

SONS OF CONFEDERATE VETERANS, TEXAS DIVISION

THE JOHN H. REAGAN CAMP NEWS www.reaganscvcamp.org

VOLUME 17, ISSUE 6

June 2025

1ST LT CMDR'S DISPATCH



June is a little depressing for those of us who love our Confederate heritage.

The last large Confederate military department, the Trans-Mississippi Department, surrendered on May 26, completing the formalities on June 2. The last surrender on land did not come until June 23, when Cherokee Confederate General Stand Watie gave up his command at Doaksville, Choctaw Nation.

Thinking of these two
June surrenders makes
me think of the song,
"Wearing of the Gray,"
written by a
Confederate Veteran
years after the War. I
think this song has
some of the most
compelling lyrics of

any song about the Confederate soldier. In part:

The fearful struggle's ended now and peace smiles on our land, And though we've yielded we have proved ourselves a faithful band.

We fought them long, we fought them well, we fought them night and day,

And bravely struggled for our rights while wearing of the gray.

And now that we have ceased to fight and pledged our sacred word,

That we against the Union's might no more will draw the sword, We feel despite the sneers of those who never smelt the fray, That we've a manly, honest right to wearing of the gray.

Defeat is not dishonor, no of honor not bereft, We should thank God that in our breasts this priceless boon is left.



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

Oh! should we reach that glorious place where waits a sparklin' crown,
For everyone who for the right his soldier life lay down.
God grant to us the privilege upon that happy day,
Of claspin' hands with those who fell while wearing of the gray.



CAMP MEETINGS

4th Tuesday of Each Month 06:30 PM at the First Congregational Methodist Church of Elkhart.

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 Veterans Memorial Plaza landscape manicured. If you would be willing to donate, please contact Richard Thornton at 903-731-1557or email tx_tsar@hotmail.com.

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

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

The Reagan Camp will have monthly meetings on the 4th Tuesday of each month. Meetings will be held at the First Congregational Church of Elkhart.

July 22, 2025 - July Meeting

August 26, 2025 - August Meeting

Sep 23, 2025 - September Meeting

Oct 28, 2025 - October Meeting



June 9, 1863—Brandy Station is generally considered the greatest cavalry battle ever fought in North America. About 20,500 soldiers—some 9,500 Confederate cavalry and 11,000 Union troops including 3,000 infantry—took part in the battle. Union casualties numbered 866, including 10 officers and 71 enlisted men killed. Confederate losses were 523.

Officers for 2025

Commander - Ed Heitman

1st Lt. - David Franklin

Adjutant/Treasurer - Richard Thornton

Sgt at Arms - Marc Robinson

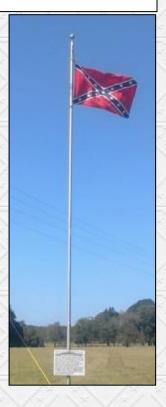
Judge Advocate - Martin Lawrence

Chaplain - Dwight Franklin

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-



JUNE MEETING PICTURES



The June meeting was held on June 24th at the First Congregational Methodist Church of Elkhart at 6:30 p.m. We had fried chicken, beans, cornbread, pound cake, and a homemade coconut cream pie (from Sheri Franklin). The meal was delicious! After the meal, Marc Robinson presented the camp with 'Part Two' of the historical program that he started last month titled, "The 12th Texas Cavalry Parsons's Texas Cavalry".

Since the bank closed the building where we used to meet, we will be meeting at the First Congregational Methodist Church in Elkhart until further notice. Our next meeting will be held on July 22nd at 6:30 p.m. We hope to see you there.









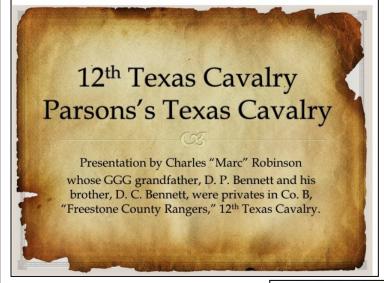












Marc Robinson presented the June Historical Program. His program was "Part Two of the 12th Texas Cavalry Parson's Texas Cavalry".

Marc gave a very detailed powerpoint presentation that was very interesting.

We appreciate Marc for the program and for everything else that he does for the John H. Reagan Camp. He is an asset to the SCV and very much appreciated.

Marc has allowed us to print his notes and slides to allow those who missed the meeting to learn more about the 12th Texas Cavalry.

The Texas Cavalry had saved Arkansas's capital, but most of these units were powerless to do the same for their cherished horses. General Hindman needed more infantry and lacked forage for the rapidly growing number of mounted Texans, ordered nearly all the troops to dismount. The Twelfth Texas was the regiment selected to retain its mounts.

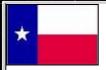
Why did Gen. Hindman choose Parson's command among the Texas Cav. Units? A member of the Twelfth bragged that Parson's men had an "enviable reputation born of hard campaigning and could credit the selection to "its fine drill and fighting reputation

David C. Nance, a nineteen-year-old from Ellis County had gone into the Battle of Cotton Plant on a Morgan horse his father had given him. "I called him Morgan..., and in the army everybody wanted him-but he was mine. This was the horse that was killed in the battle ... and I know if I had not been so nearly killed too, I should have cried bittterly at his death at the time."

While all the newly dismounted Texans were ordered to camps of instruction near Austin, Arkansas, Parsons turned his troops toward the Mississippi River. Almost daily scouting parties brought in prisoners. Henry Orr, proud of this new responsibility, wrote his family, "Texas soldiers seem to know no fear." Yet the Yankees, he believed, held Parsons' troops in awe. "The prisoners", he asserted, "said they had long heard of our regiment and had wished that they might never come in contact with us."

