



SONS OF CONFEDERATE VETERANS, TEXAS DIVISION

THE JOHN H. REAGAN CAMP NEWS

www.reaganscvcamp.org

VOLUME 17, ISSUE 4

APRIL 2025

1ST LT CMDR'S DISPATCH



LT CDR's Dispatch
1ST LT CDR David Franklin

April is a special month for Texans. During the siege of the Alamo on March 2nd, 1836, delegates met at Washington-on-the-Brazos to declare the Independence of the Republic of Texas.

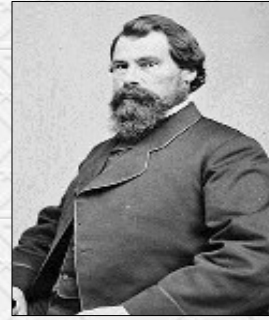
The Alamo subsequently fell on March 6th. General Sam Houston, fairly disorganized, began retreating east, finally stopping near San Jacinto. On April 21st, Houston and his army attacked Santa Anna and the Mexican Army, routing them in around 20 minutes. Thus, the Alamo and Goliad were avenged and Texas achieved its independence.

March 2nd is acknowledged as Texas Independence Day and April 21st is remembered as San Jacinto Day. One interesting note is that many of those heroes at San Jacinto survived another 25 years and were ready to fight for Texas again. Those men chose to fight for the newly formed Confederate State of Texas. At the San Jacinto Battleground State Park today there is a monument recognizing those brave veterans.

The text of the marker:

Dedicated to the memory of the men who fought in the Battle of San Jacinto and later fought in the Army of the Confederacy

Andrew Jackson Berry, Henry P. Brewster, Sion Record Bostic, Moses Austin Bryan, Rev. Anderson Buffington,



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

Thos. Jefferson Callihan, Joseph Alvey Clayton, George Bernhard Erath, John Floyd Gilbert, James Gillaspie, Thomas Green, Thomas Monroe Hardeman, Walter Lambert, Walter Paye Lane, Benjamin McCulloch, Daniel McKay, Edward Miles, Nathan Mitchell, Pendleton Rector, Richard Scurry, Sidney Sherman, Martin Kingsley Small, John Files Tom, Amasa Turner

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



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1ST LT. COMMANDER'S DISPATCH

BY DAVID FRANKLIN



Erected by the Texas Division
of the
United Daughters of the Confederacy
March 2, 1940



Four men of note are on this list: Sidney Sherman, Thomas Green, Walter P. Lane, and Ben McCullough. I will highlight just two, for brevity's sake:

Sidney Sherman, a native of Massachusetts, had come to Texas from Cincinnati with the "Twin Sisters," cannons donated by the people of that city to help Texas in their fight against Santa Anna. Sherman became a Colonel of the Republic of Texas Cavalry and eventually was appointed Major General of Militia for the protection of the Frontier. When the War Between the States broke out, he was appointed Commandant of Galveston Island. General Sherman died in 1873 at Galveston. The first railroad locomotive in Texas was named The General Sherman in his honor.

Republic of Texas Major General Sidney Sherman, Galveston CDR, CSA →



← Thomas Green, more famous in Texas than General Sherman



Tom Green fought at San Jacinto, became Clerk of the Republic of Texas Supreme Court, led the Texans to victory at the Battle of Val Verde as Colonel of the 5th Texas Cavalry, assisted in the recapture of Galveston January 1, 1863 (and had to have reunited with Sidney Sherman). Due to his leadership skills, Green was promoted and assigned to head the Cavalry Division of the Department of the Trans-Mississippi. April 12, 1864, during the Red River Campaign, General Green was mortally wounded. Union Admiral David Dixon Porter said, "that Green was one in whom the rebels place more confidence than anyone else. He led his men to the very edge of the bank, they shouting and yelling like madmen—losing General Green had paralyzed them; he was worth 5,000 men to them."

Remember the Alamo, Remember Goliad, Remember San Jacinto!

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



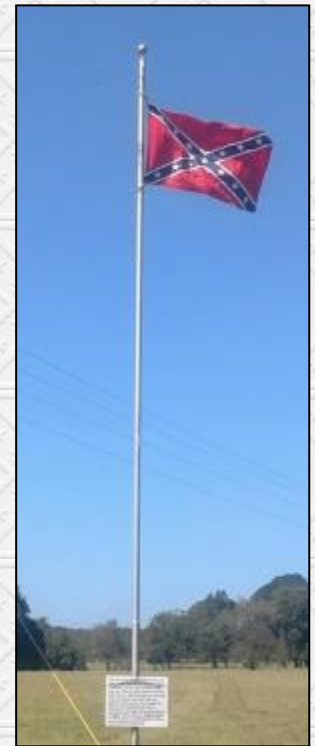
The Battle of Grand Gulf was fought on April 29, 1863. Seven Union Ironclads bombarded the Confederate Defenses. Union fire silenced Fort Wade and killed its commander, but the overall Confederate position held. Grant decided to cross the river elsewhere.

Prayer List

- Compatriot Forrest Bradberry
- Compatriot Gary Gibson & his wife, Lynn
- 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. Due to them moving to another location, we will have to find a new location to meet sometime in the future.

April 19, 2025- Confederate Reunion

April 22, 2025 - April Meeting

May 27, 2025 - May Meeting

June 24, 2025 - June 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 →

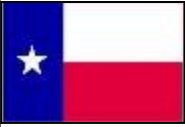
“NOTHING FILLS ME WITH DEEPER SADNESS THAN TO SEE A SOUTHERN MAN APOLOGIZING FOR THE DEFENSE WE MADE OF OUR INHERITANCE. OUR CAUSE WAS SO JUST, SO SACRED, THAT HAD I KNOWN ALL THAT HAS COME TO PASS, HAD I KNOWN WHAT WAS TO BE INFLICTED UPON ME, ALL THAT MY COUNTRY WAS TO SUFFER, ALL THAT OUR POSTERITY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



REAGAN CAMP MEMBER FORREST BRADBERRY

PICTURE FROM THE PAST



Forrest Bradberry brought a picture to the April meeting that was from **60** years ago. The picture was taken of Forrest in 1965 when the Salt Works Monument was dedicated. The monument is located on the south west corner of the Anderson County Courthouse square. Forrest is wearing a home - made confederate uniform that his grandmother had made for him. Forrest has always had a love for history and for his confederate ancestors. He joined the Sons of Confederate Veterans a long, long time ago. He joined so long ago that his SCV member ID number is 72. It's only 2 digits! I don't know how many members are still alive that joined before him, but I am sure that the number is very low.

