



SONS OF CONFEDERATE VETERANS, TEXAS DIVISION

THE JOHN H. REAGAN CAMP NEWS

www.reaganscvcamp.org

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MARCH 2026

MARCH DISPATCH

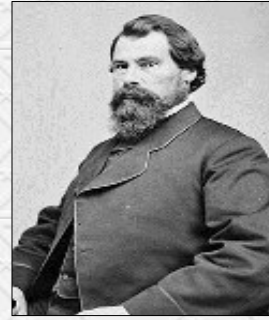


Dr. Grady McWhiney, History Professor at Berkley, Southern Mississippi, and Alabama, among others, was an esteemed Southern Historian who retired as LBJ Professor of American History at TCU. I had the pleasure of meeting Dr. McWhiney on one of his many lectures at the Confederate History Symposiums at Hill College in Hillsboro. He was an outstanding speaker and historian. He authored many books such as Attack and Die: Civil War Military Strategy and the Southern Heritage, Braxton Bragg and Confederate Defeat, and Confederate Crackers and Cavaliers, but my favorite of his was Cracker Culture – Celtic Ways in the Old South. In this book, Dr. McWhiney stated that if your ancestors were in the South before the War and were white, there was an 80% chance they came from Ireland or Scotland. This is also documented in such works as The Green and the Gray: The Irish in the Confederate States of America, William T. Gillespie, and Irish American Ethnicity and the Confederate Experiment,

Reviews in American History, Vol. 43, No. 1, March 2015, Johns Hopkins University. Accepting this, how can a good Southerner not celebrate St. Patrick's Day March 17?

I'll try and limit my focus to just two Confederate heroes from Eire: Richard W. Dowling and Patrick Cleburne. Dowling, born in County Galway in 1837, was a 1<sup>st</sup> LT in command of the Irish Guards at Fort Griffin on the Sabine River on 8 September 1863. Dowling had 47 men to face 22 transport ships, 5 gunboats, and 5000 marines. Dowling's tiny force captured 350 prisoners, 2 gunboats, and the rest of the Union invasion fled back to New Orleans.

The Confederate States Congress offered its appreciation to Dowling, now promoted to Major, and his command, as a result of their battlefield prowess. In gratitude, the "ladies of Houston" presented the unit with specially struck medals. The medals were actually Mexican eight Reale coins with both faces sanded down and with new information carved into them. They were inscribed "Sabine Pass, 1863" on one side, and had a Maltese Cross with the letters D and G on the other. These are the only known Confederate medals awarded to Confederate soldiers during the War.



**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

After the battle of Sabine Pass Dowling was elevated to hero status in his hometown of Houston. John Nova Lomax of the Houston Press stated that in that city "Dowling was treated something like Julius Caesar home from a punishing foray into Gaul." He subsequently served as a recruiter for the Confederacy and was personally commended for his action at the battle by Jefferson Davis. After the war Dowling returned to his saloon business in Houston and quickly became one of the city's leading businessmen. Dowling's promising future was cut short by a yellow fever epidemic which devastated Houston in the late summer of 1867, and he died on 23 September 1867.

**CAMP MEETINGS**

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

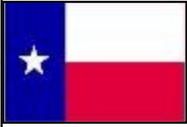
We will have a meal served at each meeting.  
 Guests are welcome!  
 Bring the family.

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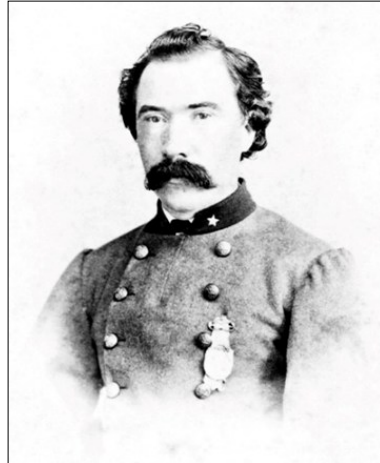
## MARCH DISPATCH



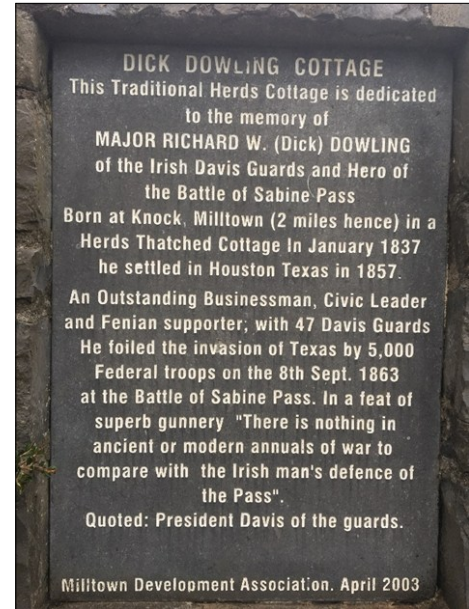
He was buried at St. Vincent's Catholic Cemetery, the oldest Catholic cemetery in Houston.



