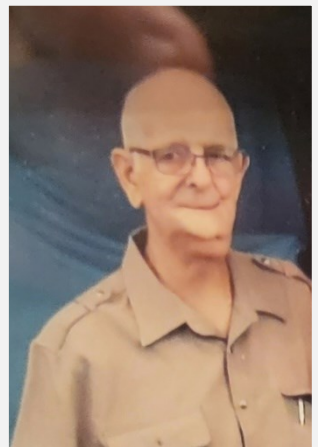
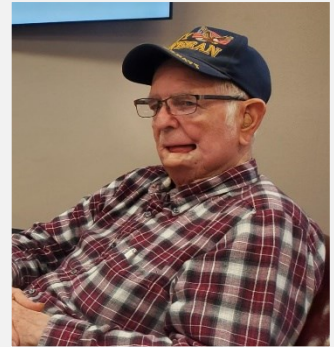
March 16, 1945—February 24, 2025



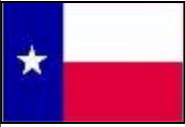
The John H. Reagan Camp mourns the loss of our friend and compatriot J.B. Mason. J.B. passed away on February 24th after a lengthy illness. He was always a joy to be around, and he will be missed by all of his fellow members of the Reagan Camp.

J.B. was a dedicated and loyal member of the Sons of Confederate Veterans and a proud Navy veteran of the Vietnam War.

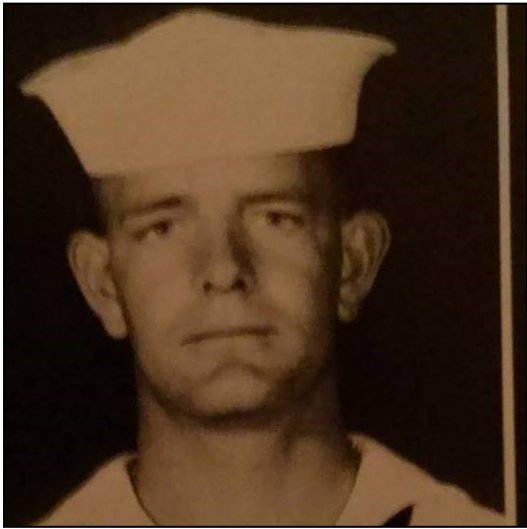
Please keep J.B.'s family in your prayers during this difficult time. He was a cherished member of the Reagan Camp, and he will never be forgotten.







## REMEMBERING COMPATRIOT J.B. MASON



### J.B. Mason Obituary

*J. Benton Mason Jr., age 79, of Fairfield, Texas, passed away on February 24, 2025. He was born on March 16, 1945, in Grand Prairie, Texas, to J.B. Sr. and Floy Mason.*

*J. Benton is survived by his loving wife, Diane Mason; his children, Daniel Roberts and wife Amie, Colleen McNaughton and husband Pete, Sharon John and husband Melvin, Jamie Alford Mason, Jessica Mason, and Alexis Mertz and husband Michael. He is also survived by his siblings, Marian Manning, Betty Sabastian and husband Billy, Linda Black, and Paula Straight, along with 13 grandchildren and 14 great-grandchild. He was preceded in death by his parents.*

*A proud American, J. Benton served his country with honor in the U.S. Navy from 1965 to 1969 aboard the USS Ranger Carrier. His service left a lasting impact on him, including hearing loss, but he remained proud of his time in the military.*

*Benton graduated from Justin F. Kimball High School in Dallas in 1963. He spent his career working for Ballard Electric, Henderson Electric, and Owens Corning before retiring from the Walmart Distribution Center in Palestine, Texas.*

*Beyond his work, Benton had a variety of passions. He was a proud member of the Sons of Confederate Veterans and had a deep love for fishing, hunting, and collecting coins and stamps.*

*A creative and skilled craftsman, he enjoyed making unique lamps out of electric meters.*

*J. Benton was a devoted member of the Methodist Church in Fairfield, where he found faith and community.*

*Cremation arrangements are under the direction of Griffin-Roughton Funeral Home. Visitation with the family will be held on Monday, March 3, 2025, from 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. at Griffin-Roughton Funeral Home.*

*J. Benton will be remembered for his service, his craftsmanship, and the love he shared with his family and friends. His legacy will live on in the hearts of those who knew and loved him.*





