



SONS OF CONFEDERATE VETERANS, TEXAS DIVISION

THE JOHN H. REAGAN CAMP NEWS

www.reaganscvcamp.org

VOLUME 18, ISSUE 2

FEBRUARY 2026

FEBRUARY DISPATCH



1ST LT CDR David Franklin

February is known for several things: President's Day, the shortest month of the year, and, of course, Valentine's Day.

Valentine's Day, we are told, is a commemoration of the Christian Saint Valentine of Rome, Italy. Today, though, I want to address a Confederate Valentine story.

One of my heroes of childhood and today is Thomas Jonathan Jackson, eventually to become a Confederate Lieutenant General with the nickname of "Stonewall." General Jackson is today spoken of as one of the great military minds and military leaders of not just the South or America, but of the world. General Jackson is known for his fearlessness, devotion to duty, and Christian piety. But did you know Old Stonewall was a hopelessly romantic husband? He was.

Several books have been published containing letters Stonewall wrote to his beloved wife, Anna. One such letter is this:

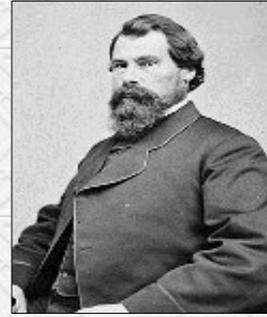
September 25, 1862

Darling, my heart turns to you with a love so great that pain flows in its wake. You cannot understand this, my beautiful, bright-eyed, sunny-hearted princess. Your face is the sweetest face in all the world, mirroring, as it does, all that is pure and unselfish, and I must not cast a shadow over it by the fears that come to me, in spite of myself. No, a soldier should not know fear of any kind. I must fight and plan and hope, and you must pray. Pray for a realization of all our beautiful dreams, sitting beside our own hearthstone in our own home – you and I, you my goddess of devotion, and I your devoted slave. May God in his mercy spare my life and make it worthy of you!

Your soldier

According to his wife, Jackson did finally get to see his daughter when she was five months old.

"It was raining and he was afraid to take her in his arms with his wet overcoat, but upon arrival at the house, he speedily divested himself of his overcoat, and taking his baby in his arms, he caressed her with the tenderest affection, and held her long and lovingly. During the whole of this short visit when he was with us, he rarely had her out of his arms, waking her, and amusing her in every way



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

that he could think of— sometimes holding her up before a mirror and saying admiringly, "Now Miss Jackson, look at yourself." Then he would turn to an old lady of the family and say, "Isn't she a little gem?" When she slept in the day, he would often kneel over her cradle, and gaze upon her little face with the most rapt admiration, and he said he felt almost as if she were an angel in her innocence and purity."



Soldier, Professor, Poet, Romantic: Mighty Stonewall!

CAMP MEETINGS

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

We will have a meal served at each meeting. Guests are welcome! Bring the family.

www.reaganscvcamp.org



INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

February Dispatch	1
Calendar of Events	2
February Meeting Pics	3
February Historical Program	4
Chaplain James Bozeman's Message	5
What was Angel Glow?	6
Feb CSA Victory The Battle of Olustee	7-10
10 Things about John H. Reagan	11
February in the life of John H. Reagan	12
Honoring your ancestor	13
February Robert E. Lee Calendar	14
February Texas Civil War History	15
Confederate Memorial Plaza Information	16
Contact Information & Charge to the SCV	17

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.**



February 20, 1864: Battle of Olustee - On this date in 1864, the largest Civil War battle on Florida soil was fought. The 4-5 hour bloody conflict resulted in 2,807 total casualties (approx. 1,861 Union, 946 Confederate). The site is now the Olustee Battlefield Historic State Park, which hosts one of the largest Civil War reenactments in the U.S. every February.