Above: Sabine Pass Medal struck for the Davis Guards

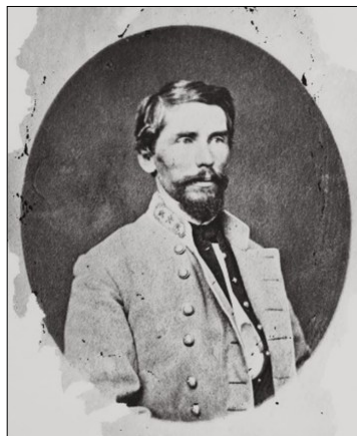


Above: Richard W. "Dick" Dowling



Monument to Dowling in his hometown of Milltown, County Galway, Ireland

Our other Irish Confederate spotlighted today is Patrick Ronayne Cleburne, born in County Cork. Some list his birthday as 16 March, others 17 March (St. Patrick's Day). Cleburne's father was a well-respected medical doctor in County Cork and Patrick wanted to follow in his footsteps, but he failed the entrance exams to Trinity College, Dublin. It is written that "in shame" he enlisted in the British Army (rulers in Ireland at the time). Cleburne served three years in the British Army and then emigrated to America. He settled in Helena, Arkansas, and became a wealthy attorney. Suffice to say, he had a meteoric career when he entered Confederate service. He enlisted as a private and rose to MAJ General, surpassed only by Bedford Forrest. Cleburne was up for the same promotion as Forrest, LT GEN, but his suggestion to free those slaves who were willing to fight for the Confederacy was rejected by Richmond and doomed his further promotion. He led at Shiloh, Corinth, Perryville, Chickamauga, Chattanooga, Murfreesboro, and Ringgold Gap. There are too many instances to list when Cleburne and his troops saved battles and armies by not folding, but after Ringgold Gap he received the Official Thanks of Congress for protecting the retreating troops and stopping Hooker from pursuing. He was called the "Stonewall of the West" and it is said that Federal troops dreaded seeing the blue flag of Cleburne's Division across the battlefield. General Robert E. Lee described Cleburne as "a meteor shining from a clouded sky." On November 30, 1864, General John Bell Hood ordered his men to attack Union entrenchments at Franklin, Tennessee. Cleburne argued strenuously against this foolhardy attack, but Hood would not relent. Cleburne returned to his men and explained how he could not sway Hood. He told them, "Boys, if we are to

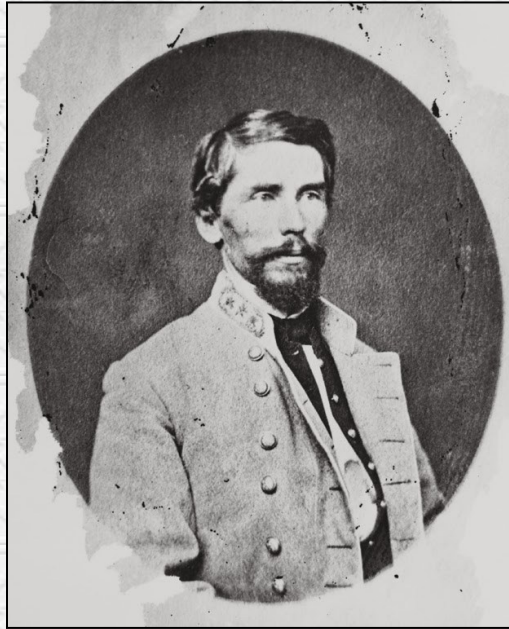


die today, let us die like men." Cleburne led the attack, had two horses killed from under him, and was last seen on foot with his kepi at the top of his sword leading his men. He was found dead inside Union lines, his body picked clean of his sword, personal possessions, and boots. William J. Hardee, Cleburne's former corps commander, had this to say when he learned of his loss: "Where this division defended, no odds broke its line; where it attacked, no numbers

resisted its onslaught, save only once; and there is the grave of Cleburne."

Cleburne was buried nearby at a local church but in 1870 was reinterred in his adopted hometown of Helena, Arkansas. God Bless the South, our Confederate Heroes, and Happy St. Patrick's Day ye sons of Ireland!

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



**General Patrick Cleburne**  
 Was born on March 16, 1828 in County Cork, Ireland. He was known as the Stonewall of the West". General Cleburne was killed in action on November 30, 1864 during the Battle of Franklin, Tennessee.

**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.

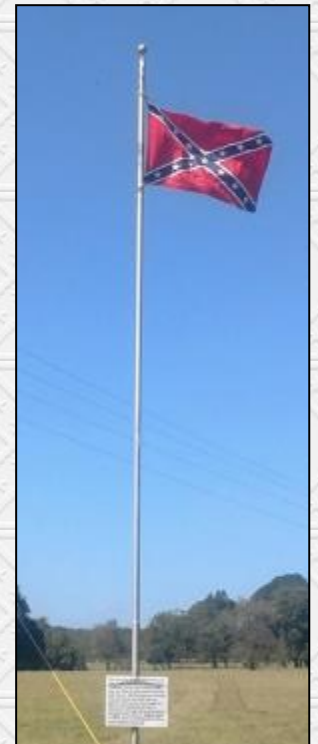
**March 24th - March meeting 6:30 p.m.**

**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](http://www.reaganscvcamp.org)



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

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

-PRESIDENT JEFFERSON DAVIS-

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

-GENERAL ROBERT E. LEE-



## MARCH MEETING PICTURES



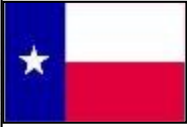
The March meeting for the John H. Reagan Camp was held on March 25th at the First Congregational Methodist Church in Elkhart.