The Skirmish at L'Anguille Ferry

Col. Parsons planned to avenge the loss his troops had suffered near the Cache River at the Battle of Cotton Plant. Gen. Hindman had given Col. Parsons permission for a daring raid during the last part of July 1862. He left with about 300 men from the 12th and about 40 from Johnson's Spy Company toward the St. Francis River. The Texans rode until they were about 30 miles from the Federal camps.





Col. Parsons concealed his own force and watched the enemies movement until he planned his strategy. Then on August 2nd Parsons marched his men all day and into the night until a few miles from the Federals camp. They had hardly rested, when Col. Parsons ordered the men to mount and at 01:00 a.m. in almost total darkness where they could only see the rider in front of them, they were headed toward the Federal encampment.

Col. Parsons plan was simple, divide his men into five squadrons with one going around to block any retreat. They attacked a little after sunrise as the march through the darkness and through bushes and bogs took a little longer then planned.

A soldier recalled, "the charge was commenced by Col. Parsons' command and evry Texan began the Comanche yell."

As the bugler sounded the charge, Lt. Burleson's men on the far side, took off yelling. The Texans displayed the perfect training that had become their trademark. "The rangers were well disciplined," pronounced the Federal lieutenant. "As one fell from the saddle his horse moved forward in the rank as steadily as before."

The shocked Wisconsin soldiers heard the bugle sound and saw "six hundred rangers, yelling like devils." advance. There was no escape; their own horses were hitched to the trees, unsaddled. The fighting was hand to hand. As a Federal officer later wrote, the Wisconsin troops were accustomed to fighting only guerillas, "who, cruel as death to captives, had never dared to face us in a fair fight." The Federal loss was devastating...three wagons of ammunition, one of arms, two ambulances, and one commissary wagon with over fifteen wagons destroyed. Fourteen soldiers killed, nearly fifty captured, and around forty wounded. Confederate loss was two killed and ten wounded.

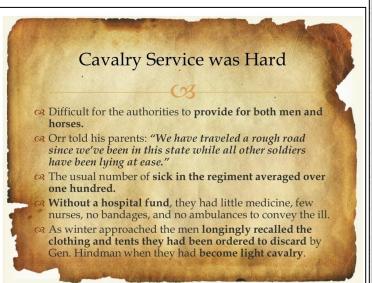
Henry Orr bragged that although the Federals "were very wrathy and swore they would avenge themselves," they would "never catch us a-napping." Henry Orr and other members of the regiment were proud of the publicity. The Yankees "call us murderers, the 'Swamp Fox' Regiment," he boasted, "the latter I think tolerable appropriate for we lie in the swamps in daylight and travel at night. We have done more to keep the enemy out of this country than all the balance of

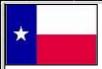
the troops combined."

The Houston Telegraph reported that the Federal soldiers in Arkansas "have a great deal more fear of Texas Rangers than they have of the devil."

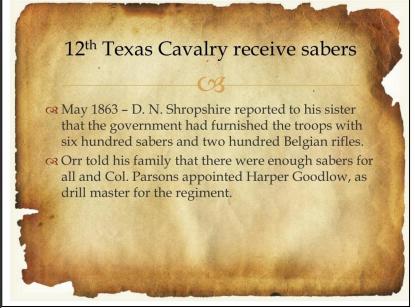
The editor of the Houston Telegraph wrote in the fall of 1862, "Col. Parsons, of your State is doing the country an immense service. He rarely ever has an encounter with the 'Feds" but what he puts them to flight. He is frequently down within a few miles of Helena, and is continually cutting off the enemy's foraging parties and driving in their pickets."

-continued on next page-









Campaigning in Louisiana

June 1863 - Ordered to Lake Providence, Louisiana to serve attached to John G. Walker's Texas Infantry arriving last week of the month. "The object of the expedition, proved to be to break up a nest of Federals who were cultivating cotton and corn in the valley of Bayou Mason and on the Mississippi on the free labor system that is to say hired negroes," as reported to the Dallas Herald by a member of the 19th Texas. Col. Parsons was not with his men when they first arrived in Louisiana.

A member of the Twelfth wrote to the Houston Telegraph that Parsons was "scouting singlehanded and alone, on his own hook, thro' the swamps, keeping his own counsel and learning

the whereabouts of the Federals, and finding the best point for striking a telling blow; which self-imposed task, as the sequel proved, he accomplished most successfully."

The troops stopped to rest in the camps of Walker's division and J.P. Blessington of the Sixteenth Texas Infantry commented: "As they passed by us, I could not but admire their horsemanship; they all appeared to be excellent horsemen, and at a distance their general appearance was decidedly showy and gallant." He noticed their uniforms "contained as many colors as the rainbow" and "their arms consisted mostly of Enfield rifles, slung to their saddles, while around the waist of each was buckled a heavy cavalry sword, which clattered at ever movement of their horses. A pair of holstered pistols attached to the pommels of their saddles completed their equipment."

The Twelfth and Nineteenth Texas Cav. and one section of Pratt's battery was involved in a very successful raid along with several units of Gen. John Walker's division in north east Louisiana between Milliken's Bend and Lake Providence the last week of June. The Texans captured between 1300 to 1500 blacks, over four hundred horses and mules, cattle, camp equipage and, important to the department, the infantry's wagons now held over two hundred Federal arms. In spite of their efforts, Confederates in Louisiana could do little to aid their comrades across the river at Vicksburg or Port Hudson.