Prayer List

- Compatriot Forrest Bradberry
- Compatriot Gary Gibson & his wife, Lynn in the death of Gary's mother.
- Donna Williams in the loss of her husband, past Reagan Camp Historian, Gary Williams
- Former Camp Commander Rudy Ray
- Compatriot Gary Gibson (he has been placed on hospice)
- United Daughters of the Confederacy
- The Sovereign State of Texas

Officers for 2026

- 1st Lt Cmdr. - David Franklin
- Adjutant/Treasurer - Richard Thornton
- Sgt at Arms - Marc Robinson
- Judge Advocate - Martin Lawrence
- Chaplain - Dwight Franklin

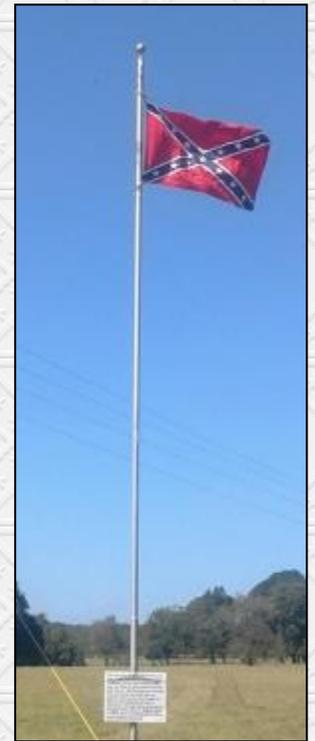
CALENDAR OF EVENTS

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

- Feb 24th - February meeting 6:30 p.m.
- March 24th - March meeting 6:30 p.m.
- April 28th - April meeting 6:30 p.m.
- May 26th - May meeting 6:30 p.m.

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 



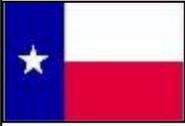
Above: Reagan Camp's battle flag and sign displayed proudly at intersection of FM 315 and Anderson Cty Rd 448, ten miles north of Palestine.

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

-PRESIDENT JEFFERSON DAVIS-

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

-GENERAL ROBERT E. LEE-



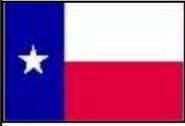
FEBRUARY MEETING PICTURES



The February Reagan Camp SCV meeting was held at 6:30 pm, on February 24th, at the First Congregational Methodist Church in Elkhart. Due to play-off basketball games and other conflicting events, we only had five in attendance at this month's meeting. But we were very happy to have Bobby Fears visiting with us. Bobby is a member of the Sons of Confederate Veterans camp in Waco, Texas. He has moved to our area, and we hope that he will decide to start attending with us monthly.

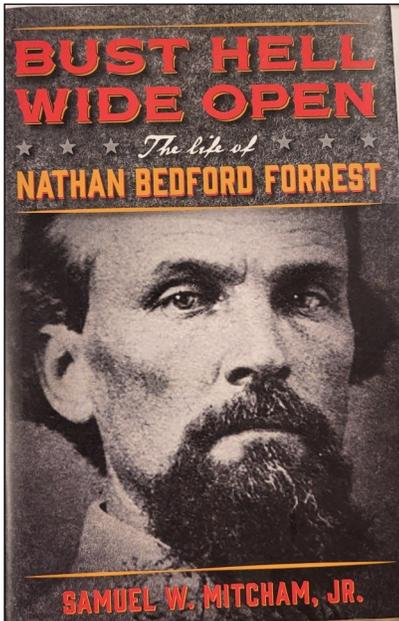
We had a delicious meal of pizza, meat and rice, soft tacos, red beans & ham, cornbread, and homemade blueberry pie. It was great! We appreciate Richard, Marc, David and Dwight for bringing the food for the meal. Even though David had prior commitments, he brought tacos for everyone! That's going above and beyond, and we appreciate it very much. Our next meeting will be March 24th at the same location. Hope to see you there.





FEBRUARY HISTORICAL PROGRAM BY MARC ROBINSON

“BUST HELL WIDE OPEN” THE LIFE OF NATHAN BEDFORD FORREST



There were so many things happening this month that we had trouble finding someone to do the historical program. Marc stepped up and gave a program on the book “Bust Hell Wide Open The life of Nathan Bedford Forrest”.

Some called Forrest “the wizard of the saddle.” Union General William Tecumseh Sherman damned him as “that devil Forrest.” Confederate Commander Robert E. Lee said he was the greatest military genius of the war.

The giant of a man—six foot two, two hundred and ten pounds—was Nathan Bedford Forrest, a general who killed no less than thirty men in man to man combat in the Civil War.

He also hunted down a panther when he was fifteen, fought a gunfight in what was then the Western frontier, and amassed a business fortune, which he spent on his troops, after growing up on a ramshackle farm—responsible, as a teenager, for the well-being of his widowed mother and nine siblings.