We had a delicious meal of pulled pork sandwiches (from Richard Thornton), pizza (from Marc Robinson), pinto beans with ham (from Dwight Franklin), cornbread and homemade banana pudding (from David Franklin). (If you haven't tasted David Franklin's banana pudding, you are missing out).

We had 8 in attendance at this month's meeting, and had enough food for twice that many.

If you want a good meal, come join us next month. Our next meeting will be on April 28th at the same location.





## MARCH HISTORICAL PROGRAM



Compatriot Kevin Kilman presented the March Historical program at the March meeting.

Kevin gave a program on his maternal Great-Great Grandfather, Confederate Private Oliver Scott.

Kevin has provided some excerpts from his program for us to include in this month's newsletter.

This will allow those who were unable to attend the meeting a chance to know about his Confederate ancestor.



This is a story of my maternal Great-Great Grandfather, Oliver Scott.

Oliver Scott arrived in Henderson County, Texas, around 1848 in the company of his older brother Sabert Jackson Scott, Jr. He was born in 1831 in Crawford County, Arkansas, and had four siblings who lived to adulthood. His parents were a typical family of frontier America, with a mobile lifestyle, having moved four times from North Carolina, Kentucky, Missouri, Arkansas, and finally to the Republic of Texas.

The patriarch, Sabert Jackson Scott, Sr., had acquired a 640-acre Fannin 3rd-class land certificate in 1841, which also meant his sons were eligible for 320-acre headrights upon reaching adulthood. Sabert, Jr. acquired a Fannin headright in 1847, quickly selling his certificate and leaving for the Mercer Colony in 1848.

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## MARCH HISTORICAL PROGRAM PRIVATE OLIVER SCOTT BY KEVIN KILMAN

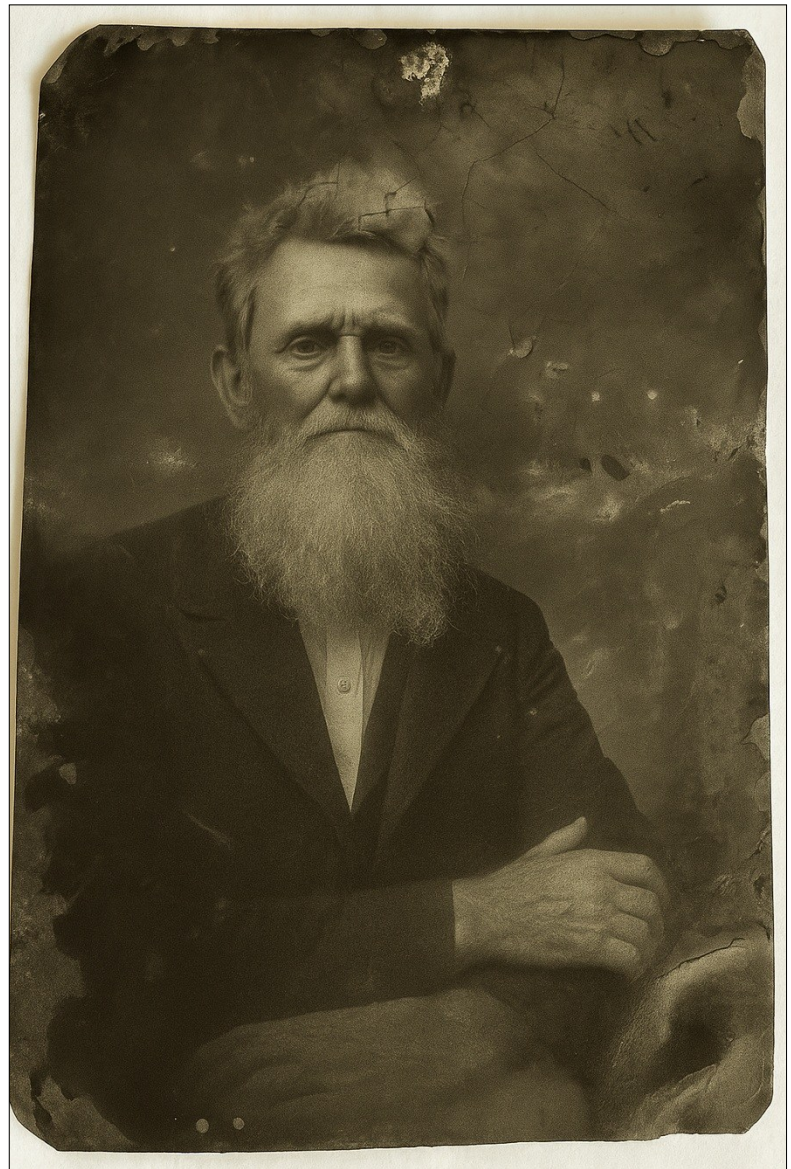


Oliver, accompanied by his older brother, traveled to new lands and received a land grant as a single man totaling 320 acres under the Houston 3rd-class headright program.