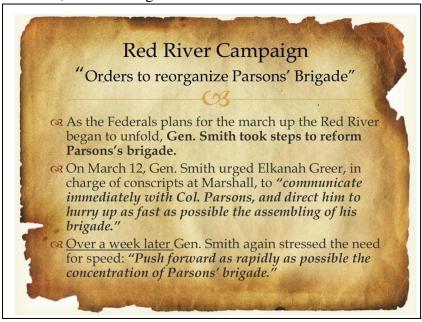
Sickness, shortages, and sense of futility plagued the men all the time they stayed in Louisiana. In early November 1863, Parsons and some of his troops returned to Arkansas (Camden). Some of his troops, about six companies, had already been sent to Texas in October to hunt for draft evaders and deserters. These units were companies of the Twelfth under Captains Tom Haley, J.E. Hawkins, H.W. Kyser, A.M. Maddux, and William G. Veal, as well as Captain Allen Beard's company from the 19th Texas, were detailed under Lt. Col. Bell Burleson to the Bureau of Conscription.

Under orders from Gen. E. Kirby Smith, by mid-February 1864, twenty-five of the companies under Parsons had returned to Texas to hunt draft evaders and deserters, to <u>lift the burden of the army having to provide forage for their horses since it was almost non-existent in Arkansas and to raise their spirits, but it would not last long.</u> As Parson' Texans headed home, the Federal commanders conceived the largest invasion yet amassed against Confederates in the Trans-Mississippi.





Gen. Kirby Smith had assured Gen. Richard Taylor that if troops were drawn from his district to defend Arkansas, Parsons' brigade would be sent to Louisiana.



Reorganizing and deploying the scattered men took time. They began to rendezvous at Marshall, but Gen. Smith held them in reserve until he decided which theater needed reinforcements the most. Finally on April 8 (Day of Battle of Sabine Crossroads) he ordered Parsons' cavalry to join Gen. Taylor's army on the retreat down the Red River. The brigade, however, was not complete. About seven hundred men stayed behind in Texas with orders to meet their wagon train carrying arms before joining the colonel. In a personal directive to Col. Parsons at 5 a.m. on the morning of April 9 (Day of Battle of Pleasant Hill), Gen. Smith decided he could not wait; he instructed Col. Parsons to proceed toward Mansfield

as rapidly as possible with the troops at hand.

Red River Campaign "Gun Boat Fight"

After the Battle of Pleasant Hill, Gen. E. Kirby Smith sends most all of Gen. Taylor's infantry to Arkansas when they were needed to battle Admiral Porter's fleet in the Red River. This job was now in the hands of Gen. Tom Green's cavalry which included Parsons' brigade. The Confederate command of the Iron Clad Gun Boats fight at Blair's Landing was given to Col. Parsons by Gen. Green. Col. Parsons dismounted his Confederate cavalrymen and they formed a battle line at the river fighting very bravely.

The proximity of Parsons' sharpshooters posed a serious problem for Kilby Smith's gun crews. The big weapons were intended for long range bombardment, and since Gen. Green's boys were under their muzzles, it was like trying to swat flies with a sledge hammer.

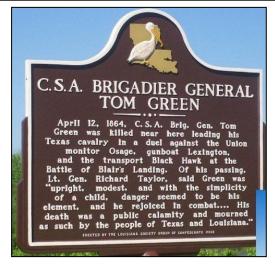
Commodore Selfridge wrote, "The great guns of the Osage were loaded with grape and canister, and when these were exhausted, with shrapnel having fuses cut to one second."

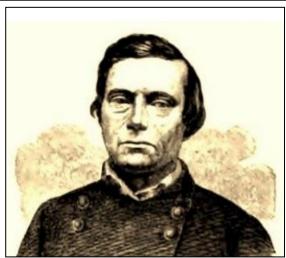
The Osage and the Lexington, supported first by the Rob Roy and then by the Emerald and the Clara Bell, rained death and destruction upon Green's rangers. The men of the Twelfth, Nineteenth, and Twenty-first Texas, were the last to leave the levee. Low on powder and shot, dazed, exhausted, and streaked with smoke, blood, and grime, they responded gallantly to Parsons' plea to stick to their positions. "Having learned from experience to lie down while reloading to avoid the full force of naval bombardments, they fired less frequently but with the pinpoint accuracy that bespoke their frontier origin." Anne Bailey

Only moments before the Federal barrage ended, this hero of San Jacinto, "who had behaved with great gallantry throughout the fight," suddenly disappeared in an explosion of smoke and flying shrapnel. Private A.R. Danchy, one of Woods' Rangers "standing within a few yards of the general," wrote that Green was sitting on his horse "talking to one of his staff...[when] a shell...exploded just above his head. Gen. Tom Green had been beheaded by the blast and his horse killed as well.









Commodore Thomas Selfridge of the U.S.S. Osage recalled, "The rebels fought with unusual pertinacity for over an hour, delivering the heaviest and most concentrated fire of musketry that I have ever witnessed."

Parsons quoted Porter as saying the Texans "desperate courage baffled description."

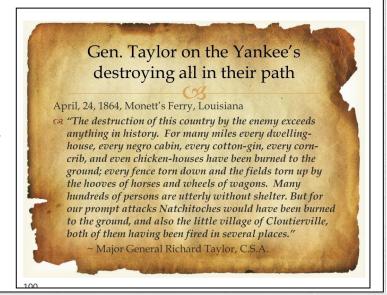
The fighting was far from over and the next day At daybreak 'boots and saddles' were sounded by our bugles," later wrote Colonel Parsons, "and the brigade was on march to the lines around Natchitoches."