We are proud of Forrest and proud to have him as a member of the John H. Reagan Camp.





APRIL MEETING PICTURES



We were happy to have Jody Radford, a descendant of a confederate ancestor, attend this month's meeting. It was good to have him attend with us. We had a total of eight at this month's meeting. We had a good meal to start the night. Richard Thornton brought a delicious casserole, chocolate cake and sweet tea. David Franklin brought cornbread and a delicious banana pudding. Dwight Franklin brought pinto beans with ham. After enjoying the meal together, David Franklin presented the Historical Program. His program was titled, "The Gray Ghost". It was very interesting. You can see notes from this meeting on the next page. Our next meeting will be on May 27th.



The billboard below can be seen on US Hwy 59 at Marshall, Texas





APRIL HISTORICAL PROGRAM "THE GRAY GHOST" BY DAVID FRANKLIN



1st Lt. Commander David Franklin presented the historical program for April. He started his program by showing us a large painting that he owned that was titled "*The Gray Ghost of the Confederacy*". The painting was a depiction of John Singleton Mosby and was painted by G. Harvey.



David's presentation was very interesting as he brought forth a lot of information about Col. Mosby from both before, during and after the war.

Below are the notes from David's historical presentation.

John Singleton Mosby (December 6, 1833—May 30, 1916)

Mosby was born in Powhattan County, Virginia and named for his paternal grandfather, John Singleton, who was ethnically Irish. His father, Alfred Daniel Mosby, was college educated. In his grade school years Mosby was constantly bullied due to his small size and stated he "never won a fight." Mosby enrolled in his father's alma mater, but couldn't hack the math so he dropped out and enrolled in the University of Virginia in 1850. He excelled in Latin, Greek, and Literature but still had problems with math.

In his third year, a local bully, George R. Turpin, let it be known that he was going to fight Mosby and "eat him up raw." At the time of the fight Mosby appeared with a pepperbox pistol and shot Turpin when he charged. Mosby was charged with the shooting and could have been sentenced to 10 years for Malicious Shooting but was convicted of the lesser charge of Unlawful Shooting and sentenced to 1 year in jail.

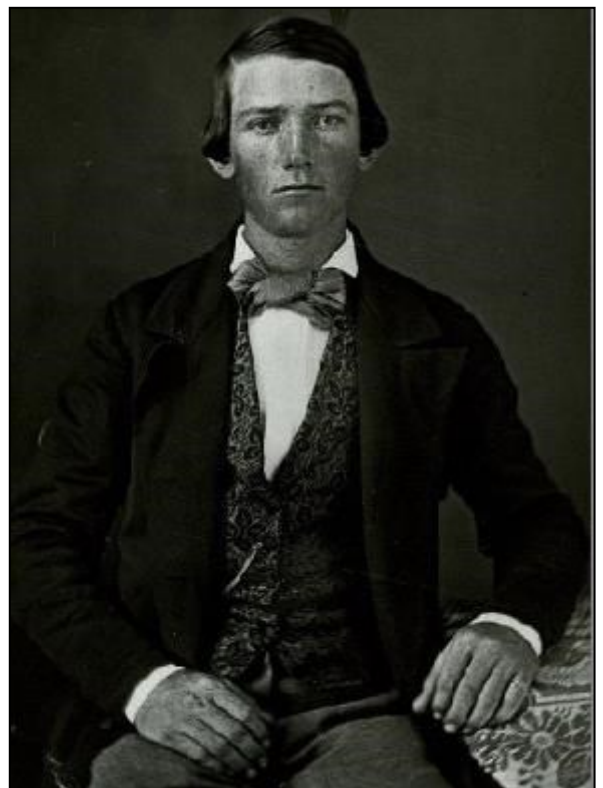
After being pardoned by Governor December 23, 1853, Mosby studied for the law and was admitted to the Bar. He married Pauline Clarke, who was the daughter of Beverly Clarke, a US Representative from Kentucky.

Mosby spoke publicly against secession but when Virginia seceded he enlisted as a Private in the Washington Mounted Rifles under Major William Jones who later became a Brigadier General.

By June 1862 Mosby was scouting for JEB Stuart as a 1st Lt.

The **Partisan Ranger Act** was passed on April 21, 1862, by the Confederate Congress. It was intended as a stimulus for recruitment of irregulars for service into the Confederate Army during the American Civil War. The Confederate leadership, like the Union leadership, later opposed the use of unconventional warfare out of fear the lack of discipline among rival guerrilla groups could spiral out of control. On February 17, 1864, the law was repealed after pressure from General Robert E. Lee and other Confederate regulars.

Only two partisan Ranger groups were exempt and allowed to continue to operate: Mosby's Raiders and McNeill's Rangers.



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APRIL HISTORICAL PROGRAM "THE GRAY GHOST" BY DAVID FRANKLIN



In January 1863, Stuart, with Lee's concurrence, authorized Mosby to form and take command of the 43rd Battalion Virginia Cavalry. This was later expanded into Mosby's Command, a regimental-sized unit of partisan rangers operating in Northern Virginia. The 43rd Battalion operated officially as a unit of the Army of Northern Virginia, subject to the commands of Lee and Stuart, but its men (1,900 of whom served from January 1863 through April 1865) lived outside of the norms of regular army cavalymen. The Confederate government certified special rules to govern the conduct of partisan rangers. These included sharing in the disposition of spoils of war. They had no camp duties and lived scattered among the civilian population. Mosby required proof from an volunteer that he had not deserted from the regular service, and only about 10% of his men had served previously in the Confederate Army.



This picture is a copy of one taken in Richmond in January 1863. The uniform is the one I wore on March 8th 1863 on the night of General Stoughton's capture
J.E.B. Stuart

Above: Picture of Mosby with his handwritten note that tells of him wearing this uniform while capturing Brig. Gen Edwin H. Stoughton

In March 1863, Mosby conducted a daring raid far inside Union lines near the Fairfax County courthouse. He was helped, according to his own account, by a deserter from the 5th New York Cavalry regiment names James Ames, who served under Mosby until he was killed in 1864. He and his men captured three Union officers, including Brig. Gen. Edwin H. Stoughton. Mosby wrote in his memoirs that he found Stoughton in bed and roused him with a "spank on his bare back." After leaving a party, Stoughton retired to a nearby house that served as his headquarters. Mosby allegedly found Stoughton in bed, supposedly rousing him with a slap to his rear. Upon being so rudely awakened, the general shouted, "Do You know who I am?" Mosby quickly replied, "Do you know Mosby, general?" "Yes! Have you got the rascal?" "No, but he has got you!" the Confederate ranger said. "Stuart's cavalry has possession of the Court House; be quick and dress." Mosby and his 29 men had captured a Union general, two captains, 30 enlisted men, and 58 horses without firing a shot. Mosby was formally promoted to the rank of captain two days later, on March 15, 1863, and major on March 26, 1863.