He attended a school taught by a business associate and friend of his brother, Sabert, named John S. Tanner, near Elkhart in present day Anderson County, where he learned higher-level mathematics.

His peers, who were prominent civic leaders, later remarked in a tribute to Scott from 1900 and published in the *Athens Weekly Review*, that “He had a remarkable mind for acquiring an education, outstripping any of his classmates.”

These efforts led to early work as a teacher, but it was through his mathematical talents that he became an assistant County Surveyor by 1853. His clients were people from all levels of society and included a veritable list of the most elite landowners and merchants, including T.F. Murchison and N.P. Coleman.



Above: Oliver Scott

With a farm, education, and a promising career, Scott took a greater interest in his personal life. He married a former childhood sweetheart, Naomi Coffee, from Grayson County, in 1851, and established their home along Walnut Creek, a tributary of the Trinity River. Two sons soon followed the wedding, with his firstborn son named Dred in honor of his mentor and friend, and a second son, Volney. Tragedy struck in 1855 with the death of his wife and eldest son. Like many people on the frontier, he quickly remarried. Scott married Margaret Hanna in 1856 and would go on to have four more children with her by 1867. His career success mirrored the growing county, with institutions such as churches, schools, and lodges emerging throughout the 1850s alongside the personal tragedies of death in his expanding family.

- Continued on the next page -



**MARCH HISTORICAL PROGRAM**  
**PRIVATE OLIVER SCOTT**  
**BY KEVIN KILMAN**



He was a charter member of and helped establish three Masonic Lodges in Henderson County, Athens No. 165 in 1855, Science Hill No. 211 in 1857 and Malakoff No. 759 in 1894.

Scott enlisted as a private in Company K of the 18th Texas Cavalry at the Henderson County courthouse on March 1, 1862. This Confederate unit served primarily west of the Mississippi River, and one of its captains, Athens Mason, and a lawyer, George Manion, recruited an entire company of men from Henderson County, including Scott. Manion, like Scott, would be captured at Arkansas Post. Some of the POWs from this unit, such as Adam Files, a Past Master of Science Hill, died at Camp Douglas in Chicago. Scott's service places him among the tens of thousands of Texans who fought in the Trans-Mississippi Theater, often enduring harsh conditions and irregular supply lines.

The 18<sup>th</sup> Texas Cavalry known as Darnell's Regiment was organized March 15, 1862 in Dallas, TX with about 900 men. The regiment was first assigned to duty in the Indian Territory where it became involved in a dispute with that area's commanding officer Gen. Albert Pike. The dispute stemmed from the regiment moving its camp without notifying General Pike. Soon after, the regiment transferred to Arkansas Post, Arkansas.

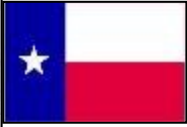
Due to a shortage of forage for horses in Arkansas, under the recommendation of General Paul O. Hébert, the unit was dismounted in July 1862 and re-designated the 18th Texas Cavalry, Dismounted. The regiment fought in the battle of Arkansas Post that started on January 4, 1863, and was captured by Union forces at the conclusion of fighting on January 11, and spent three months in Illinois prison camps. After being exchanged in April 1863, the 18th was consolidated with the 17th, 24th, and 25th Texas Cavalry regiments, eventually becoming a key part of Granbury's Texas Brigade under the command of General Patrick Cleburne in the Army of Tennessee. By July 1863 the Eighteenth Texas Cavalry Regiment was consolidated with the Seventeenth Texas Cavalry Regiment.

The Eighteenth Texas Cavalry took part in more than thirty engagements and battles while serving in the Army of Tennessee. Its most notable battles and campaigns were Chickamauga on September 19–20, 1863; the Chattanooga siege and Chattanooga from September to November 1863.

At some point in late 1863, Scott was transferred to Co. F, 15<sup>th</sup> Texas Infantry Regiment under the command of Lt Col James E Harrison. The 15<sup>th</sup> fought at Stirling's Plantation and Bayou Bourbeux in 1863 and Mansfield and Pleasant Hill, Louisiana in 1864. Private Scott was wounded at the battle of Pleasant Hill, Louisiana on April 9, 1864 and spent the last year of the war in a Natchitoches, Louisiana hospital. There is no record that he ever signed any amnesty, he just simply went home.

Like many Southern veterans, Scott returned to a postwar world marked by economic collapse and personal tragedy, yet one that also held the opportunity to play a role in rebuilding Texas society.