Gallant, tough, chivalrous, Forrest was the epitome of a Confederate cavalryman, but without the polish and education of a Virginia aristocrat. He was also controversial—in his own time and ours: charged with losing control of his men and allowing a massacre to happen at Fort Pillow. Some claimed that he served as an elected leader of the Ku Klux Klan, but it was a group that he later helped to disband and disavow.

Professor Samuel W. Mitcham made this biography unlike others that have been written on Forrest. He writes of Forrest not just as a celebrated general whose campaigns are studied to this day, but also as a man raised and shaped by the Tennessee frontier, with a conscience sharpened by his devoutly Christian wife.

Forrest said he would “bust hell wide open” rather than surrender to the Federals during the siege of Fort Donelson. In Samuel W. Mitcham, Forrest has found the perfect biographer to capture his defiant and courageous spirit.

As an added note: On June 13, 1943, Brigadier General Nathan Bedford Forrest, the chief of staff of the Eighth Air Force, led a squadron of B-17 bombers against the U-Boat submarine base at Kiel, Germany. Alerted by radar, German fighters met the American planes over the North Sea. Their main target was Forrest’s lead aircraft, which they fatally riddled with 20mm shells. Forrest courageously ordered his co-pilot and crew to bail out, while he remained at the controls to ensure they got clear. Weeks later, his body finally washed ashore near the German seaplane base at Ruegen Island, where the Germans buried him with full military honors on September 28, 1943. He was 38 years old. A West Point graduate, Forrest was the first American general officer killed in action in World War II. He posthumously received the Distinguished Flying Cross, and he was reinterred in Arlington National Cemetery after the war. His death ended a line of legendary military leadership that extended back more than eighty years to his great-grandfather, also named Nathan Bedford Forrest, who blazed a trail of fire and blood across the American Civil War.

We appreciate Marc for his presentation of this very interesting and informative book. It is a must read for anyone who is interested in the life of Nathan Bedford Forrest.



CHAPLAIN'S INSIGHTS

WHAT "GOD WILL NEVER GIVE YOU MORE THAN YOU CAN HANDLE" REALLY MEANS



Have you ever heard the phrase, "God will never give you more than you can handle"?

That sounds great, doesn't it? Too bad it isn't true!

People who say this are usually trying to encourage someone who is suffering or facing a difficult situation. They usually have 1 Corinthians 10:13 in mind, which states, "There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man: but God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it.." While the intention to encourage others is good, they are twisting Scripture to make it say something it doesn't.

The word translated "temptations" can refer to a temptation to a sin, a trial, or any type of suffering. In the beginning of this chapter, in 1 Corinthians 10:1-12, Paul is talking about Israel's sins of idolatry, immorality, testing God, and grumbling. He isn't talking about trials and suffering. So when Paul writes verse 13, we can see that he is writing about temptation to sin. Sin stalks us but God is faithful and provides a way of escape so we can resist.

When people take those words about temptation to sin and apply them to trials and suffering, then the statement is not true. In fact, the opposite is true: God does give us more than we can handle.

Let's look at Paul's experience. In 2 Corinthians 1:8-9, it clearly shows that God may give some people more suffering than he or she can handle. Paul says, "8 For we would not, brethren, have you ignorant of our trouble which came to us in Asia, that we were pressed out of measure, above strength, insomuch that we despaired even of life: 9 But we had the sentence of death in ourselves, that we should not trust in ourselves, but in God which raiseth the dead."

What Paul means here is that he and his companions were crushed and overwhelmed beyond their ability to endure, and they thought they would never live through it. In fact, they expected to die. When Paul says this he is saying he had more than he could handle.

So why does God give us more than we can handle? God gives us more than we can handle by ourselves so we will depend on Him.

Because of our sinful nature, our default mode as humans is self-sufficiency and independence from God. Rather than allowing His power to replace our weakness, we naturally try to handle things on our own, because we are human and that is what our sin nature tells us to do.

Satan knows this. Have you ever wondered how a non-believer can be so happy, even without God in their life? Think about it this way – he has a great job, a terrific family, a new car, a nice home, and everything seems to go his way all the time. Why? Because Satan already has him in his grasp. That's why things are so difficult for Christians. We go thru trials and sufferings because Satan is constantly tempting us to sin and turn away from God. He doesn't have us in his clutches, and he knows that God is on our side, so he makes things difficult for us by constantly throwing temptations at us.