After a two-month stay in Richmond's Libby Prison, Stoughton was exchanged, but saw no further service. The U.S. Senate had not confirmed his initial appointment and he was not re-appointed. He resigned from the Union Army in May 1864 and moved to New York.

An interesting side-note: It was said that Mosby's men often sewed US Uniforms on the inside of their CS uniforms. This may explain how they were able to sneak into the Union camp to capture those at the Fairfax County Courthouse.

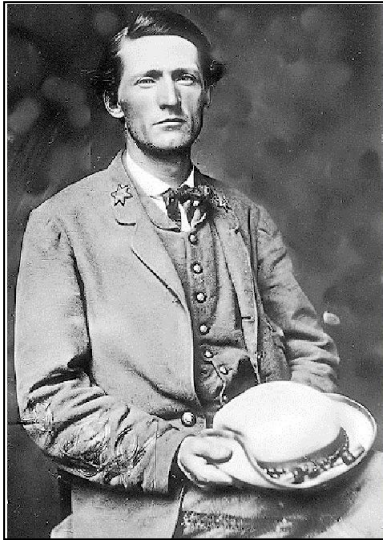
Lincoln was reported to have been so afraid of Mosby that he had the planks on the Potomac River bridge removed at night so Mosby wouldn't come and get him out of the White House.

Mosby, following Lee's surrender, attempted to reach Joe Johnston. Enroute, he read a newspaper article stating that Johnston had surrendered so he quit trying to reach him. He soon found out there was a \$5000 bounty on him, so he didn't surrender until it was rescinded—June 17, and was one of the last Confederate officers to do so.

- Continued on the next page -



APRIL HISTORICAL PROGRAM "THE GRAY GHOST" BY DAVID FRANKLIN



Above: Mosby in his Major's uniform.

After the War, Mosby entered politics as a Republican. Longstreet had also declared to be a Republican. Some say that Longstreet was hated by the south for his desire to be a Republican. Surely this was not the reason for southerners dislike for Longstreet, because southerners were still very fond of Mosby after he entered politics as a Republican. Longstreet's dislike from the south was more likely due to his negative written comments about Confederate officers after they had passed. Mosby was quick to write what he felt about Longstreet while Longstreet was still alive. That makes things much more believable.

In his autobiography, General Grant stated, "Since the close of the war, I have come to know Colonel Mosby personally and somewhat intimately. He is a different man entirely from what I supposed....He is able and thoroughly honest and truthful."



Above: Mosby's Rangers

Mosby also befriended the Patton family and spent time at their ranch with their young son, George S. Patton. It was there that Mosby would recreate Civil War battles with George with Mosby playing himself and George playing Robert E. Lee.

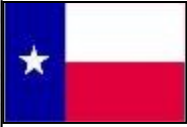
During the war, Mosby was a name that was recognized by almost everyone. The area around Middleburg, from where Mosby launched most of his behind-the-lines activities, was called "Mosby's Confederacy", even in the Northern Press.

After the war, a 1913 film entitled *The Pride of the South*, was released which starred actor Joseph King and John Mosby. CBS Television produced *The Gray Ghost* during the 1957-58 television season. The show aired in syndication and starred Tod Andrews as Mosby during his Civil War exploits. You can find this on iTunes.

The 1967 Disney Television movie *Mosby's Marauders* starred Kurt Russell as a young Confederate serving under Mosby, portrayed by Jack Ging.

We appreciate David for allowing us to use his notes for the newsletter. Although the notes are interesting, hearing David add other interesting bits of information made it much better in person. He is a talented speaker, and his programs are always very interesting.

The May and June historical programs will be presented by Marc Robinson. He will bring a power point program on the 12th Texas Cavalry. Hope to see you there.



APRIL CONFEDERATE BATTLE

BATTLE OF FT. SUMTER



Charleston Harbor, SC | Apr 12 - 14, 1861

The attack on Fort Sumter marked the official beginning of the American Civil War—a war that lasted four years, cost the lives of more than 620,000 Americans, and freed 3.9 million enslaved people from bondage.

How it ended

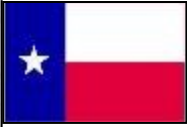
Confederate victory. With supplies nearly exhausted and his troops outnumbered, Union major Robert Anderson surrendered Fort Sumter to Brig. Gen. P.G.T. Beauregard's Confederate forces. Major Anderson and his men were allowed to strike their colors, fire a 100-gun salute, and board a ship bound for New York, where they were greeted as heroes. Both the North and South immediately called for volunteers to mobilize for war.

Before the Battle

On December 20, 1860, South Carolina seceded from the United States, and by February 2, 1861, six more states followed suit. Southern delegates met on February 4, 1861, in Montgomery, AL., and established the Confederate States of America, with Mississippi senator Jefferson Davis elected as its provisional president. Confederate militia forces began seizing United States forts and property throughout the south. With a lame-duck president in office, and a controversial president-elect poised to succeed him, the crisis approached a boiling point and exploded at Fort Sumter.

In Charleston, the birthplace of secession, tempers are on edge. A delegation from the state goes to Washington, D.C., demanding the surrender of the Federal military installations in the new "independent republic of South Carolina." President James Buchanan refuses to comply. Charleston is the Confederacy's most important port on the Southeast coast. The harbor is defended by three federal forts: Sumter; Castle Pinckney, one mile off the city's Battery; and heavily armed Fort Moultrie, on Sullivan's Island. Major Anderson's command is based at Fort Moultrie, but with its guns pointed out to sea, it cannot defend a land attack. On December 26, Charlestonians awake to discover that Anderson and his tiny garrison of 90 men have slipped away from Fort Moultrie to the more defensible Fort Sumter. For secessionists, Anderson's move is, as one Charlestonian wrote to a friend, "like casting a spark into a magazine,"

Adding to the major's concern is his dangerously dwindling store of supplies. On January 5, 1861, the *Star of the West* departs from New York with some 200 reinforcements and provisions for the Sumter garrison. As the ship approaches Charleston Harbor on January 9, cadets from the Citadel fire, forcing the crew to abandon its mission. On March 1, Jefferson Davis orders Brig. Gen. P.G.T. Beauregard to take command of the growing southern forces in Charleston. On April 4, Lincoln informs southern delegates that he intends to attempt to resupply Fort Sumter, as its garrison is now critically in need. To South Carolinians, any attempt to reinforce Sumter means war. "Now the issue of battle is to be forced upon us," declared the *Charleston Mercury*. "We will meet the invader, and the God of Battles must decide the issue between the hostile hirelings of Abolition hate and Northern tyranny."