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**MARCH HISTORICAL PROGRAM**  
**PRIVATE OLIVER SCOTT**  
**BY KEVIN KILMAN**



His appointment as Justice of the Peace in 1867, during Reconstruction, and again in 1885, reflected both his local stature and the fluid political environment of the time, as some former Confederates regained influence in county-level governance.

Scott also experienced tragedy in his private life with the death of his second wife in 1868, leaving him with a house full of young children who needed care. Thus, he remarried a third time to Ava Shelton Pickering in 1869, who was the widow of a fellow member of the Science Hill Lodge, James Pickering. They would eventually be the parents of four more children, all born before 1878.

The arrival of the railroad in East Texas in the 1870s and 1880s dramatically reshaped local economies and communities. Towns that had once depended on rivers or trails for trade were transformed by their proximity, or lack thereof, to rail lines. Major rail lines were established on a north-to-south axis, connecting Palestine, Tyler, and Palestine to Galveston, the principal port in Texas.

The tiny, remote community of Malakoff sprang from obscurity to a depot practically overnight. Malakoff, as one historian remarked in 1893, never grew to more than a post office and Methodist Church before the railroad arrived in 1881.

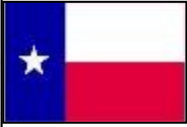
Scott, who lived just south of the new railway, worked as a surveyor and schoolteacher at Willow Springs in 1883 and took an active interest in the town's growth. He was eventually appointed as postmaster in Malakoff from 1890 to 1893, demonstrating his continued commitment to civic life.

By the 1880s, Scott had entered the world of third-party politics, aligning himself with the Greenback Party, which advocated for the use of paper money not backed by gold to alleviate debt burdens on farmers. In 1880, he served as an election supervisor for the party, and by 1896, he ran as the Populist candidate for County Judge, losing the election. The Populist (or People's) Party emerged from widespread agrarian discontent in the post-Reconstruction South and West, particularly among debt-ridden farmers who opposed monopolies, railroad business tactics, and the gold standard. Scott's involvement with the Populists demonstrates his alignment with grassroots efforts to reclaim economic agency and political voice for small landowners, many of whom, like Scott, were former Confederates who had lost faith in the Democratic establishment.

Scott died on 23 November 1900 while serving his beloved fraternity as the secretary. His tribute that year, written by prominent leaders in the community who were also Masons, reflected on the life of a man who survived a wild frontier, war, and the death of three wives and four children. While never a "financial success," the authors wrote, they all praised his intellect, service to Masonry, temperament, and gift to settle disputes

Oliver Scott's life illustrates the transformations that defined Texas in the 19th century. He witnessed colonization, war, and the transition to reconstruction and reform. As a Mercer colonist, Confederate soldier, schoolteacher, justice of the peace, and Populist politician, Scott participated in every significant social and political movement of his time. His story is not one of grand fame, but rather one of deep engagement with the evolving Texas experiment. His relationships were essential to understanding the man and his legacy. A life rooted in land, shaped by war, challenged by industrialization, and stirred by the hopes of political renewal.

The Reagan Camp appreciates Kevin for presenting the program at the March meeting. He put a lot of work and research into finding information about his great-great grandfather. Oliver Scott certainly had an interesting life.



## John Pelham: The Confederate Boy Artillerist Who Stunned the Army of the Potomac



Born on September 7, 1838, John Pelham was the third of seven children born to Dr. Atkinson and Martha McGehee Pelham in Alexandria Valley, near present-day Anniston, Alabama.

Pelham grew up enjoying life as the son of a hardworking but fairly prosperous country doctor. In 1856, he secured an appointment to the United States Military Academy at West Point. At that time, cadets completed a five-year term and, as Pelham's graduation approached in the spring of 1861, so too did the rising hostilities between the United States and the Confederate States.

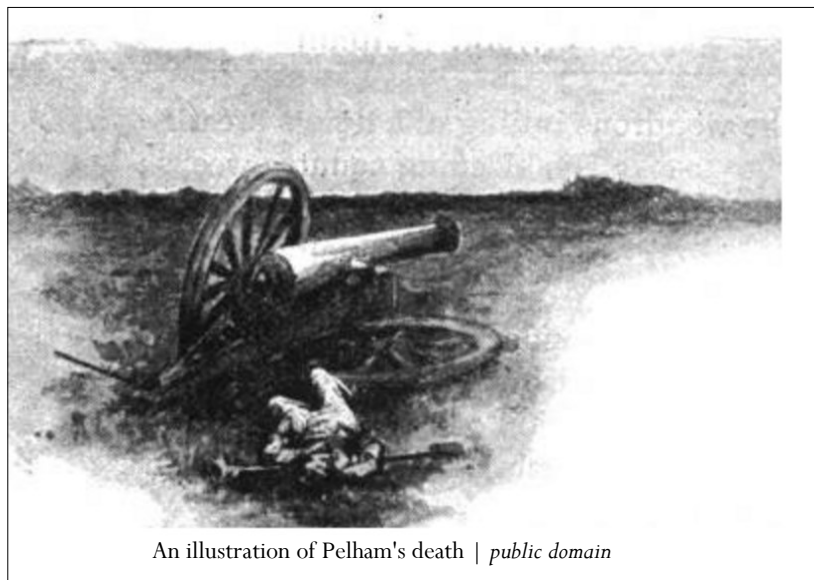
Pelham resigned from West Point before graduation, returned to Calhoun County, and soon offered his services to the newly formed Confederacy. Appointed an artillery officer, he was sent to Virginia.