## REAGAN CAMP MEETING PICTURES

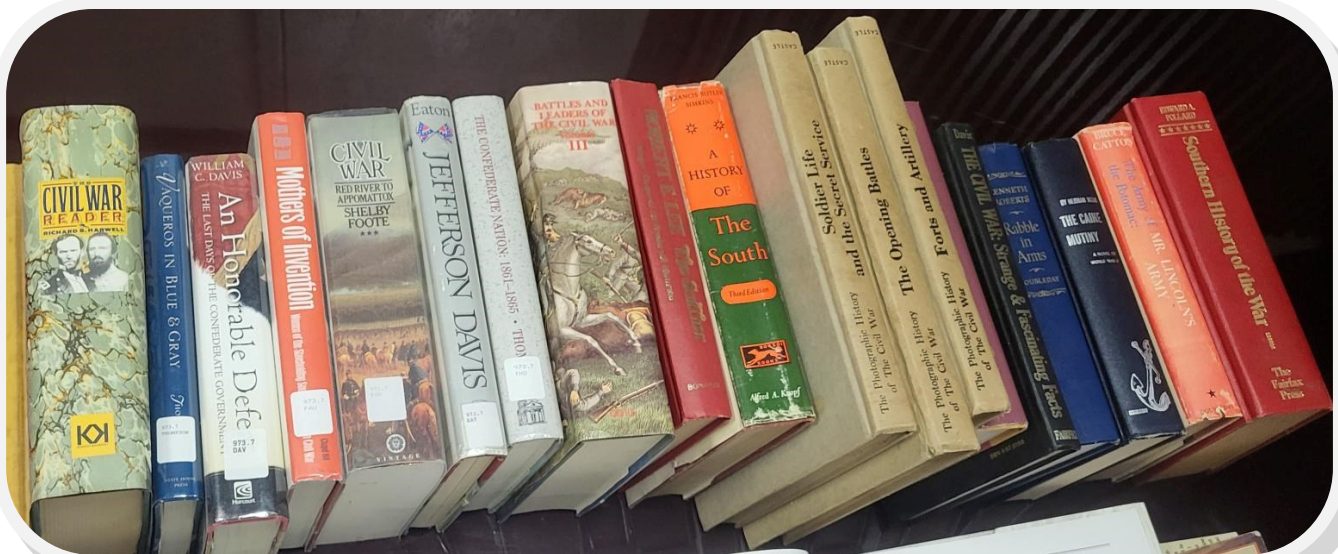


The February meeting was held on February 25th. We had several who were unable to attend, but we still had seven in attendance. We enjoyed a meal of homemade spaghetti, pinto beans with ham, cornbread, and homemade King's Cake.

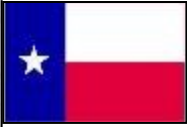
Following the meal, we had a group discussion on current events that are taking place in our country today. It was a very interesting discussion. Richard Thornton brought a box of books that he is giving to anyone who would like them. There are a lot of good books to choose from. You can see a picture of some of them in the picture at the bottom of the page.

We are saddened by the passing of Reagan Camp Compatriots Doug Smith and J.B. Mason. Both of them were an asset to the Reagan Camp and were good friends to all. We will always remember these two good men.

Our next meeting will be on March 25th. Hope to see you there.





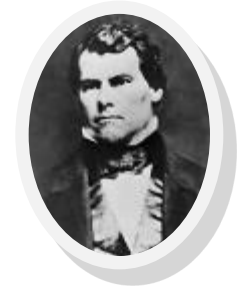


## JOHN H. REAGAN CAMP

### FEBRUARY IN THE LIFE OF JOHN H. REAGAN



February 7, 1857 John H. Reagan took seat in the 35 Congress.



Feb. 14, 1858 John H. Reagan elected as Secretary of Democratic Caucus in Washington to attempt alignment on Kansas State Admittance Bill.



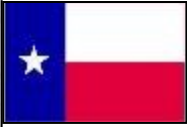
February 4, 1861 John H. Reagan among 7 men elected to represent Texas as Succession Convention in Montgomery, Alabama



February 22, 1911 State Treasurer Sam Sparks issued a \$10,000 check to Mrs. John H. Reagan for Reagan/s letters and state papers, approved by State Legislature and Governor Colquitt.







## FEBRUARY CONFEDERATE VICTORY THE BATTLE OF AIKEN, SOUTH CAROLINA



Vol. 14

NASHVILLE, TENN., JUNE, 1906

No. 6

### Confederate Veteran.



GENERAL JOSEPH WHEELER.  
(Page 248.)