APRIL CONFEDERATE BATTLE

BATTLE OF FT. SUMTER



On April 9, Davis and the Confederate cabinet decide to “strike a blow!” Davis orders Beauregard to take Fort Sumter. The next day, three of Beauregard’s aides sail to the fort and courteously demand the garrison’s surrender. Anderson is equally courteous, but refuses: “I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your communication demanding the evacuation of this fort, and to say, in reply thereto, that it is a demand with which I regret that my sense of honor, and of my obligations to my Government, prevent my compliance.” He also informs the delegation that the garrison’s supplies will only last until April 15.



Union
Robert Anderson

Forces Engaged
580

Union	Confederate
80	500



Confederate
P.G.T. Beauregard

During the Battle

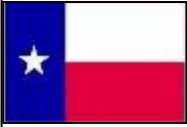
April 12. At 4:30 a.m., a flaming mortar shot arcs into the air and explodes over Fort Sumter. On this signal, Confederate guns from fortifications and floating batteries around Charleston Harbor roar to life. Outmanned, outgunned, undersupplied, and nearly surrounded by enemy batteries, Anderson waits until around 7:00 a.m. to respond. Captain Abner Doubleday volunteers to fire the first cannon at the Confederates, a 32-pound shot that bounces off the roof of the Iron Battery on Cummings Point.

For nearly 36 hours the two sides keep up this unequal contest. A shell strikes the flagpole of Fort Sumter, and the American colors fall to the earth, only to be hoisted back up the hastily repaired pole. Confederates fire hotshot from Fort Moultrie into Fort Sumter. Buildings begin to burn within the fort. With no more resources, Anderson surrenders Fort Sumter to Confederate forces.

April 13. At 2:30 p.m., Maj. Anderson and his men strike their colors and prepare to leave the fort. The only casualties at Fort Sumter come during the 100-gun salute, when a round explodes prematurely, killing Pvt. Daniel Hough and mortally wounding another soldier. The attack is over, but the war had just begun.

Following the evacuation of Major Robert Anderson and his Federal garrison on the afternoon of April 14, 1861, Fort Sumter is occupied initially by Confederate troops of Company B of the First South Carolina Artillery Battalion and a volunteer company of the Palmetto Guard, a local militia unit. The fort remains in Confederate hands for the next four years until all Confederate forces evacuate Charleston on the evening of February 17, 1865.

Despite having surrendered, Anderson and his men are greeted as heroes when they disembark in New York. Capt. Abner Doubleday notes later that “all the passing steamers saluted us with their steam-whistles and bells, and cheer after cheer went up from the ferry boats and vessels in the harbor.” Anderson’s valor during the attack and commitment to duty are praised by the Union. Beauregard is also hailed for this first Confederate victory. He is later ordered to direct the troops at Bull Run.

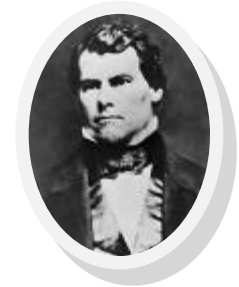


JOHN H. REAGAN CAMP

APRIL IN THE LIFE OF JOHN H. REAGAN



April 15, 1857 JH Reagan announced in letter to Oran M. Roberts That he would accept any nomination conferred by Conferred by State Demo. Convention.



April 12, 1859 JH Reagan issued circular at end of 1st term as U.S. Rep.: clarified his pro-union stand and Intention to run for re-election



April 17, 1859 JH Reagan praised by Sam Houston as a man of “genius, integrity, and industry” in Dallas Herald for his pro- Union views.

April 29, 1867 Pres. Andrew Johnson’s pardon of JH Reagan for his Part in the Civil War.



April 3, 1891 Texas railroad Commission Created by State Leg. John H. Reagan became 1st Chairman

April 18, 1891 US president Benj. Harrison, wife and party reached Palestine in 5 car special train; Gov. Hogg and JH Reagan boarded train.





HISTORY FROM APRIL 1865

APPOMATTOX COURT HOUSE INFO MARKER

PICTURES TAKEN BY DWIGHT FRANKLIN OCT 2024



Confederates Trapped



Appomattox Court House
National Historical Park
National Park Service

For most of the war, Lee and his army had tormented their Northern enemies — at Gaines' Mill, Manassas, Fredericksburg, Chancellorsville. But here, on April 9, 1865, the once-mighty Army of Northern Virginia found itself trapped. Lee faced the most difficult decision of his life.

The tortuous final journey began with the evacuation of Petersburg and Richmond on April 2, 1865. Lee's straggling columns started west, trying to outrun Grant's men, trying to turn south into North Carolina to join another Confederate force under Joseph E. Johnston. But Federals from three armies dogged them all the way. Then, on the morning of April 9, Union infantry deployed across Lee's path west of Appomattox Court House.

Two miles northeast of here, more Federals slashed at the Confederate rear. With Union troops blocking his route west on the Stage Road (present Route 24), with Union troops behind him, and with Union troops closing on his left flank from the east, Lee had no choice. At about 9 a.m. on April 9, he sent a final, painful message to Grant. Could they meet "with reference to the surrender of this army?"

"...there is nothing left me to do but to go and see General Grant, and I would rather die a thousand deaths."

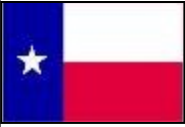
Gen. Robert E. Lee, CSA
April 9, 1865



At Appomattox, the Federals caught Lee's army in a vise. Some of Lee's officers urged that the army scatter along open roads to the northwest and fight as guerrillas. Lee rejected the idea. "We would bring on a state of affairs it would take the country years to recover from," he said.

Sensing imminent disaster, the Confederates destroyed equipment (below) on April 8, 1865. The army that reached Appomattox Court House numbered about 30,000 men, but not all were armed. During the march west, thousands of men had simply drifted away, unable to keep up.





LETTER FROM GENERAL ROBERT E. LEE APRIL 10, 1865



*Head Quarters. Army of Northern Va.
10. April. 1865.*

*General Order
No 9*

After four years of arduous service marked by unsurpassed courage and fortitude, the Army of Northern Virginia has been compelled to yield to overwhelming numbers and resources.