Following the First Battle of Manassas, famed Confederate cavalry commander J. E. B. Stuart selected Pelham to command his newly organized horse artillery. Pelham quickly distinguished himself, participating in more than 60 engagements, including the battles of Antietam (Sharpsburg), Maryland, and Fredericksburg, Virginia.

Pelham was mortally wounded at the Battle of Kelly's Ford, Virginia, on March 17, 1863, when a piece of shrapnel struck the back of his skull. Carried more than 6 miles to Culpeper, he died later that night. He held the rank of major at the time of his death, but his promotion to lieutenant colonel had already been initiated.

Stuart ordered that Pelham's body be returned to his family in Alabama. Placed in an iron coffin with a viewing window, he was transported by train from Richmond to Blue Mountain, the nearest depot to Alexandria.

Dr. Pelham wanted the funeral to be held at the Presbyterian Church in Jacksonville, but because of construction, the service was moved to the Baptist Church. Thousands attended either the funeral service or the burial at the (Old) Jacksonville City Cemetery on March 31, 1863.



An illustration of Pelham's death | *public domain*



## QUANTRILL'S REUNIONS



Some of Quantrill's Reunions were attended by Harry Truman. This one is from Independence, Missouri, Harry's home town..

The first reunion of the men who rode with William Clarke Quantrill was held in September 1898 at Blue Springs, Missouri. They continued to hold annual reunions for thirty-two years, until 1929. The reunions were held in various locations, including Wallace Grove (the home of Mr. and Mrs. J.D. Wallace) in Independence, Mo.

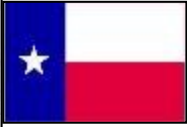
This 1906 reunion photo was taken in Independence. Among the attendees was John Noland, first from right on the third row. Born a slave in 1844, he served as Quantrill's hostler during the war and was used by the guerrilla commander as a scout and spy. Noland died in 1908.

Hiram J. George, second from right on the third row, was born in 1834. He fought as both a guerrilla and a regular Confederate soldier, serving at the battles of Independence and Lone Jack, in the raid on Lawrence, and at Baxter Springs. He died in 1911.

William W. "Buck" Fields, sixth from left on the first row, was born in 1844. He served with with the Missouri State Guard and with Quantrill. Fields participated in the siege of Lexington, the battles of Independence, Lone Jack, Cane Hill, Prairie Grove, and Westport, and in the raid on Lawrence. He died in 1937.

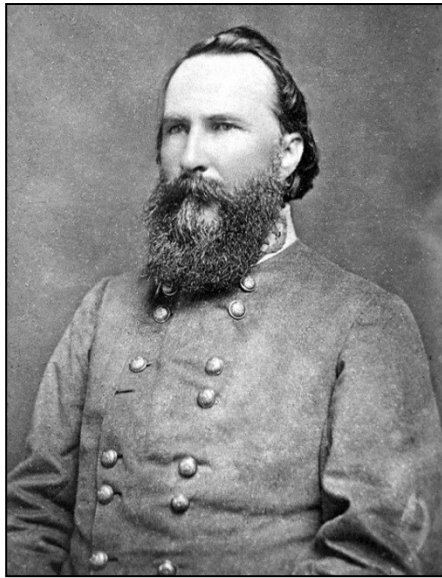
William H. Gregg, fifth from right on the first row, was born in 1838. He served as a lieutenant in Quantrill's command, and fought at Independence, Prairie Grove, and Springfield. He also participated in the raid on Lawrence and in the destruction of General James Blunt's command at Baxter Springs. Later in the war, Gregg left Quantrill and joined the regular Confederate army. He died in 1916.

John Hicks George, fourth from right on the first row, was born in 1838. He fought with Quantrill at Independence, Lone Jack, Prairie Grove, Lawrence and Baxter Springs. Later in the war he joined the regular Confederate forces and was captured by the Federals in 1864. He died in 1926.



## Longstreet's Foraging Campaign in Virginia

By Brian S. Wills, March 13, 2026



Food and fighting—terms that might bring to mind cafeteria misbehavior—are nevertheless tethered in wartime imperatives. Just ask Napoleon, who maintained that an army marches on its stomach. Or ask Omar Bradley, who was supposed to have said that amateurs talk strategy while professionals talk logistics. He recognized that limited resources hindered his options and risked hamstringing operations.

“Dammit, Brad,” Bradley recorded Patton as declaring, “just give me 400,000 gallons of gasoline and I’ll put you in Germany in two days.” Exaggeration aside, General Bradley knew there was little in the way of German forces. “But 400,000 gallons of gasoline? George might as well have asked for the moon.”