In Philippians 4:13, it says, "I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me." That doesn't mean we can do it all by ourselves. It means if we have faith in God, even the smallest amount of faith the size of a mustard seed, He will help us through. We have to remember that when things are going well for us, and we are on top of the mountain, that we didn't get there on our own. More importantly, we have to remember that the God of the mountain is still God in the valley. Even when things go badly, God is still with us, and we have to have faith that he will see us through.

We also have to remember to thank God for the obstacles He puts in our way. Sometimes, He puts a mountain in our path that we can't move. We can ask Him to move it for us, but what would we learn from that? He puts these obstacles in our way to make us stronger, and to help us grow in our faith and in our walk with Him. If He moved every obstacle out of the way for us, we would get weaker and expect it all the time, because we would no longer have to climb those mountains and face those obstacles on our own. He will help us, but He won't do it for us.

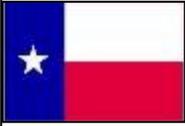
Because we believers want to believe that God will never give us more than we can handle, we are sometimes overwhelmed by what life throws at us. Looking back at what Paul tells us in the first chapter of 2 Corinthians, it was when he did not have the strength to face his own suffering that he found God's power and faithfulness was sufficient to provide what he needed. No matter how much suffering we face, and how deeply hurt we are because of that suffering, we need to know the truth that God's grace will be sufficient for us in all of our needs.

God never promised us a rose garden. He never said we would have a life without suffering, trials, or temptations. In fact, Jesus said we will suffer trials and temptations, and we will be persecuted in His name for our beliefs. Focusing on our suffering and our own ability to handle it doesn't bring comfort. Focusing on God and His resources for us in suffering does bring great comfort and hope. And when suffering and trials come, – not if, but when, – God promises to always be with us because He is faithful.

So, instead of saying, "God will never give you more than you can handle", what we should be saying is...

GOD WILL NEVER GIVE US MORE THAN HE CAN HANDLE.

In Christian Brotherhood,
James Bozeman
Texas Division Chaplain



“ANGEL’S GLOW” WHAT WAS IT & WHAT DID IT DO?



After the 1862 Battle of Shiloh, some soldiers reported that their wounds glowed with a faint blue light in the dark, a phenomenon nicknamed “**Angel’s Glow**” that was associated with higher survival rates. This was caused by the bioluminescent bacteria *Photobacterium luminescens*.

Key Details of the “Angel’s Glow: Phenomenon:

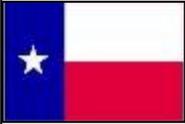
- **The Cause:** Cold, rainy conditions (following the April 1862 battle) combined with severe, exposed, and muddy injuries allowed *P. luminescens* bacteria to thrive in the soldiers' wounds.
- **The "Glow" Benefit:** This bacteria lives in soil-dwelling nematodes and releases substances that kill other, more harmful bacteria that cause infection. Thus, the glowing wounds were actually less likely to become fatally infected.
- **Scientific Discovery:** The mystery was solved in 2001 by high school students Bill Martin and Jonathan Curtis, who discovered that the same bacteria could survive in cold human bodies, unlike in normal, warm temperatures.
- **Historical Context:** While it is a popular story of wartime serendipity, some historians note a lack of contemporary firsthand accounts, leading to debates about whether it was widespread or a lesser-known, isolated event, notes the Snopes.com article.

The phenomenon is often cited as a fascinating example of how, under unique conditions, soil-borne pathogens can act as an antibiotic, as explained in the USDA report found at the website: <https://www.ars.usda.gov/news-events/news/research-news/2001/students-may-have-answer-for-faster-healing-civil-war-wounds-that-glowed/>

You can see other articles about this at the websites below:

<https://www.utmb.edu/mdnews/podcast/episode/glowing-wounds>

<https://www.farmprogress.com/commentary/glowing-wounds-and-their-nematode-source>



Confederate Victory in February

The Battle of Olustee (pg 1)



Early in the morning of February 20, 1864, General Seymour's army left Barbers' Plantation and moved westward towards Lake City. Because of the necessity of posting garrisons at Jacksonville and elsewhere, the Union force consisted of approximately 5,500 men. The small army was divided into three brigades of infantry, one brigade of mounted troops, and supporting artillery.