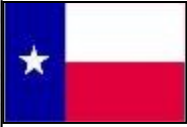
William Tecumseh Sherman, resting his troops in Savannah, declared, "When I go through South Carolina, it will be one of the most horrible things in the history of the world. The devil himself couldn't restrain my men in that state."

Sherman's cavalry commander, Union Brig. Gen. Hugh Judson Kilpatrick, reportedly spent \$5,000 in Savannah for matches for his troopers. Kilpatrick, better known as "Kill Cav" for his rashness in battle that got his own men killed, was obnoxious, boastful and a notorious womanizer. At Savannah, he told his corps, "In after years when travelers passing through South Carolina shall see chimney stacks without houses, and the country desolate, and shall ask who did this, some Yankee will answer, 'Kilpatrick's Cavalry!'" His men would soon leave a scorched swath across South Carolina, burning homes, farms, mill, forests, and even churches.

By Feb. 1, 1865, the invasion of Carolina had begun. Half of Sherman's command under Maj. Gen. Oliver O. Howard, who had been sent to Beaufort by ship from Savannah, Ga., began marching toward Charleston, S.C.

The other wing of Sherman's army under Gen. Henry Slocum moved up the Georgia side of the Savannah River crossing into Carolina at Sister's Ferry and was moving toward Augusta, Ga., where the Confederacy's gunpowder mills were located. Kilpatrick's cavalry was with this wing. Sherman's goal was to keep the Confederates guessing whether Augusta or Charleston would be attacked, while his real objective was to take Columbia, S.C.

By Feb, 5, Kilpatrick had already reached Barnwell, S.C. After looting and burning the town, Kilpatrick sarcastically renamed it "Burn-well" in a memo to Sherman. In two days, Kilpatrick reached the small railroad town of Blackville. The railroad that ran through Blackville connected Augusta to Charleston. For four years this railroad, which ran through Aiken, had transported Confederate troops from various states to numerous battlefields. James Longstreet's corps had passed on this rout to Chickamauga in 1863. Kilpatrick destroyed the track and several cars left at the Blackville station.



## FEBRUARY CONFEDERATE VICTORY THE BATTLE OF AIKEN, SOUTH CAROLINA



He then sent the following message the next morning to Sherman:

*Headquarters Cavalry Command Blackville, Feb. 8, 1865*

*Major-General Sherman:*

*General: I will encamp to night at Williston and destroy some track; February 9 (will be) at or before Windsor, and the following day make demonstrations toward Augusta. Will, if prudent, destroy Government property at Aiken, and as much railroad as possible and return to Windsor. I will be prudent, bold, but not rash.*

*Very respectfully, J. Kilpatrick, Brevet, Major-General*

After sending that message, Kilpatrick crossed into what is now Aiken County, near White Pond, and engaged with Col. Charles C. Crew's regiment of Maj. Gen. Joe Wheeler's cavalry. The Battle of Aiken had begun.

After four years of the war, the Confederate defenses were depleted. The Army of Tennessee was broken in a defeat at Nashville. To defend against Sherman, Gen. P. G. T. Beauregard had various forces, some consisting of militia units composed of young men and old men, and others of units whose ranks had been greatly depleted by the war. Lt. Gen. William J. Hardee, Commander of the Departments of South Carolina and Georgia, was falling back from Savannah toward Charleston. Maj. Gen. Joe Wheeler's Cavalry Corps was almost in daily contact with Sherman trying to delay the Union progress as much as possible. In Augusta, Maj. Gen. D. H. Hill was placed in command of area forces on Jan. 19, 1865.

Augusta was vital to the Confederacy. Huge manufacturing facilities produced virtually all of the gunpowder used by the Confederate forces. In addition, the Graniteville mill was producing 4,000,000 yards of cotton cloth a year. To protect the area, Hill had the Georgia Militia, commanded by Maj. Gen. Gustavus W. Smith, and Hardee's old Corps of the Army of Tennessee, commanded by Maj. Gen. Benjamin Franklin Cheatham. Hill moved these units, which consisted of 3,060 men, to form a defensive line along Big Horse Creek. Cheatham ordered Gen. James Argle Smith, commanding Cleburn's Division, to defend Graniteville. Between this defensive line and Kilpatrick's advancing Union cavalry, they operated Wheeler's cavalry corps and the Aiken Home Guard.