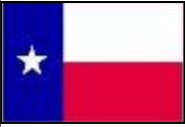
I need not tell the survivors of so many hard fought battles, who have remained steadfast to the last, that I have consented to this result from no distrust of them.

But feeling that valor and devotion could accomplish nothing that could compensate for the loss that would have attended the continuance of the contest, I determined to avoid the useless sacrifice of those whose past services have endeared them to their countrymen.

By the terms of the agreement, officers and men can return to their homes, and remain until exchanged. You will take with you the satisfaction that proceeds from the consciousness of duty faithfully performed, and I earnestly pray that a merciful God will extend to you His blessing and protection.

With an unceasing admiration of your courage and devotion to your country, and a grateful remembrance of your kind and generous consideration for myself, I bid you an affectionate farewell.

*R. E. Lee
Genl*



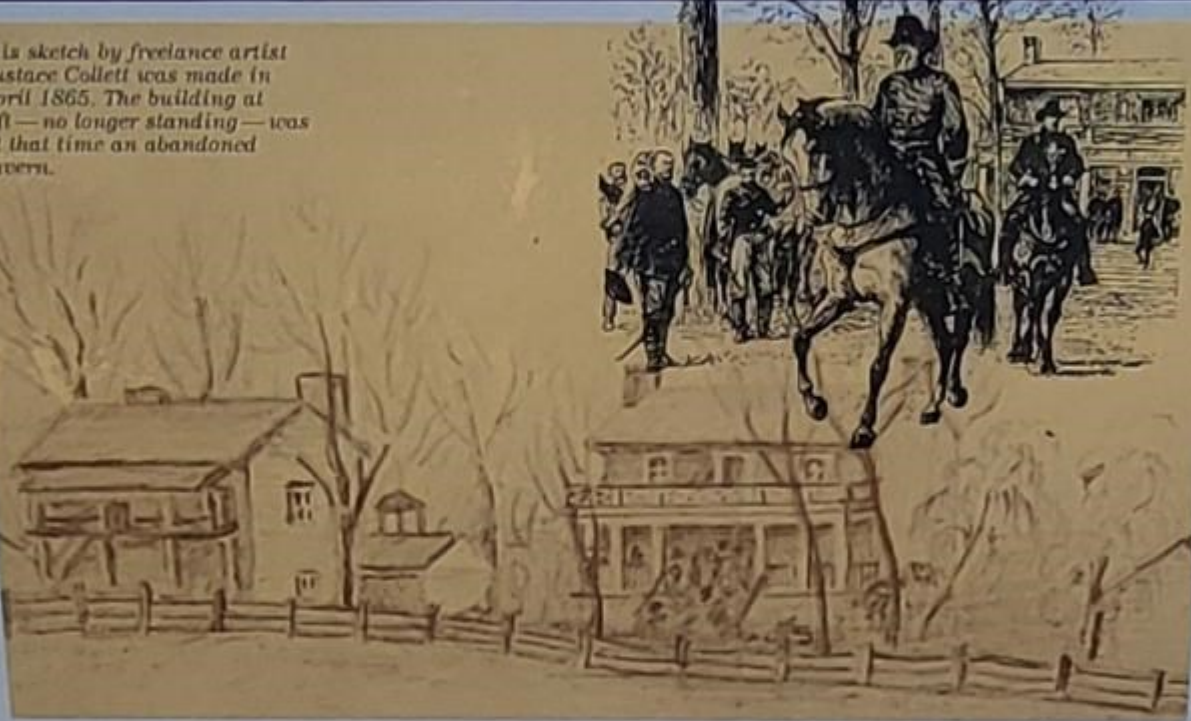
APRIL HISTORY APPOMATTOX COURT HOUSE MCLEAN HOUSE



McLean House

Appomattox Court House
National Historical Park
National Park Service

This sketch by freelance artist Eustace Collett was made in April 1865. The building at left — no longer standing — was at that time an abandoned livery.

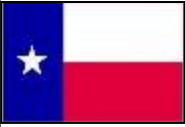


At midday on April 9, 1865, General Robert E. Lee rode into this yard, dismounted, and disappeared into the McLean House. Grant, surrounded by generals and staff officers, soon followed. Dozens of officers, horses, and onlookers waited outside. After 90 minutes, Lee and Grant emerged. To the silent salutes of Union officers, Lee rode back through the village — to his defeated army.

The home that hosted the surrender meeting was one of the best in Appomattox. Built in 1848, it had since 1862 been owned by businessman Wilmer McLean. The house became a sensation after the surrender. Union officers took some mementos; and in 1893 it was dismantled for display in Washington, D.C. But that display never happened, and the National Park Service reconstructed the building on its original site in the 1940s.



Pictured on the left is the room where Generals Lee and Grant met for 90 minutes to work out the details of the surrender to end the war between the states.



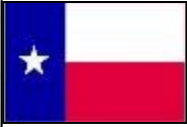
THE MCLEAN HOUSE
LOCATION OF SURRENDER MEETING APRIL 9, 1865
PICTURES TAKEN BY DWIGHT FRANKLIN OCTOBER 2024



Lee and Grant - The Surrender Meeting April 9, 1865



The picture on the left is an actual picture of an info marker inside the McLean House at Appomattox Courthouse. It was in that house that Lee met with Grant to make arrangements for ending the war.



PICTURES FROM INSIDE THE MCLEAN HOUSE APPOMATTOX COURT HOUSE

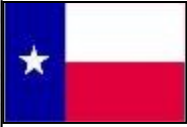


On This Table

Officers from both sides were designated to place into effect the terms of surrender reached on April 9, 1865 by Generals Grant and Lee. On April 10, 1865 at 8:30 PM Confederate Generals Longstreet, Gordon and Pendleton along with Union Generals Gibbon, Griffin and Merritt signed the *Final Agreement for the Surrender of the Army of Northern Virginia* on this table.

Pictured above is an enlargement of the bottom left corner of the picture to the left.





CLOVER HILL TAVERN

WHERE OVER 30,000 PAROLE DOCUMENTS WERE PRINTED APRIL 10, 1865



Clover Hill Tavern

Appomattox Court House
National Historical Park
National Park Service

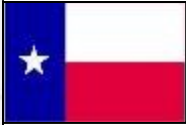
The tavern as it appeared in 1865. The wing to the left housed the dining room, the structure to the right the bar. Both no longer stand.