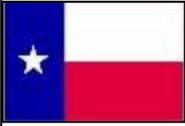
The Federals advanced in three columns along the Lake City and Jacksonville Road, which ran roughly parallel to the Florida Atlantic and Gulf-Central Railroad. The Federal cavalry was in the vanguard, followed by the slower-moving infantry. By mid-day the Federals had reached Sanderson, where they briefly stopped for lunch. While at Sanderson, Seymour and his staff were warned by a defiant southern woman: "You will come back faster than you go." The Union officers were amused at her boldness.

In the early afternoon of February 20, a few miles west of Sanderson, the advance elements of the Union cavalry began skirmishing with a few southern horsemen that appeared to their front. This skirmishing was maintained for several miles, with the Federals driving the Confederates westward towards the railroad station at Olustee, about ten miles east of Lake City. Southern resistance intensified as the Federals neared Olustee.

In the days since the February 11th skirmish at Lake City, General Finegan had moved his force to Olustee Station, located about ten miles east of Lake City. There the Confederates found one of the few defensible locations in the area, where the railroad passed through a narrow corridor of dry ground bordered by impassable swamps and bays to the south and a large body of water known as Ocean Pond to the north. The Southerners built strong earthworks and awaited the Federal advance. When Finegan learned of the enemy's approach on February 20th, he ordered his cavalry forward to skirmish with the Federals and to lure them towards his main line. Unfortunately for Finegan, the fighting east of his main line intensified, forcing him to send out additional troops to help those already deployed. A major engagement soon developed about two miles in front of the Confederate line.

As the skirmish intensified, both Finegan and Seymour fed additional troops into the battle. Finegan advanced first the 64th Georgia and part of the 32nd Georgia, followed by the 6th, 19th, and 28th Georgia Regiments, and Gamble's Florida Artillery. General Colquitt commanded the detached units, while Finegan remained behind with the main body. General Seymour brought forward the 7th Connecticut, followed by the remainder of Hawley's Brigade, the 7th New Hampshire and the 8th United States Colored Troops. By midafternoon, the skirmishing has escalated into a major battle.





Confederate Victory in February

The Battle of Olustee (pg 2)

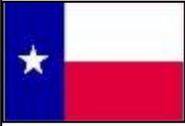


The battle threatened to turn rapidly into a rout for the Federals. While Colonel Hawley was positioning the 7th New Hampshire, a wrong command was given and the unit fell into confusion. The 7th soon collapsed, with some men running to the rear and others milling about in a disorganized mob.

The collapse of the 7th New Hampshire directed southern attention towards the 8th United States Colored Troops, which occupied the left of the Union line. The 8th was an untried unit, having been organized only several months before. Prior to Olustee, the regiment had seen no combat, and in fact the men were not even completely trained. Colonel Charles Fribley tried to steady his men, but he soon fell mortally wounded. The raw troops of the 8th held their ground for a time, suffering more than 300 casualties. Finally, however, they retreated in some confusion, leaving the Confederates in virtual command of the battlefield.

With the dissolution of Hawley's Brigade, General Colquitt ordered the Confederate forces to advance. Since the beginning of the engagement, Finegan had sent additional units (the 6th Florida Battalion; the 1st, 23rd, 27th, and the remainder of the 32nd Georgia Regiments, and the Chatham Artillery) to Colquitt's support, so by now the Confederate lines stretched for about one mile, north to south. Colonel Harrison commanded the Confederate left, and Colquitt the right, although the units of their brigades were somewhat intermingled.





Confederate Victory in February

The Battle of Olustee (pg 3)



To stop the southern advance, General Seymour hastily ordered forward Colonel William Barton's Brigade of the 47th, 48th and 115th New York. The New Yorkers stopped the Confederate advance, and the battle lines stabilized for a time. The Union commander would later be criticized for reacting slowly to an increasingly dangerous situation, and for deploying his forces piecemeal into the battle. In fairness to Seymour, the battlefield's terrain somewhat limited his options. The Federal lines were bordered by swamps on both flanks so there was little room to maneuver, and the field itself was an open pine barren with little cover.