Robert E. Lee did not require “gasoline,” but he did have to keep his horses and mules sufficiently fed to haul artillery, wagons, and ambulances. By spring 1863, the winter months and previous military operations had so depleted food and forage in the region that the Army of Northern Virginia had entered a critical period. Lee required a restocking of such supplies to allow the army to

undertake even defensive—much less offensive—operations. A potential source that would benefit the Confederacy, while drawing food and fodder from Union-occupied areas, centered on Suffolk, Virginia.

Evacuated by the Confederates for approximately a year following the loss of Norfolk, the town featured a substantial array of fortifications and a capable commander, Union Major General John J. Peck.

In March, General Lee detached the divisions of George E. Pickett and John Bell Hood—soon followed by James Longstreet himself—to capture the Union garrison at Suffolk, if practicable, and, most imperatively, to obtain supplies from the Suffolk area and the northern counties of North Carolina. On April 11, Longstreet “invested” the town from three sides and probed for weaknesses.



The placement of Confederate field artillery along the Nansemond River, particularly at Fort Huger, or Hill’s Point, threatened Peck and the Union’s lightly protected gunboats. But an audacious Federal assault by infantry under Brigadier General George Washington Getty, ably supported by the navy, resulted in the capture of Longstreet’s position and a battery of artillery. The result of these actions was the awarding of multiple Medals of Honor.

While the subsequent fighting devolved into sharpshooting, cannonading, and skirmishing, Longstreet sent his wagons out to gather food and fodder of all types for transshipment to General Lee and Richmond. By the beginning of May, Longstreet moved back to rejoin Lee, although too late for the engagement at Chancellorsville. His commissary chief, Raphael Moses, declared the operation successful to the extent that it allowed the Army of Northern Virginia to wage war through 1863.