Hill followed up with Cheatham in correspondence that reflects the extent of preparations being made in defense of the area:

*Augusta, Feb. 10, 1865*

*Major General Cheatham*

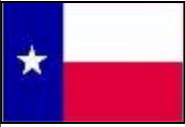
*General,*

*The preservation of the factory at Graniteville is of great importance to the Confederacy as well as to the security of your line. Do you think it prudent to send five hundred men so far out? If the operator at Aiken has brought off his instruments, you might put up a station at Big Horse Creek.*

*Respectfully,*

*H. Hill, Major-General*





## FEBRUARY CONFEDERATE VICTORY THE BATTLE OF AIKEN, SOUTH CAROLINA



Wheeler had approximately 4,500 cavalymen in the Aiken area: Gen. Allen's Division, consisting of Anderson's, Hagan's, and Crew's brigades, and Gen. Hume's Division consisting of Dibrell's, Ashby's, and Harrison's brigades. The men, most of whom had fought four years far away from home, were from Tennessee, Texas, Arkansas, Alabama, and Georgia.

As Kilpatrick's men moved toward Aiken, residents of the county realized their worst fears were coming true. James Courtney determinedly extinguished three fires that Union cavalry had started to destroy his home. Each time Courtney extinguished the fire, the cavalry would restart it. After the third time, the cavalry shot him in the leg to prevent him from saving his house. Courtney sent a request for a Union surgeon to stop the flow of blood, but the surgeon refused to come. Courtney slowly bled to death while family put out the fire. Courtney, possibly, was the first casualty in Aiken County.

A lady in Johnson's Station (Montmorenci) reported on the destruction and pillage of personal property:

*It may have been an hour after their arrival when Pauline came rushing to me saying the Yankees had come ... our first floor was specially filled with armed men. At first I very politely unlocked several trunks assuring them that they only contained ladies apparel ... This band of 150 men ransacked every nook and corner, breaking open trunks and boxes, singing, whistling, swearing ... one young villain came in, fastened the doors, demanded our watches, and using the most profane language and terrible threats ordered us to confess where our gold and silver was buried...the entreaties of our faithful servants alone saved the house from conflagration ... They began digging and found all the concealed provisions but gave us a few hams and some rice. We have lost all our silver, china, and glass. All our blankets, quilts, shawls and all the pillowcases were used as bags to remove provisions.*

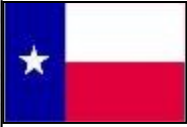
Ransey and Kelly Toole, brothers at home because they were too young to fight, had ropes placed around their necks and were threatened with hanging if they didn't reveal where their horses were hidden in the swamps. Their mother was forced to prepare dinner for the officers, only to see her dishes thrown against a tree when they were through. Even after this, a fire was started under the Toole house as they left, although Mrs. Toole was able to extinguish the blaze.

As refugees fled through Aiken and into Augusta, panic ensued. Would the towns be destroyed? Gen. Hill wrote Wheeler on the 8th, "It seems to me that a concentration of your cavalry upon Kilpatrick would crush him ... I hope that you will keep us constantly apprised of movements." After skirmishing with Kilpatrick at White Pond and Johnson's Station (Montmorenci), Wheeler consolidated his troops in Aiken. The Aiken Home Guards scouted and advised Wheeler as to Kilpatrick's movements.

Wheeler carefully planned to trap Kilpatrick. Wheeler formed his cavalry in the shape of a V, with the bottom of the V pointed west toward Augusta. The railroad and Park Avenue ran down the center of the V. A thin line of skirmishers was deployed between the top tips of the V, which paralleled Williamsburg Street. On the approach of Kilpatrick, the line would fall back toward the west. It was hoped that Kilpatrick would be rash and would charge after the retreating Confederates into the V. Wheeler would then collapse the tops of the V around Kilpatrick, surrounding him.

Although civilians had warned Kilpatrick that Wheeler and Cheatham were in Aiken, the cocksure officer leisurely marched towards the town. On Feb. 11, the Union troops marched up Park, Richland and Barnwell avenues. Wheeler's advanced picket line on Williamsburg Street fell back as planned towards York Street. Here, the plan fell apart when an Alabama trooper fired his gun prematurely, thus springing the trap too soon. Wheeler, realizing that he must act quickly or lose the initiative, ordered all units to attack.