From the Gunboat fight until the battle at Yellow Bayou on May 18, "not a day or night elapsed that the sound of our guns were not heard in ceaseless attack, either upon Banks' retreating army and lines of Porter's equally demoralized gunboat fleet, upon which," Parsons proudly noted, "the first paralyzing blow was administered at Blair's Landing in the gunboat fight."

Facing "ten and often twenty times their number," wrote Col. Parsons in his official report of the campaign down the Red River, "the world never witness such fights as those [of the] rebel troops who hung with such dogged valor" upon the rear of the Federal army and navy. The Confederate army pursued them without rest.

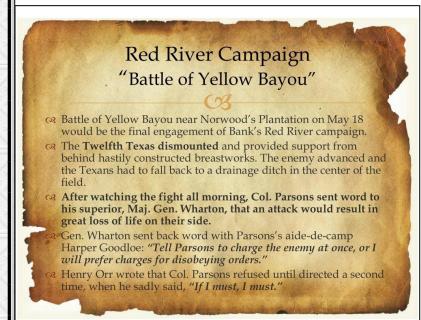
For Parsons' troops this meant "long and continued privations, the oft recurring night watch, the incessant, never ending days fight, and the cool and unflinching courage which...bore them up against every apparent reverse."

Battle at Cloutierville - The heaviest fighting occurred for the 12th Texas Cavalry there followed by the Battle of Monett's Ferry which began on April 23 and continued into the night. Gen. Taylor reported, "It is difficult to estimate the importance of the service rendered by Wharton, Steele, and Parsons. The gallantry and pluck they exhibited in fighting such odds for three days is beyond praise." Parsons deserved special attention because he "displayed great courage and ahs the entire confidence of his brigade." Taylor recommended: "he should be promoted at once."









Many southerners believed the battle resulted in a needless loss of life, and Henry Orr observed that Gen. Wharton was "considerably censured for the manner in which he managed the fight."

Col. Xavier Debray (26th Texas Cav.) insisted it was an Unfortunate and unnecessary affair, the only result of which was to delay the enemy in reaching the eastern side of the Atchafalaya, where we wanted him to go, [and it] cost us over two hundred men killed and wounded."

An incomplete list from Parsons' brigade reported: 12 killed, 67 wounded, and 2 missing. Of this number, the Twelfth Texas suffered the most - 10 killed, 61 wounded, and 2 missing.

After Yellow Bayou, Parsons' brigade was in a devastated state according to Dave Nance of Co. E, the Ellis County Grays. It bivouacked "near the...battlefield...four miles [from] Simmesport" until the last week of May, until it moved below Alexandria for slightly better forage.

After the Battle of Yellow Bayou until the end of the war, there was not a shot fired in the Trans-Mississippi other than those at the Battle of Palmito Ranch in South Texas.

Parsons' brigade was transferred to Southeastern Arkansas for the winter of 1864-1865, patrolling the Arkansas, Saline, Ouachita (wosh-i-taw), and Mississippi rivers. During these months orders arrived from Camden (Gen. Magruder's Headquarters for Arkansas), keeping Parsons and his boys on the move, shifting aimlessly around the state, and completely destroying their confidence in Magruder. In addition to continuous marching orders, Parsons' boys had to contend with pneumonia, "third-day-chills", disintegrating clothing, starvation, and a devastating mortality rate among their horses.

The Last Year

In February 1865, Gen. E. Kirby Smith ordered Parsons' brigade, along with other mounted units stationed in eastern Arkansas and Louisiana, to proceed to more bountiful campsites in Texas. The move was mostly due to the disturbing mortality rate among the cavalry houses along the eastern border of the department. First camping at Waverly in Walker County near the present day San Jacinto County line and "in a thicket of timber...[on] a high rolling plain" in Grimes County. "Parsons drilled his boys incessantly in both the Waverly and Grimes County sites, probably hoping to keep their minds off their pitiful plight and the dismal state of the war." Ann Bailey

The communications from Gen. E. Kirby Smith and his commanders broke down. In early April, Col. Parsons unable to obtain orders to the contrary, moved his brigade to Camp Groce, south of Hempstead to be near Houston where it was rumored that Gen. E. Kirby Smith planned to relocate his headquarters. One week after arriving at Camp Groce, Col. Parsons received orders from Shreveport, dismounting and disbanding their brigade, <u>but the war ended before he could act on the order.</u>

On May 12, Col. Parsons, fearing epidemic illness and hoping for better forage, moved his brigade north to the Brazos, where he established his final camp on a broad prairie in the southwestern corner of Robertson County.



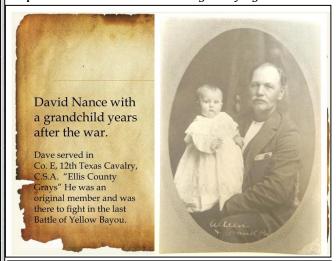


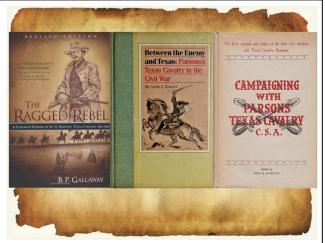
Shortly after nine o'clock on May 20, while the troops were drilling, "a courier on a fast horse" raced into camp, hit the ground running, and asked for the brigade commander. Parsons came out of his tent, conferred briefly with the courier, and asked his sergeant major to assemble his troops. Lacking his usual sparkle and charm, he addressed his boys for the last time.