Built in 1819, this was the first building in what would become the village of Appomattox Court House. The Clover Hill Tavern served travelers along the Richmond-Lynchburg Stage Road. For several decades, it offered the village's only restaurant, only overnight lodging, and only bar. Its presence helped prompt the Virginia legislature to locate the Appomattox County seat here. In 1846, the courthouse was built across the street.

By 1865, the tavern had come on hard times—a "bare and cheerless place," according to one Union general. It was one of only two buildings in town used by the Federal army during the surrender process. Here, on the evening of April 10, 1865, Union soldiers set up printing presses and started producing paroles for the surrendered Confederates. The Federals printed more than 30,000 parole documents here.

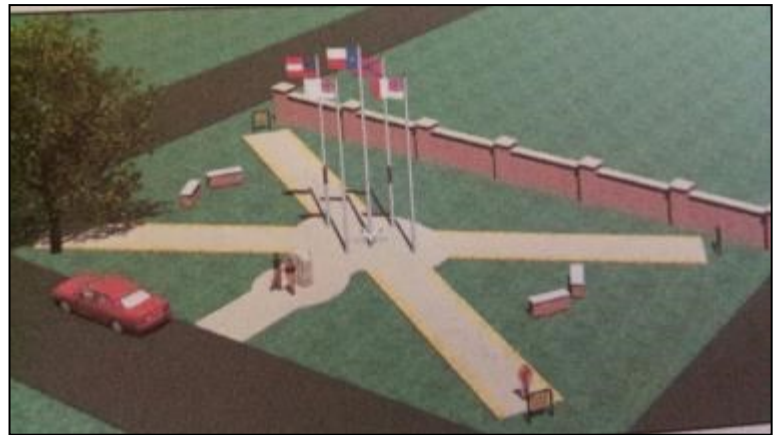




A GREAT WAY TO ENSURE THAT YOUR ANCESTOR'S SERVICE AND HONOR IS NOT FORGOTTEN



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
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

JOHN H. REAGAN SCV CAMP #2156 PALESTINE TEXAS	PVT WM. H. FOSTER CO. H 1ST TEX INF DIED AS POW OCT 63
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
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

PVT. R. M. LUMMUS 53 GEORGIA INF. COMPANY B C.S.A	PVT ALLEN G TURNER CO A 7TH BATTALION MISS INF. CSA
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.

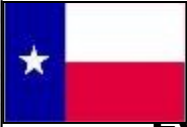


ROBERT E. LEE CALENDAR

APRIL 2025



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 April 1, 1849 To Markie: Business drives entirely away pleasure	2 April 2, 1870 To Wife: My visit to dear Annie's grave was mournful, yet soothing to my feelings.	3 undated—to Markie: We are all prone I think to undervalue the gifts of a merciful God.	4 April 4, 1857 This is Easter Sunday. I hope you have been able to attend Church. My own have been performed alone in my tent, I hope with a humble, grateful & penitent heart.	5 April 5, 1865 The army of Northern Virginia arrived here today, expecting to find plenty of provisions, but to my surprise & regret I find not a pound of subsistence for
6 undated—If the Union is dissolved & the Government disrupted, I shall return to my native State & share the miseries of my people, & save in defense will draw my sword on none.	7 April 7, 1866 to Markie: I am easily wearied now, & look forward with joy to the time, which is fast approaching, that I can lay [sic] down & rest	8 April 8, 1869 to Henry L. Smith Nothing is more instructive than the perusal of the deeds of men in other ages.	9 April 9, 1865 Men, we have fought through the war together; I have done my best for you; my heart is too full to say more.	10 April 10, 1865 to his men: After four years of arduous service, marked by unsurpassed courage & fortitude, the Army of Northern Va. has been compelled to yield to overwhelming numbers.	11 April 11, 1870 to wife: We must hope for the best, speak little and act discreetly as possible.	12 April 12, 1865 to Jeff Davis: With pain I announce to your Excellency the surrender of the Army of Northern Va. I deemed this course the best. The enemy was five times our numbers.
13 April 13, 1851 to Custis: Cleanliness, temperance & order is [sic] very promotive of health & cheerfulness.	14 undated— I am considered such a monster, that I hesitate to darken with my shadow, the doors of those I love lest I should bring them misfortune	15 undated to A.W. Hope: Thank them most heartily for their kindness in providing me with a book [the Bible] in comparison with which all others in my eyes, are of minor importance.	16 April 16, 1865 to Matthew Brady: It is impossible, Mister Brady, how can I sit for a photograph with eyes of the world upon me as they are today!	17 undated— Oppose constancy to adversity, fortitude to suffering & courage to danger.	18 undated—I consider the character of no man affected by the want of success, provided he has made an honest effort to succeed.	19 April 19, 1857 to Mary Lee: I know in whose powerful hands I am, & on Him I rely & feel that in all our life we are upheld & sustained by Divine Providence.
20 undated—To Agnes: Do not forget your Papa, who thinks constantly of you & longs to see you more than he can express	21 undated— Military discipline is, unfortunately, necessary in military education, but it is a most unsuitable training for civil life.	22 undated—to Custis: Shake off those gloomy feelings. Drive them away. Fix your mind & pleasures upon what is before you. All is bright if you will think it so.	23 April 23, 1864 To wife— Our life in this world is of no value except to prepare us for a better. That should be our constant aim & the end of all our efforts.	24 undated— Read history & works of truth—not novels & romances. They print beauty more charming than nature & describe happiness that never exists.	25 undated— A child is more readily taught by having before it good examples to imitate than by simple precepts. He should therefore, be encouraged to associate with his parents.	26 undated— One of the errors in the management of children is irregularity of behavior towards them.
27 April 27, 1853 to Wife: It is for you, your poor father, the children, relatives, & friends I grieve. Not for her. She has gone from all the trouble & sorrow to a happy immortality.	28 undated— The love of truth is equal in importance to habitual obedience.	29 undated— Sentiments of religion should be early impressed upon the minds of children by personal explanation & systematic	30 undated — Nothing good can be acquired in this world without labour; & that the very necessities & comforts of life must be pursued by earnest & regular exertion.			



Letter from John H. Reagan to Clark, April 1861

(Circular Letter, No. 1.)

[Apr. 1861]

Confederate States of America,
Post Office Department.

Montgomery, ----- 1861.