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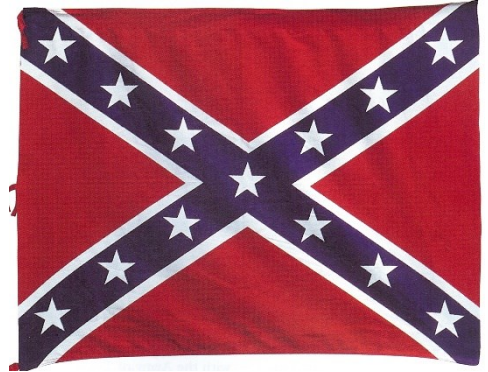


## FEBRUARY CONFEDERATE VICTORY THE BATTLE OF AIKEN, SOUTH CAROLINA



The key engagement occurred on Richland Avenue in front of the Baptist Church. Amidst Rebel yells and shouted commands, the two sides entangled in a hand-to-hand battle. Scattered fights occurred in other parts of the town, including a desperate fight around the Williams' house off South Boundary. To add to the confusion, a Federal battery of the 10th Wisconsin lobbed 59 shells into the town.

The best description of the battle is from John Reed from the 92nd Illinois Mounted Infantry:



**We were within a half-mile of the town of Aiken, when we discovered long lines of rebel cavalry. The column halted ... Kilpatrick came dashing up to the head of the column and desired to know the reason of the halt. Just then a locomotive ran out in plain view near Aiken and whistled and whistled. Kilpatrick brought up the artillery and sent a few rifled shells toward the locomotive and into the town. Kilpatrick also called on the 92nd Illinois Silver Cornet Band to play Yankee Doodle. The next thing in order was for the 92nd Illinois to charge into the town ... Now we felt that we were going into a trap, but Kilpatrick took the lead ... Gen. Atkins ordered the 9th Ohio into line of battle on the right of the road, flanking the artillery, and the 9th Michigan Cavalry into line of battle, flanking the artillery on the left of the road, and holding the 10th Ohio Cavalry in reserve. The ladies of the town waved their handkerchiefs in welcome and smilingly invited the officers and men into their houses. But that kind of a welcome was unusual in South Carolina. It was an additional evidence of danger. In the farther edge of the town, the enemy was in line of battle.**

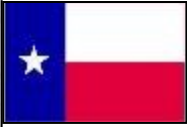
**After the accidental shot per Reed, (the officers) quickly formed the regiment to charge back again to the brigade, the rebels having formed in line in our rear. Every man in the regiment appeared to be conscious that the only way to get out was to assault the rebel line and cut a hole in it. We rode forward to the charge. The rebels awaited our approach until within close range, when they demanded a halt and surrender, and were answered by every man in the regiment pumping into them the eight Spenser bullets in his trusty repeating rifle. It was a desperate charge, and the men fought face to face and hand to hand. Now the brigade bugle sounded the charge and with a yell the 9th Ohio and the 9th Michigan charged into the town of Aiken recapturing a great many of the boys that had been taken prisoners...We were five miles from camp, where the balance of the division lay behind their rail barricades (Montmorenci). The rebels at Aiken, came thundering down upon our four little regiments, and the five miles back to camp was a battle field all the way...**

Private D. B. Morgan of the 5th Georgia Cavalry gives a Confederate account of the battle:

**Gen. Wheeler was trying to entrap him and capture his whole force ... This ruse, no doubt, would have worked well but for the extra enthusiasm of an Alabama regiment (who) ... opened fire and thus precipitated a general engagement ... Our regiment had just been issued sabers with wooden scabbards, which were awkwardly attached to our saddles. I was mounted on a very fine mule. We charged the enemy through scrub oak forest and open peach orchard, through the village, driving them back...It was an all-day fight. As we halted in one of the charges, my mule was shot from under me, the ball passing immediately under my left leg and entering the poor creature's heart. With an unearthly yell ... she bounded into the air and in falling, caught me half dismounted, with my left leg under her body. The soft plowed ground on which I fell prevented its being broken ...**

- Continued on the next page -





## FEBRUARY CONFEDERATE VICTORY THE BATTLE OF AIKEN, SOUTH CAROLINA



The Rev. John Henry Cornish of St. Thaddeus Church wrote:

**Several shells came whizzing by us from a battery on Railroad Avenue ... Two shells went through the house at the corner of Railroad Avenue and Laurens Street; one struck in the yard of the old parsonage ... The enemy came nearly to the street passing the west end of the Aiken Hotel...The bugles sounded a charge. It is a marvelous what a different aspect was thrown over the scene in an instant. The horses started and came tearing down Richland Street, the men rising in their stirrups, with their pistols in their hands, yelling and screaming, each one looking as if he could devour a dozen Yankees...The enemy was driven back. There was a fight in Williams' old field. The enemy was driven back to Pole Cat Pond (Montmorenci) ... Five of our wounded were brought to my house where the surgeons attended to them ... Two of the killed were taken to the (St. Thaddeus) church yard, where they were put in coffins and buried.**

Kilpatrick had been routed back to his defensive position at Montmorenci. A turn-of-the-century account of the battle reports that a Confederate cavalryman rode up to the general and snapped his pistol at his chest, but the gun did not go off. The general then fled, losing his hat in the rout. Reaching his defenses at Montmorenci, Kilpatrick lined up behind barricades previously built. The Union troops skirmished with Wheeler for the rest of the day and the following day on Feb. 12. Kilpatrick sent out a flag of truce that evening to exchange and recover the dead and wounded. On Feb. 13, Kilpatrick moved out to rejoin Sherman in the march toward Columbia. Wheeler did the same, sweeping wide in an attempt to get ahead of Sherman so as to help in the defense of the capitol.

Commanders in their reports often overestimated their opponent's casualties and downsized their own. Kilpatrick states that Wheeler lost 31 killed, 160 wounded and 60 taken prisoners, for a total of 251 Confederate casualties. Kilpatrick admitted to losing 25 killed and wounded and fewer than 20 captured.

Wheeler admitted suffering 50 killed and wounded. Wheeler also claimed that the Confederates attack resulted in 53 killed, 270 wounded. and 172 captured, or 495 Union casualties in all.

Thus, total Federal casualties were between 45 and 495, while the Confederates lost between 50 and 251 depending on which General to believe. Several Union soldiers lie buried in the First Baptist Church graveyard, while two Tennessee cavalrymen lie in the St. Thaddeus graveyard. It is presumed that the rest of the Confederate dead were shipped to their homes.

The citizens of Aiken, the governor of South Carolina, and Gen. D. H. Hill, hailed Wheeler as savior. If not defended against, Kilpatrick would have undoubtedly destroyed Aiken, and the Graniteville mills.

Although it is clear that Sherman did not care about Augusta, Kilpatrick was rash and always looked for an opportunity to advance his career. If not contested, Kilpatrick would possibly have destroyed the railroad as far as Hamburg. There, he possibly would have shelled the Confederate Powderworks in Augusta from his side of the river or even made a dash into the city if he found it lightly defended. If bluffed, Confederates may have destroyed Augusta to keep it from falling into Union hands.

Coming at the end of the war in the midst of the Confederate defeat, the Battle of Aiken makes few of the standard histories of the war. The Confederate victory is, however crucial to the local history of the region because the victory prevented the destruction of the local capital and economy, enabling the region to withstand the Reconstruction period better than other more devastated areas of the South.

Ironically, post-war Aiken would quickly welcome Northerners back as it became first a health resort, then a grand winter sporting resort for the Northern elite.

**Pete Peters ©1995, 2021**

**We are looking for any copies of documents, correspondence, newspaper articles, or photographs, of Union and Confederate soldiers who participated in the Battle of Aiken, Williston, White Pond, Windsor, or Montmorenci. Send to: [Battleofaiken@aol.com](mailto:Battleofaiken@aol.com)**

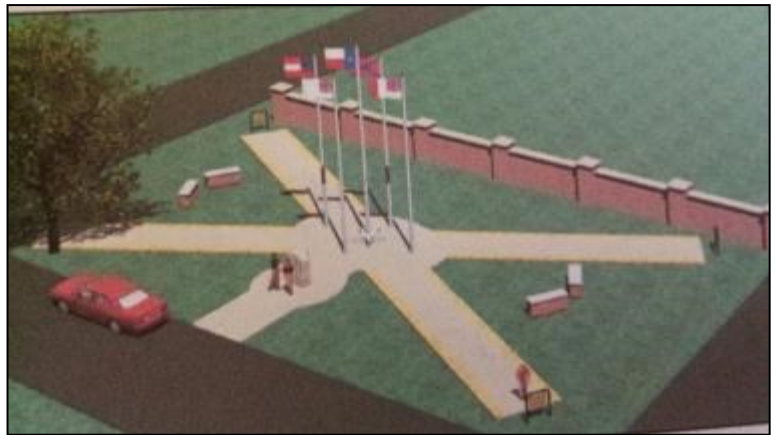
This article was found online at <https://battleofaiken.com/history/>