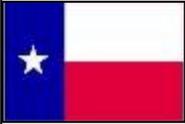
The fighting during this middle period of the battle was particularly severe, with each side suffering heavy casualties. During this seesaw combat, the Confederates captured several Union artillery pieces and threatened to overwhelm the Federal infantry. Although the Yankees were under intense pressure, at a critical moment the surging Confederates began running low on ammunition. Men searched the pockets and cartridge boxes of their wounded and dead comrades to obtain additional rounds, but still the southern fire slackened. Several regiments held their place in line despite being completely out of ammunition. After what seemed to be an interminable delay, ammunition was brought forward from Olustee, along with the remaining reserves: the 1st Florida Battalion and Bonaud's Battalion. General Finegan also reached the battlefield at about this time.

With the arrival of these reinforcements, the Confederates again began advancing. By late afternoon, General Seymour had realized the battle was lost. To prevent a rout and to cover his retreat, he sent forward his last reserves, Colonel James Montgomery's Brigade, which consisted of the 35th United States Colored Troops and the famous 54th Massachusetts Volunteer Infantry. Montgomery's Brigade stopped the Confederates for a brief time, enabling Seymour to begin withdrawing his other forces. One white veteran of the battle states: "The colored troops went in grandly, and they fought like devils"

By dusk, the Union forces had begun their long retreat back to Jacksonville. The 54th Massachusetts, the Federal cavalry, and part of the 7th Connecticut covered the withdrawal. Many wounded and a large amount of equipment had to be abandoned in the hasty retreat. Fortunately for the Federals, the Confederate pursuit was poorly conducted, enabling most of the Yankees to escape. The southern cavalry, led by Colonel Caraway Smith, was particularly criticized for its lackluster performance. That night, the Federals retreated all the way back to Barbers Plantation, where they had begun the day. By February 22nd, Seymour's battered army was back in Jacksonville.

The casualties at Olustee were staggering compared to the numbers that fought there. Union casualties were 203 killed, 1,152 wounded, and 506 missing, a total of 1,861, of approximately 5,500 troops involved. Confederate losses were 93 killed, 847 wounded, and 6 missing, a total of 946 of approximately 5,400 troops involved. This works out to about 34 percent for the Federals and a little less than 18 percent for the Confederates. The 47th New York had 313 casualties and the 8th U.S.C.T. had 310. Among the Confederate units, the 32nd Georgia lost 164 men and Bonaud's Battalion 107. For the North, the casualty percentage was among the highest of the war, and Olustee ranks as the second bloodiest for the Union when comparing the casualties to the number on men engaged. Letters and diaries from the men involved indicate that the battle was the equal of, if not worse than, the savage fighting a number of the veteran regiments had experienced in the campaigns in Virginia or the Western theater.

A regrettable episode in the aftermath of the battle was the apparent mistreatment of Union black soldiers by the Confederates. Contemporary sources, many from the Confederate side, indicate that a number of black soldiers were killed on the battlefield by roaming bands of southern troops following the close of the fighting.



Confederate Victory in February

The Battle of Olustee (pg 4)



The Olustee defeat ended Union efforts to organize a loyal Florida government in time for the 1864 election. The Federals were somewhat more successful in meeting the expedition's military objectives. Jacksonville remained in Union hands until the end of the war, open for trade with the north; the operation had undoubtedly disrupted the supply of Florida cattle and other foodstuffs to the rest of the Confederacy; and the increased area of Federal control made it easier for Florida blacks to reach Union lines and for recruits to fill the ranks of northern military units. Of course, all of these objectives could have been met simply by the occupation of Jacksonville and without the nearly 1,900 casualties suffered at Olustee.

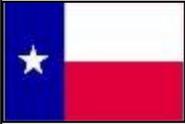
Military operations continued in Northeast Florida throughout the remainder of the war. Union troops frequently raided out from Jacksonville to harass Confederate supply operations. Confederate Captain J.J. Dickison, commanding a company of the 2nd Florida Cavalry, CSA, earned fame during this period. In a series of minor victories, Dickison was able to thwart a number of the Union drives into the interior of the state, although the Federals handed him a stinging defeat at the first Battle of Gainesville in February 1864.

Meanwhile, on Florida's Gulf Coast, Union penetrations were more successful, as they were in cooperation with Florida Unionists---often called "refugees," along with non-Unionists who were simply anti-Confederate. Many of these men formed the Second Florida Cavalry, USA, and were instrumental, in cooperation with the U.S. Navy's Gulf Coast Blockading Squadron, in preventing large herds of cattle from West-central Florida reaching Confederate armies.