Sir:

It is the wish of this government that all postmasters and other employees in the postal service should continue to perform their duties as such, and render all their accounts and pay all moneys to the order of the government of the United States, as they have heretofore done, until the government of the Confederate States shall be prepared to assume the entire control of its postal affairs. This will be done as soon as practicable. But the causes of delay incident to the organization of the department are such as to place it out of my power to determine definitely when the new service will be substituted for the old.

Any attempt to mix the employees of the two governments, in the same service, would be wholly impracticable. And no removals or appointments of postmasters, or others, in the postal service, will be made by this department, nor will it receive returns relating to or moneys derived from the postal service, until it shall assume the entire control of the service.

If the government of the United States should cease to carry on this service, before this department shall be organized and prepared to take charge of it, no great shock to the public interests will be produced by such a course, as the Postmaster General is authorized to continue, provisionally, by proclamation, the present postmasters, and others in the postal service, in office, and to continue existing contracts for carrying the mails, until new appointments and new contracts can be made.

We must regard the carrying of our mails, at this time, by that government, as a great public necessity to the people of both governments, resulting from their past intimate political, commercial and social relations, and alike important to the preservation of the present interests of the people of both countries. And while that government, by its action, consults such considerations, our government and people should act with the same high regard for great public interests. Such a course on our part, springing from such motives, will preserve the character of our people, without impairing the dignity of our government, and may lead to the transfer of our postal service from the control of the old to that of the new government, with far less injury to the people of both, than would necessarily flow from precipitate and inconsiderate action on the part of either.

I am, very respectfully,

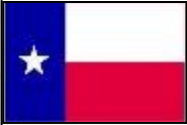
Your obedient servant,

JOHN H. REAGAN,

Postmaster-General.

To: *Governor of Texas*
Austin
Tex





JOHN HENNIGER REAGAN CONFEDERATE POSTMASTER

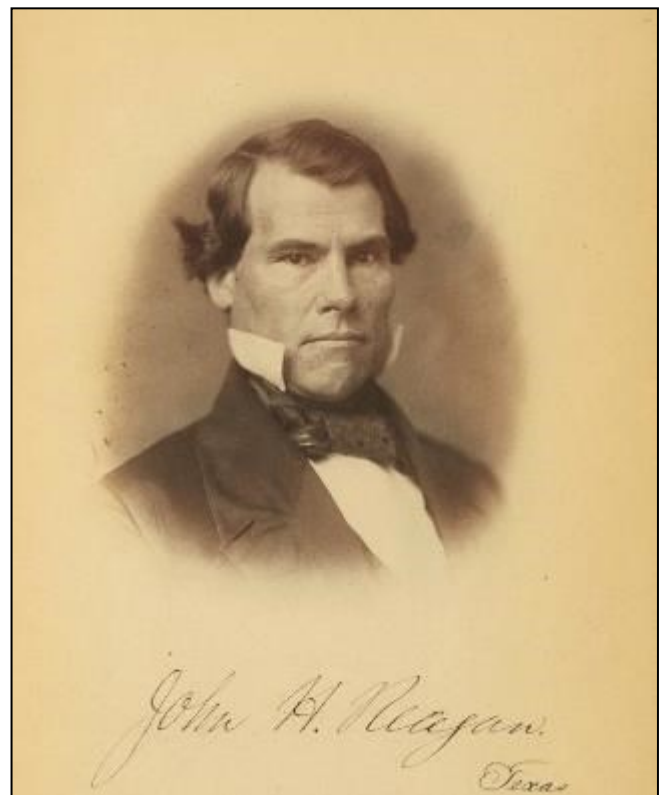


In addition to the misery caused by battle, the Civil War disrupted many everyday aspects of life. The Confederacy struggled to take over ordinary government services such as postal delivery. John Henniger Reagan, a former U.S. Congressman from East Texas, was appointed postmaster general of the Confederacy. In this letter, Reagan instructs the governors of the Confederate states to continue to pay their accounts to the U.S. postal service as before until a Confederate postal service could be organized.

U.S. postal service to the Confederacy was cut off on May 31, 1861. Although Reagan was an able administrator, Confederate postal service throughout the war was exceedingly poor. Very few stamps were issued, and delivery was handicapped by Federal control of the Mississippi River, destruction of railroads, blockade by sea, and invading army by land. Most people came to rely on travelers and soldiers on furlough as an informal alternative to the postal service.

At war's end, Reagan went on the run with other officials of the former Confederacy. Eventually, he was arrested along with Jefferson Davis and former Texas governor Francis R. Lubbock. During his imprisonment, he recognized the reality of the Confederacy's defeat and wrote an open letter to his fellow Texans urging them to recognize the authority of the United States and to renounce secession and slavery. Pardoned and released, he returned to Texas in December 1865, only to find himself the object of scorn for his conciliatory stance.

Events proved Reagan right, and he eventually won the nickname the "Old Roman" as a compliment to his willingness to sacrifice personal popularity for the greater good. He was reelected to Congress in 1874, and became a United States Senator in 1887. In 1891, he became the chairman of the newly formed Railroad Commission, which became a uniquely powerful body in regulating not only railroads, but many other aspects of the Texas economy. He retired in 1903 and died in 1905.





TEXAS CIVIL WAR HISTORY IN APRIL



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

April 8th, 1964: On this day, Confederate forces under Richard Taylor defeated a much larger Union force at the battle of Mansfield, Louisiana. Union general Nathaniel Banks had gathered an army of some 17,000 Federal troops to advance up the Red River to Alexandria and Shreveport, hoping to cut off the flow of supplies from Texas and to capture large quantities of cotton. General Taylor, commanding a Confederate force of Texas and Louisiana units, attacked the long, 12,000-man Union column three miles south of Mansfield with an army of 8,800 men. Taylor's force killed or wounded 700 Union soldiers, captured 1,500, and took 20 Union cannons and 200 wagons. About 1,000 Confederates were killed or wounded. It was one of the most humiliating Union defeats of the war. The following day Taylor's army was repulsed when it attacked the Union army at Pleasant Hill. Nevertheless, stung by his defeat on the 8th and convinced that Taylor's army was much larger than it was, Banks gave the order to retire on the night of April 9.

April 15th, 1869: the U.S. Supreme Court ruled in *Texas v. White* that the state still had the right to sue in the federal courts despite having seceded in 1861. In a suit originally filed by the state in 1867, George Paschal argued on behalf of the state for an injunction preventing defendants George W. White, John Chiles, and others from transferring bonds they received from the secession-era Texas State Military Board for supplying the Confederate States of America during the Civil War. The most historically significant question involved was whether or not Texas, having seceded and not having completed Reconstruction, had status in the Union and therefore the right to sue in the United States Supreme Court. Paschal argued that the Union was indestructible and that the state's status in the Union therefore had been unchanged by the war. The defense argued that Texas by seceding from the Union and later waging a war against the United States, had lost the status of a state in the Union and therefore had no right to sue in the United States Supreme Court. In its five-to-three decision, read by Chief Justice S.P. Chase, the court held the Union to be indestructible and thus not dissoluble by any act of a state, the government, or the people. The court thus repudiated the doctrine of state sovereignty.