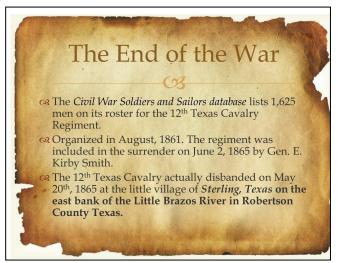
"Soldiers," Parsons began, "from all the information I can gather, the Trans-Mississippi Department has been surrendered." He briefly thanked his officers and men for their loyalty and confidence in him. Parsons then asked his officer "to divide the teams and wagons" among the men. "Go home," he concluded, "the war is over!" Then he turned and disappeared into his tent.

On May 20th, while camped in Robertson County, Texas, Dave Nance of the Ellis County Grays wrote, "we broke camp for the last time...we were miles from home and not one in a hundred had any money to pay his way home." "Dave, however, had forty dollars which he had carried through most of the war. His horse and those of most of his messmates were in pretty good condition considering their exposure to gunfire, starvation, and disease," B.P. Gallaway per David Nance diary.

"Dave lashed his poncho and bedding behind his saddle, shoved his saber (his only remaining weapon) into its rigging, and swung onto the back of his horse, and bade farewell to the drumbeats, bugle calls, muster inspections, and drill sessions of army life." B.P. Gallaway







We appreciate Marc for presenting the historical program. It was very good and informative.

He said credits are due to the books in the picture to the left and especially "Between the Enemy and Texas". You can find this book at the following website.

https://books.google.com/books/about/

Between_the_Enemy_and_Texas.html?

id=kIAkZkwsTwIC&printsec=frontcover&source=kp_read_button&hl=en &newbks=1&newbks_redir=0&gboemv=1#v=onepage&q&f=false



JUNE CONFEDERATE VICTORY THE BATTLE OF SAVAGE'S STATION



On June 29, 1862, in Henrico County, Virginia the Confederates secured a victory over the Union army at Savage's Station.

The Battle of Savage's Station was fought June 29, 1862, during the American Civil War (1861-1865). The fourth of the Seven Days Battles outside Richmond, VA, Savage's Station saw General Robert E. Lee's Army of Northern Virginia pursuing Major General George B. McClellan's retreating Army of the Potomac. Striking the Union rear guard, centered on Major General Edwin V. Sumner's II Corps, Confederate forces proved unable to dislodge the enemy. Fighting continued into the evening until a strong thunderstorm ended the engagement. Union troops continued their retreat that night.

BACKGROUND

Having begun the Peninsula Campaign earlier in the spring, Major General George McClellan's Army of the Potomac stalled before the gates of Richmond in late May 1862 after a stalemate at the Battle of Seven Pines. This was mostly due to the Union commander's overly-cautious approach and the inaccurate belief that General Robert E. Lee's Army of Northern Virginia badly outnumbered him. While McClellan remained inactive for much of June, Lee tirelessly worked to improve Richmond's defenses and plan a counterattack.

Though outnumbered himself, Lee understood his army could not hope to win an extended siege in the Richmond defenses. On June 25, McClellan finally moved and he ordered the divisions of Brigadier Generals Joseph Hooker and Philip Kearny to push up the Williamsburg Road. The resulting Battle of Oak Grove saw the Union attack halted by Major General Benjamin Huger's division.

Lee Attacks:

This proved fortunate for Lee as he had moved the bulk of his army north of the Chickahominy River with the goal of crushing Brigadier General Fitz John Porter's isolated V Corps. Striking on June 26, Lee's forces were bloodily repulsed by Porter's men at the Battle of Beaver Dam Creek (Mechanicsville). That night, McClellan, concerned about the presence of Major General Thomas "Stonewall" Jackson's command to the north, directed Porter to retreat and shifted the army's supply line from the Richmond and York River Railroad south to the James River. In doing so, McClellan effectively ended his own campaign as the abandonment of the railroad meant that heavy guns could not be carried to Richmond for the planned siege.

Taking a strong position behind Boatswain's Swamp, V Corps came under heavy attack on June 27. In the resulting Battle of Gaines' Mill, Porter's men turned back several enemy assaults through the day until being compelled to retreat near sunset. As Porter's men shifted to the south bank of the Chickahominy, a badly shaken McClellan ended the campaign and began moving the army towards the safety of the James River.



JUNE CONFEDERATE VICTORY THE BATTLE OF SAVAGE'S STATION



With McClellan providing little guidance to his men, the Army of the Potomac fought off Confederate forces at Garnett's and Golding's Farms on June 27-28. Remaining away from the fighting, McClellan made the situation worse by failing to name a second in command. This was largely due to his dislike and distrust of his senior corps commander, Major General Edwin V. Sumner.

Lee's Plan

Despite McClellan's personal feelings, Sumner effectively led the 26,600-man Union rear guard which had concentrated near Savage's Station. This force comprised elements of his own II Corps, Brigadier General Samuel P. Heintzelman's III Corps, and a division of Brigadier General William B. Franklin's VI Corps. Pursuing McClellan, Lee sought to engage and defeat the Union forces at Savage's Station.

To due so, Lee ordered Brigadier General John B. Magruder to push his division down the Williamsburg Road and York River Railroad while Jackson's division was to rebuild the bridges across the Chickahominy and attack south. These forces were to converge and overwhelm the Union defenders. Moving out early on June 29, Magruder's men began encountering Union troops around 9:00 AM.