In fact, cooperation between the Union Army's Department of the South and the U.S. Navy's Gulf Coast Blockading Squadron, along with U.S. Army forces in the Gulf, under the command of General Banks, could have prevented the Union defeat at Olustee.

It was unfortunate for Gillmore that he did not tell Florida's west coast Union forces of his intentions. Admiral Farragut said that the army at Pensacola could have contributed fifteen hundred soldiers for a diversionary attack if the East Coast Blockading Squadron could have protected the landing. Admiral Baily [commanding that force] said he could have done so if he had known of the operation. He concluded: "The extraordinary expedition of General Gillmore to East Florida, without intimation or informing us or General Banks, has met the fate of other ill-contrived enterprises. The Troops have been whipped." [from **Blockaders, Refugees, & Contrabands : Civil War on Florida's Gulf Coast, 1861-1865** (pp 180-181, 2003, ISBN 0-8173-0682-X)]

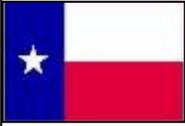
In any case, by early 1865, it was obvious the defeat of the Confederacy was near. In early March 1865, the last military operation of any significance in Florida took place. At the Battle of Natural Bridge, a force of Confederate militia and home guard units, along with some regular troops, defeated a Union raid against St. Marks, on the coast south of Tallahassee. When Tallahassee was finally occupied by Northern troops in early May, it was the last Confederate capital east of the Mississippi to fall into Union hands. The Civil War was over. Thank God.



TEN THINGS YOU SHOULD KNOW ABOUT JOHN H. REAGAN



1. Born in Tennessee, he left in 1838 to come to Texas via Natchez, Mississippi.
2. He participated in the Cherokee War in 1839 and then worked as a surveyor.
3. After statehood, he was elected first county judge of Henderson County and in 1847 he became a member of Texas' second legislature.
4. He was reelected as Henderson County judge in 1856 and became a US Congressman from East Texas. In 1859 he won reelection but resigned his seat to become the Confederate Postmaster General in 1861.
5. At the end of the Civil War, John H. Reagan was captured with Jefferson Davis on May 10, 1865 near Abbeville, Georgia.
6. Held in solitary confinement in Boston for nearly six months, Reagan appealed to the people of Texas to recognize that they were back to being a part of the Union, but it didn't win him friends. He returned to Texas in December of 1865.
7. Reagan, who was proven right on how Texas would fare by opposing reunification, became known as "The Old Roman." He was given amnesty, and his citizenship was restored.
8. From 1875 to 1887 Reagan served in Congress before being elected to the U.S. Senate.
9. He became the first Railroad Commissioner of Texas when that body was formed in 1891.
10. Reagan ran unsuccessfully for governor in 1894 and remained chairman of the Railroad Commission until 1903 when he retired and returned to Palestine. He died there two years later of pneumonia.