## 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.



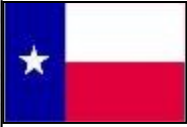


## ROBERT E. LEE CALENDAR

FEBRUARY 2025



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



JOHN H. REAGAN CAMP  
TEXAS CIVIL WAR HISTORY IN FEBRUARY  
From the Texas State Historical Association



**February 27th, 1850** - On this day in 1850, Carlos Esparza, a supporter of the Mexican folk hero Juan N. Cortina, and various followers attempted to establish a territorial government and separate themselves from the rest of Texas. The territory of the Rio Grande was intended to protect the interests of Hispanics, but the proposal became politically complicated and was dropped. Esparza, born in Matamoros, Tamaulipas, in 1828, was to all appearances an ordinary rancher possessing neither Cortina's striking appearance nor leadership qualities. The eccentric, sharp-tongued Esparza remained Cortina's man in the shadows, however. During the Civil war, he managed to aid Union and Confederate forces against each other while promoting the Cortina's cause.

**February 1, 1861** - On this date, Texas became the 7th state to secede from the Union when a state convention voted 166-8 in favor of secession. Even though Sam Houston objected to Texas leaving the Union, the vote passed.

**February 2, 1861** - On this date, a declaration of the causes which impel the State of Texas to secede from the Federal Union was adopted.

**February 2, 1861** - On this date the Committee of Public Safety directed to seize all federal property in Texas.

**February 9, 1861** - On this date, a proclamation by Gov. Houston setting an election on the Ordinance of Secession.

**February 16, 1861** - On this date, the US Army Facility at San Antonio was seized under authority of the Texas Committee of Safety

**February 18, 1861** - On this date, US General David E. Twiggs surrendered all US military posts in Texas.

**February 19, 1861** - On this date, Carlos A. Waite replaced Gen. Twiggs as US Army commander, Department of Texas.

**February 21, 1861** - On this date, Volunteers under the command of John 'Rip' Ford seize U.S. property at Brazos Santiago in the Rio Grande Valley.

**February 23rd, 1861**— On this day in 1861, the people of Texas went to the polls to vote on a referendum to secede from the Union. The vote was 46,153 for secession and 14,747 against. Of the 122 counties casting votes, only eighteen cast majorities against secession. Only eleven others cast as much as 40 percent against. The referendum was held pursuant to a decision in favor of secession in the state Secession Convention.

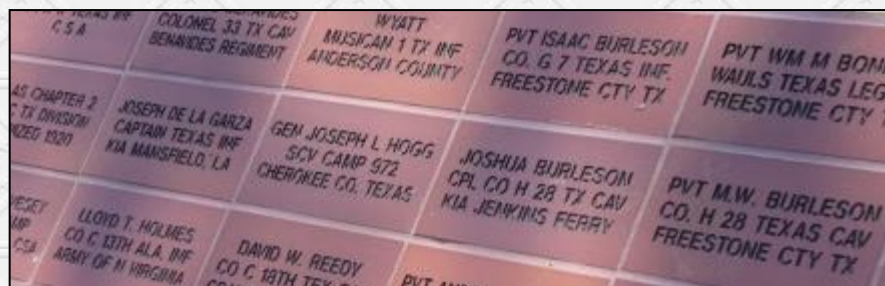




## CONFEDERATE VETERANS MEMORIAL PLAZA INFORMATION



The Confederate Veterans Memorial Plaza had the official opening and dedication on April 13, 2013. It is a beautiful Memorial to the Confederate Veterans. Although it is open for visitors, there is still room along the sidewalks for you to purchase a brick paver in the name of your confederate ancestor. This will ensure that your ancestor's service to the confederacy will not be forgotten, but will be remembered for years to come. If you would like to make a donation for a paver, please contact Commander Ed Heitman, E-mail: [edheitman@gmail.com](mailto:edheitman@gmail.com); Phone: (903-504-6674) or Dan Dyer at E-mail: [danielyer497@yahoo.com](mailto:danielyer497@yahoo.com); 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

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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.