ARMIES & COMMANDERS

Union Major General George B. McClellan Major General Edwin V. Sumner 26,600 men

Confederate General Robert E. Lee Brigadier General John B. Magruder 14,000 men

The Fighting Begins

Pressing forward, two regiments from Brigadier General George T. Anderson's brigade engaged two Union regiments from Sumner's command. Skirmishing through the morning, the Confederates were able to push the enemy back, but Magruder became increasingly concerned about the size of Sumner's command. Seeking reinforcements from Lee, he received two brigades from Huger's division on the stipulation that if they were not engaged by 2:00 PM they would be withdrawn.

As Magruder contemplated his next move, Jackson received a confusing message from Lee that suggested that his men were to remain north of the Chickahominy. Due to this, he did not cross the river to attack from the north. At Savage's Station, Heintzelman decided that his corps was not necessary to the Union defense and began withdrawing without first informing Sumner.



JUNE CONFEDERATE VICTORY THE BATTLE OF SAVAGE'S STATION



THE BATTLE RENEWED

At 2:00 PM, having not advanced, Magruder returned Huger's men. Waiting another three hours, he finally resumed his advance with the brigades of Brigadier Generals Joseph B. Kershaw and Paul J. Semmes. These troops were aided on the right by part of a brigade led by Colonel William Barksdale. Supporting the attack was a 32-pounder Brooke naval rifle mounted on a rail car and protected by an iron casemate. Dubbed the "Land Merrimack," this weapon was slowly pushed down the railroad. Despite being outnumbered, Magruder elected to attack with only part of his command.

The Confederate movement was first noticed by Franklin and Brigadier General John Sedgwick who were scouting west of Savage's Station. After initially thinking the approaching troops belonged to Heintzelman, they recognized their mistake and informed Sumner. It was at this time that an irate Sumner discovered that III Corps had departed. Advancing, Magruder encountered Brigadier General William W. Burns' Philadelphia Brigade just south of the railroad. Mounting a tenacious defense, Burns' men soon faced envelopment by the larger Confederate force. To stabilize the line, Sumner randomly began feeding regiments from other brigades into the battle.

Coming up on Burns' left, the 1st Minnesota Infantry joined the fight followed by two regiments from Brigadier General Israel Richardson's division. As the forces engaged were largely equal in size, a stalemate developed as darkness and foul weather approached. Operating on Burns' left and south of the Williamsburg Road, Brigadier General William T.H. Brooks' Vermont Brigade sought to protect the Union flank and charged forward. Attacking into a stand of woods, they met intense Confederate fire and were repulsed with heavy losses. The two sides remained engaged, with neither making any progress, until a storm ended the battle around 9:00 PM.

AFTERMATH

In the fighting at Savage's Station, Sumner suffered 1,083 killed, wounded, and missing while Magruder sustained 473. The bulk of the Union losses were incurred during the Vermont Brigade's ill-fated charge. With the end of the fighting, Union troops continued withdrawing across White Oak Swamp but were forced to abandon a field hospital and 2,500 wounded. In the wake of the battle, Lee reprimanded Magruder for not attacking more forcefully stating that the "pursuit should be most vigorous." By noon the following day, Union troops had crossed the swamp. Later in the day, Lee resumed his offensive by attacking McClellan's army at the Battles of Glendale (Frayser's Farm) and White Oak Swamp.

You can see this article online at https://www.thoughtco.com/battle-of-savages-station-2360248 Kennedy Hickman is a historian, museum director, and curator who specializes in military and naval history. He has appeared on The History Channel as a featured expert.



JOHN H. REAGAN CAMP JUNE IN THE LIFE OF JOHN H. REAGAN



June 6, 1857- John H. Reagan made 1st speech in bid for US Rep. at Palestine.



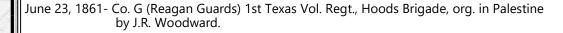
June 10,1891- John H. Reagan's official appointment by Gov. Hogg as 1st Railroad Commissioner of Texas.

June 19, 1896- John H. Reagan 5th recipient of honorary doctorate at Tulane Univ., New Orleans, La.



June 23, 1865-John H. Reagan's letter to Gov. A.J. Hamilton asking for pardon and release from Federal Prison, Boston Harbor.

Other important dates in June





June 24, 1861- Co H, 1st Texas Vol. Inf. Regt., Hoods Brigade, org. in Palestine by J.G Deveroux; A.T. Rainey was Capt.



June 21, 1900- Hood's Brigade veterans began 3 day convention in Palestine.



CIVIL "WAR SALT WORKS & THE WAR" HISTORICAL MARKER



Palestine Salt Works

Inscription (Front Southwest side): Located 6.5 miles southwest during the Civil War this salt works was assigned to produce salt for the Confederacy at a fixed price of eight dollars for a hundred-pound sack. Private customers from East Texas, Arkansas, and Louisiana often paid twenty dollars for a sack. Producing salt was slow, tedious work. Salt water was taken from wells spread over a distance of three-fourths of a mile. A pump operated by a slave was placed in each well. Gum logs hollowed out and joined together, formed a pipeline from the wells to large cast iron boiling kettles which were kept fired. Heated water was then transferred to smaller kettles for quick evaporation.

(Back and northeast side):

Salt was then sacked, purchased and hauled away on horseback, in wagons and in oxcarts. During the Civil War the demand for salt, the only known way to preserve meat, increased to supply the southern army. Meat was salted, smoked for preservation. It was then packed in salt for the long, hot trips to army camps. Horses and mules used by the cavalry, artillery, and



quartermaster units required the vital mineral too. Salt also preserved hides for making shoes, harness and saddles. When the confederate government levied a meat tithe on farmers, the demand for salt increased. Often cattle and cotton were exchanged for salt which itself became a medium of exchange when salt became scarce, women dug up smokehouse floors to extract salt from the soil. Other Civil War salt works were operated along the coast and in other East, Central and West Texas counties.