April 20th, 1928: On this day, Felix Huston Robertson died in Waco. Robertson, the only Texas-born general officer to serve the Confederacy, was born in 1839 at Washington-on-the-Brazos. His father, Jerome Bonaparte Robertson, also fought in the Civil War, and was for a time commander of Hood's Texas Brigade. Felix Robertson was appointed brigadier general in 1864. He was a harsh disciplinarian whose savage punishments and Indian-like features earned him the sobriquet "Comanche Robertson." The most controversial incident of his military tenure occurred in Saltville, Virginia. There, on October 3, 1864, troops under Robertson's command killed well over 100 wounded, mostly black survivors of a Union attack. Though Robertson was never charged with any crime, one of his subordinate officers was hanged for murder. After the war, Robertson returned to Texas, where he became an enthusiastic member of the United Confederate Veterans and served as the commander of the Texas Division in 1911. At the time of his death he was the last surviving general of the Confederacy.

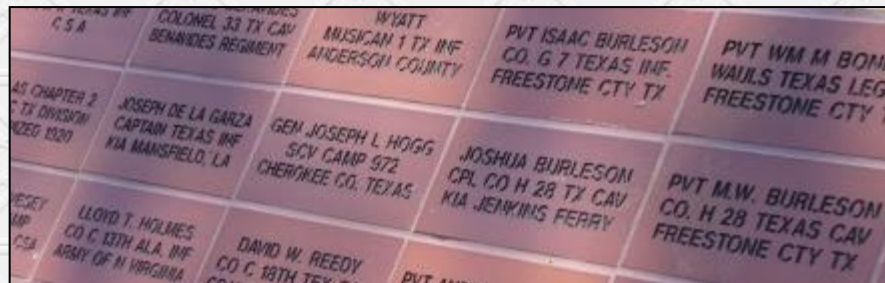
April 25th, 1861: On this day, 500 Federal troops stranded at the port of Saluria in Calhoun County were forced to surrender to Confederate colonel Earl Van Dorn. Saluria, at the eastern end of Matagorda Island, was founded in the 1840s and was a thriving port and ranching center in the 1850s. With the outbreak of the Civil War, Federal troops flocked to the coast, hoping to find transport to the North. Van Dorn intercepted 500 of them at Saluria. After being paroled, they were allowed to sail for New York. During the federal blockade of 1862, when invasion seemed imminent, Saluria inhabitants fled to the mainland. Confederate troops stationed at nearby Fort Esperanze later burned the town, dismantled the lighthouse, and drove most of the cattle off the island. Confederate artillerymen defended the fort until November 29, 1863, when they retreated to the mainland. In June 1864 Federal troops left Fort Esperanze. Afterward, citizens began moving back to the island. What finally destroyed Saluria was hurricanes, in 1875 and 1886. By 1904 a rural school with one teacher and seven students was the only vestige of the community. The more famous nearby port of Indianola was similarly destroyed.



CONFEDERATE VETERANS MEMORIAL PLAZA INFORMATION



The Confederate Veterans Memorial Plaza had the official opening and dedication on April 13, 2013. It is a beautiful Memorial to the Confederate Veterans. Although it is open for visitors, there is still room along the sidewalks for you to purchase a brick paver in the name of your confederate ancestor. This will ensure that your ancestor's service to the confederacy will not be forgotten, but will be remembered for years to come. If you would like to make a donation for a paver, please contact Commander Ed Heitman, E-mail: edheitman@gmail.com; Phone: (903-504-6674) or Dan Dyer at E-mail: danielyer497@yahoo.com; Phone: (903) 391-2224 or Richard Thornton, Adjutant/ Treasurer at E-mail: tx_tsar@hotmail.com



Would you like to honor you ancestor? There is still room in the plaza for you to have a paver with your ancestor's name and military information. You can also acquire a paver in the name of your SCV Camp.



JOHN H. REAGAN CAMP #2156

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E-mail: edheitman@gmail.com
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Richard Thornton, Adjutant/Treasurer
Palestine, Texas
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Editor: dwrightfranklin1@yahoo.com

Please visit our website @
www.reaganscvcamp.org

The citizen-soldiers who fought for the Confederacy personified the best qualities of America. The preservation of liberty and freedom was the motivating factor in the South's decision to fight the *Second American Revolution*. The tenacity with which Confederate soldiers fought underscored their belief in the rights guaranteed by the Constitution. These attributes are the underpinning of our democratic society and represent the foundation on which this nation was built.

Today, the **Sons of Confederate Veterans** is preserving the history and legacy of these heroes, so future generations can understand the motives that animated the Southern Cause.

The SCV is the direct heir of the United Confederate Veterans, and the oldest hereditary organization for male descendants of Confederate soldiers. Organized at Richmond, Virginia in 1896, the SCV continues to serve as a historical, patriotic, and non-political organization dedicated to ensuring that a true history of the 1861-1865 period is preserved.

Membership in the **Sons of Confederate Veterans** is open to all male descendants of any veteran who served honorably in the Confederate armed forces. Membership can be obtained through either **lineal or collateral** family lines and kinship to a veteran must be **documented genealogically**. The minimum age for full membership is 12, but there is no minimum for Cadet membership. **Friends of the SCV** memberships are available as well to those who are committed to upholding our charge, but do not have the Confederate ancestry.

THE CHARGE TO THE SONS OF CONFEDERATE VETERANS

"To you, Sons of Confederate Veterans, we will commit the vindication of the cause for which we fought. To your strength will be given the defense of the Confederate soldier's good name, the guardianship of his history, the emulation of his virtues, the perpetuation of those principles which he loved and which you love also, and those ideals which made him glorious and which you also cherish."

Lt. General Stephen Dill Lee, Commander-in-Chief
United Confederate Veterans
New Orleans, Louisiana, April 25, 1906.



Camp meetings: 4th Tuesday Each
Month - 06:30 PM
Meal served at each meeting.

Commercial Bank of Texas on the
corner of N. Mallard & E. Lacy Street

The Bank is located just south of the
Anderson County Courthouse
Annex.