JOHN H. REAGAN CAMP

FEBRUARY IN THE LIFE OF JOHN H. REAGAN



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



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



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



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

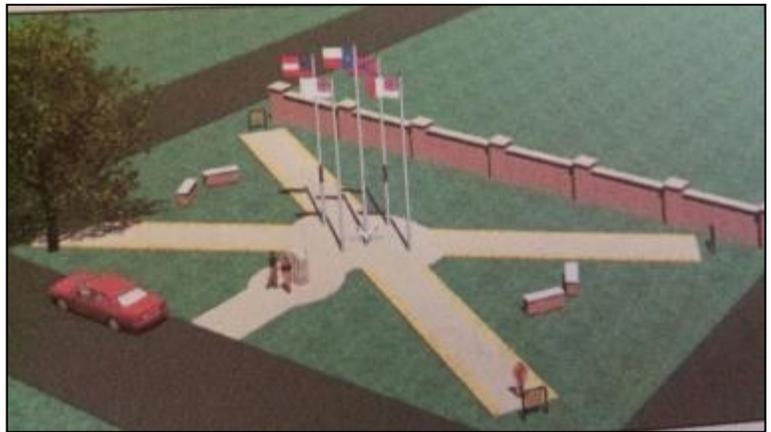




A GREAT WAY TO ENSURE THAT YOUR ANCESTOR'S SERVICE AND HONOR IS NOT FORGOTTEN

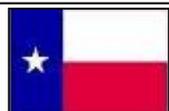


Many Americans have forgotten that freedom isn't free at all. There have been hundreds of thousands of Americans who have willingly given their life for their country so that we could continue to have the rights of free men. But there is a group of people in our country who have decided that they have 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 BTTN ARK SHARP SHOOTERS	JOHN DANIEL LILES PVT DIED 4 25 1865 POW	WILLIAM J. CHAFFIN CO H 5 TEX CAV CSA 1829 - 1908	JOHN H. REAGAN SCV CAMP #2156 PALESTINE TEXAS	PVT WM. H. FOSTER CO. H 1ST TEX INF DIED AS POW OCT 63
JASPER N. CARNES CO B 8 REGIMENT TEXAS INFANTRY	RICHARD A. HODGES CO K 22 TX INF CSA 1833 - 1905	ANDREW J BEAUCHAMP CO F 13 TEX INF 12-9-1834 9-1-1894	GEORGE KNOX GIBSON PVT. CO. B 12TH TEXAS CAVLRY, CSA	WILLIAM H. CRIST COMPANY I 7 TX CAV C.S.A.
JACOB L. SHERIDAN CAPT CO I 1ST REGT TEXAS INFANTRY	JOHN H. SHERIDAN PVT. CO I 1ST REGT TEXAS INFANTRY	COL. A.T. RAINEY CO. H 1 TEX. INF. HOOD'S TEX. BRIG	PVT. R. M. LUMMUS 53 GEORGIA INF. COMPANY B C.S.A	PVT ALLEN G TURNER CO A 7TH BATTALION MISS INF. CSA
L. E. SHERIDAN PVT. CO I 1ST REGT TEXAS INFANTRY	PVT WM. N SHERIDAN CO C 6 BATTALION TEXAS CALVARY	STEPHEN D. RAINEY CAPTAIN 1ST BATT. TEX CAV	SGT. AMOS G. HANKS CO F. 1ST TEX INF HOODS BRIGADE CSA	WILLIAM H. DYER PVT CO K MISS INF C.S.A.

Above are some pictures of some of the pavers in the plaza. If you would like to purchase a paver for your ancestor, you can pick what you want to have inscribed on it. These pictures will give you some ideas to what you might want on your paver.

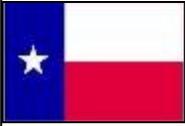


ROBERT E. LEE CALENDAR

FEBRUARY 2026



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



TEXAS CIVIL WAR HISTORY IN FEBRUARY

From the Texas State Historical Association



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

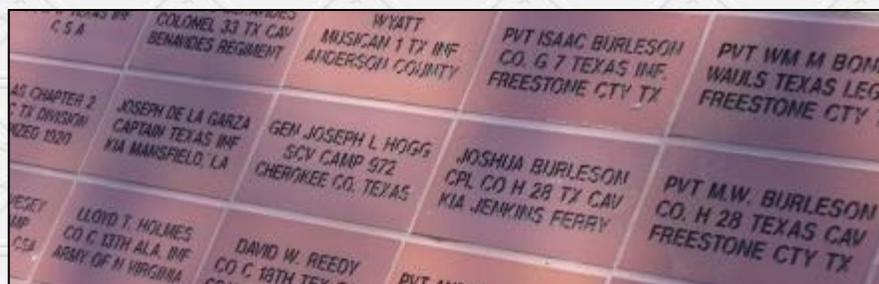
February 23rd, 1861— On this day in 1861, the people of Texas went to the polls to vote on a referendum to secede from the Union. The vote was 46,153 for secession and 14,747 against. Of the 122 counties casting votes, only eighteen cast majorities against secession. Only eleven others cast as much as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



CONFEDERATE VETERANS MEMORIAL PLAZA INFORMATION



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

We meet the 4th Tuesday of Each Month
At 06:30 PM at the First Congregational
Methodist Church of Elkhart
with a meal served
at each meeting.

Richard Thornton, Adjutant/Treasurer
Palestine, Texas
E-mail: tx_tsar@hotmail.com
Phone: 903-731-1557

Dwight Franklin, Chaplain/Newsletter
Editor: dwightfranklin1@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.

Held at First Congregational
Methodist Church of Elkhart

510 N. US 287, Elkhart, Tx
75839