Erected 1965 by The State of Texas. (Marker Number **8792**.)

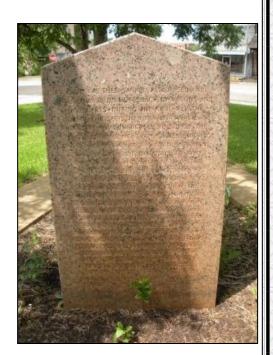
Topics. This historical marker is listed in this topic list: War, US Civil

Location 31° 45.879′ N, 95° 37.587′ W. Marker is in Palestine, Texas, in Anderson County. It is at the intersection of North Church Street (State Highway 19) and East Crawford Street, on the right when traveling north on North Church Street. Located on the lawn at the Anderson County Courthouse.

Marker is at or near this postal address: 500 North Church Street, Palestine TX 75801, United States of America.

Credits. This page was last originally submitted on June 14, 2010, by Reagan Camp Sons of Confederate Veterans Compatriot Charles Marc Robinson of Palestine, Texas. **Photos:** submitted online on June 14, 2010, by Charles Marc Robinson of Palestine, Texas. • Craig Swain was the editor who published this page.

Website for this page is www.hmdb.org/m.asp?m=31881



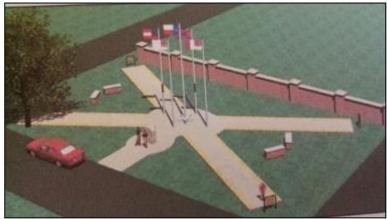


A GREAT WAY TO ENSURE THAT YOUR ANCESTOR'S SERVICE AND HONOR IS NOT FORGOTTEN



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.





JOHN H. REAGAN

SCV CAMP #2156

WILLIAM C FRANKLIN	JOHN DANIEL LILES	WILLIAM J. CHAFFIN	
CO D 12 BTTN ARK	PVT	CO H 5 TEX CAV CSA	
SHARP SHOOTERS	DIED 4 25 1865 POW	1829 - 1908	
JASPER N. CARNES	RICHARD A. HODGES	ANDREW J BEAUCHAMP	
CO B 8 REGIMENT	CO K 22 TX INF CSA	CO F 13 TEX INF	
TEXAS INFANTRY	1833 - 1905	12-9-1834 9-1-1894	
	The state of the s	The same of the sa	
JACOB L. SHERIDAN	JOHN H. SHERIDAN	COL A.T. RAINEY	
CAPT CO I 1ST REGT	PVT. CO I 1ST REGT	CO. H 1 TEX. INF.	
TEXAS INFANTRY	TEXAS INFANTRY	HOOD'S TEX. BRIG	

PALESTINE TEXAS	DIED AS POW OCT 63
GEORGE KNOX GIBSON	WILLIAM H. CRIST
PVT. CO. B 12TH	COMPANY 1 7 TX CAV
TEXAS CAVLRY, CSA	C.S.A.
PVT. R. M. LUMMUS	PVT ALLEN G TURNER
53 GEORGIA INF.	CO A 7TH BATTALION
COMPANY B C.S.A	MISS INF. CSA
SGT. AMOS G. HANKS	WILLIAM H. DYER
CO F. 1ST TEX INF	PVT CO K MISS INF
HOODS BRIGADE CSA	C.S.A.

PVT WM. H. FOSTER

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 JUNE 2025

	100000

			June 2023			_
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
to Jeff Davis My daily prayer to the great Ruler of the world is that He may shield you from harm, guard you from evil & give you peace the world cannot take away	2 undated - You cannot be a true man until you learn to obey	3 June, 1863 - to wife I trust that a kind Providence will watch over us, & notwithstanding our weakness & sins will yet give us a name & place among the nations of the earth.	4 June, 1864 - to wife We are all in the hands of our Merciful God, whom I know will order all things for our good & upon Him is my whole faith & reliance.	5 June, 1839 - to his wife Mildness & forbearance, tempered by firmness & judgment, will strengthen their [children] affection for you, while it will maintain your control over them.	6 undated - to Markie I shall therefore have the great pleasure of being at Arlington Saturday where my affections & attachments are more strongly placed than at any other place in the World.	7 undated - No tears at Arlington! No tears!
8 June, 1863 - to wife What a beautiful world god has given us! What a shame that men endowed with reason & knowledge of right should mar His gifts.	9 June, 1861 - to wife I should like to retire to private life, if I could be with you & the children, but if I can be of any service to the state or her cause I must continue.	10 June, 1862 - to wife I cannot help grieving [grandson's death] but when I reflect upon his great gain by his merciful transition from earth to Heaven, I think we ought to rejoice.	11 June, 1863 - to Charlotte Wicham Some good is always mixed with the evil in this world	12 undated - to wife My trust is in our Heavenly Father to whom my supplications continually ascend for you, my children, & my country!	I grieve over the desolation of the country& the distress to innocent women & children occasioned by spiteful excursions of the enemy, unworthy of a civilized nation.	14 June, 1864 - to Jeff Davis We have only to do our whole duty, & everything will be well.
15 June, 1869 - to Robert You will have to get married if you wish to prosper.	I have great reluctance to speak on political subjects. I have, however, said I think all who can should register & vote.	17 June, 1865 - to Col. Taylor Tell [our returned soldiers] they must all set to work & if they cannot do what they prefer, do what they can.	18 undated - to College Faculty We must be very careful how we are influenced by hearsay.	19 undated - to wife In this time of great suffering to the state & country, our private distresses we must bear with resignation like Christians.	20 undated - to Robert With the improvement of your farm, proceeds will increase & with experience, judgment, & economy, will augment greatly.	21 undated - to Trustees I need not enlarge upon the importanc of a good library to the advancement of the college. A useful literary institution cannot be maintaine without it.
22 June, 1851 - to Custis I am opposed to the theory of doing wrong that good may come of it. I hold to the belief that you must act right whatever the consequences.	23 undated - I am fond of independence. It is that feeling that prompts me to come up strictly to the requirements of law & regulations.	24 June, 1861 - No one can say what is in the future, nor is it wise to anticipate evil. But it is well to prepare for what may reasonably happen & be provided for the worst.	25 undated - to Custis In regard to duty do your duty in all things—you cannot do more—you should never wish to do less.	26 undated - to Agnes You know how pleased I am at the presence of strangers, what a cheerful mood their company produces	27 June, 1863 - to his men It must be remembered that we make war only upon armed men & that we cannot take vengeance for the wrongs our people have suffered.	28 undated - As general principle ye should not force young men to thei duty, but let them of it voluntarily & thereby develop their characters.
29 June, 1854 - to Markie Nor is it possible for us always to do 'the good that we would,' & omit 'the evil we would not.'	30 June, 1864 - to wife Do you recollect what a happy day 31 years ago this was? How many hopes & pleasures it gave birth to! God has been merciful & kind to us.					



TEXAS CIVIL WAR HISTORY IN JUNE



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

June 1, 1864 On this day, celebrated Confederate partisan Adam Rankin (Stovepipe) Johnson was promoted to the rank of brigadier general. Johnson was born in Henderson, Kentucky, and moved to Texas in 1854. There he gained a reputation as the surveyor of much virgin territory in West Texas, as an Indian fighter, and as a stage driver for the Butterfield Overland Mail. With the outbreak of the Civil War Johnson returned to Kentucky and enlisted as a scout under Nathan Bedford Forrest. His subsequent exploits as commander of the Texas Partisan Rangers within the federal lines in Kentucky earned him a colonel's commission in August 1862 and a promotion to brigadier general in 1864. One of his most remarkable feats was the capture of Newburgh, Indiana, from a sizable Union garrison with only twelve men and two joints of stovepipe mounted on the running gear of an abandoned wagon. This episode won him his nickname. Johnson was blinded and captured at a skirmish at Grubb's Crossroads in August 1864. Upon his release he returned to Texas, where he lived for his remaining sixty years and founded the town of Marble Falls, "the blind man's town."

June 11, 1865 On this day, an estimated fifty desperados broke into the state treasury in Austin, one of the boldest crimes in Texas history. The robbery occurred during the chaotic period immediately after the downfall of the Confederacy in the spring of 1865. Gen. Nathan G. Shelley informed George R. Freeman, a Confederate veteran and leader of a small company of volunteer militia, that the robbery was imminent. By the time Freeman and about twenty of his troops arrived at the treasury, the robbers were in the building. A brief gunfight erupted in which one of the robbers was mortally wounded; all the other robbers fled toward Mount Bonnell, west of Austin, carrying with them about \$17,000 in specie, more than half of the gold and silver in the state treasury. None was ever captured. The loot was never recovered, although some of the money was found strewn between the treasury building and Mount Bonnell. Freeman and his company of volunteers were later recognized by the state for their service in defending the public treasury, but the resolution providing a reward for their services never passed the legislature.

June 19, 1865 On this day ("Juneteenth"), Union General Gordon Granger arrived in Galveston and issued General Order Number 3, which read in part, "The people of Texas are informed that, in accordance with a proclamation from the Executive of the United States, all slaves are free. This involves an absolute equality of personal rights and rights of property between former masters and slaves, and the connection heretofore existing between them becomes that between employer and hired labor." The tidings of freedom reached the approximately 250,000 slaves in Texas gradually as individual plantation owners informed their bondsmen over the months following the end of the war. The news elicited an array of personal celebrations, some of which have been described in The Slave Narratives of Texas (1974). The first broader celebrations of Juneteenth were used as political rallies and to teach freed African American about their voting rights. Within a short time, however, Juneteenth was marked by festivities throughout the state, some of which were organized by official Juneteenth committees.

June 25, 1864 - On this day, a skirmish between Confederate and Union forces was fought at Las Rusias, a colonia located one mile north of the Rio Grande in southwest Cameron County. Confederate officer Refugio Benavides of Laredo led a company and joined John Salmon (Rip) Ford to overrun Union forces. Ford, a colonel of the Second Texas Cavalry who engaged in border operations protecting Confederate-Mexican trade, praised Benavides for his gallant conduct during the battle. Las Rusias had also been the site of a skirmish on April 25,1846, when Mexican troops ambushed an American patrol; the shedding of "American blood upon American soil" sparked the Mexican War.

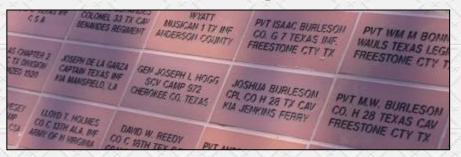


CONFEDERATE VETERANS MEMORIAL PLAZA INFORMATION





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: danieldyer497@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.

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JOHN H. REAGAN CAMP #2156

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Please visit our website @

www.reaganscvcamp.org

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

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

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

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

THE CHARGE TO THE SONS OF CONFEDERATE VETERANS

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

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



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

Held at First Congregational Methodist Church of Elkhart

510 N. US 287, Elkhart, Tx 75839