This article was found online at <https://lucandgrayeducation.org>



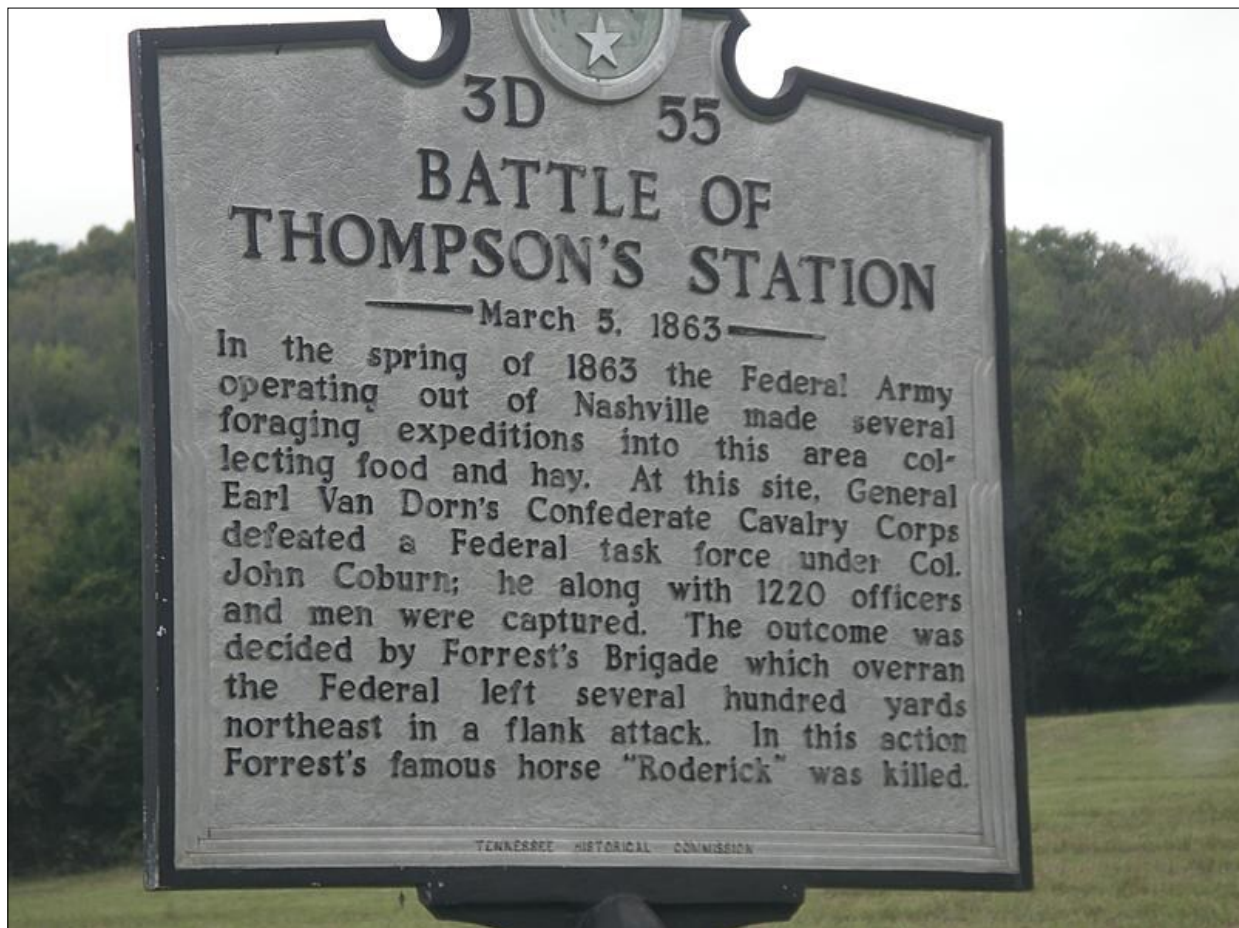
## Confederate Victory in March

# THE BATTLE OF THOMPSON'S STATION



*On March 5, 1863, Thompson's Station, Tennessee, was a no-man's-land. It stood in the center of a battle line that stretched 1,100 miles, from the cavalry-strewn banks of Virginia's Rappahannock River to the blue-clad battalions snaking their way down the Mississippi and beyond. The coming summer would shape the nation's destiny as much as any other single season in American history. Here in Tennessee, the advantage was anyone's for the taking.*

The soldiers of Tennessee had rung in 1863 with the Battle of Stones River, also known as Murfreesboro. From December 31 to January 2, 71,000 men had fought to a grinding stalemate that left one in every three shot, clubbed, or stabbed. The frenzied engagement had defined the property line in Tennessee for the rest of the season. The generals of both armies entered winter quarters with their attention firmly fixed on assigning blame for various failures in the Stones River slaughter.



For Braxton Bragg, leader of the Confederate Army of Tennessee, the Battle of Stones River was an excruciating failure. Deceived into believing that William Rosecrans's Union Army of the Cumberland was going to retreat after the first day of fighting, he was surprised to see the Federals stubbornly keeping the field, and ultimately ordered his own army to withdraw after launching an impetuous frontal assault that left the riverbank littered with the bodies of Kentucky veterans. Richmond was shocked by the reversal: Bragg had reported a complete victory on the evening of the first day.



## Confederate Victory in March

# THE BATTLE OF THOMPSON'S STATION



Stones River was Bragg's second bloody battle to end in tactical stalemate but strategic defeat. The first had come in October, 1862, at Perryville, Kentucky. Bragg's poor handling of "high tide in the West" had generated almost enough ill will to depose the strict North Carolinian. Stones River precipitated a crisis in the Confederate high command that left the army almost literally paralyzed. Weary, freezing soldiers were scattered haphazardly around Murfreesboro, isolated and exposed, while their commanders met secretly and plotted to overthrow the chief.

William Rosecrans, the brusque Ohioan commanding the Union army from the state capital of Nashville, was facing his own problems. With the contending armies separated by barely more than a day's march, his telegraph office was flooded with blunt directives from top brass: forward, forward, forward!

Rosecrans wired back that he was waiting for the rains to clear up. Storms had scoured the grey-green countryside for weeks and Rosecrans, a meticulous planner, did not want to launch a large-scale offensive only to end up trapped in knee-deep mud with his cannons, wagons, ammunition, and hospitalized men exposed to some of the most relentless horsemen in history. He was ready to make his first probes outward, but a large-scale offensive was still a long way off.

On the afternoon of March 4, 1863, a column of roughly 2,500 Federal soldiers rumbled out of Franklin, Tennessee, with orders to reconnoiter the rolling land around Spring Hill, which lay twenty miles south down the Columbia Pike. Only four miles into the march, they collided with Confederate outriders under the command of General Red Jackson.

The Union force -- Indianans, Michiganders, Wisconsinites, Ohioans, and six cannons, under the overall command of Colonel John Coburn -- slowed and prepared for battle. The Confederates -- roughly 1,000 dismounted cavalymen arrayed in the muddy highlands north of Thompson's Station -- were content to give ground slowly and sweep reckless advance parties with musketry.

By sundown, Coburn was in command of the field and somewhat agitated. The Confederate withdrawal seemed like a ruse, and he wrote to headquarters to express concern that he was walking into a trap. He warily directed his men to make camp for the night, the sky brilliantly lit by bursting shells lobbed from Confederate cannons near Thompson's Station. The next day would surely bring battle.

The battlefield was split in half, north to south, by the Columbia Turnpike. Thompson's Station, the site of the main Confederate battle force, was in the southern sector of the field. North of town, Confederate pickets defended a pair of hills that rose on either side of the Turnpike. The main Union force camped north of these hills.

Moving forward at 8 a.m., Coburn's Federals pushed stubbornly towards the Confederate advance line and drove it in, taking possession of the high ground overlooking Thompson's Station. From here Coburn could see the formidable array of gray-coat veterans in and around the town, and he hastily ordered his artillery forward.



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The Confederates ducked for cover as shells carved furrows down dirt roads and blew down sturdy walls. When they looked up, the Union attackers were almost on top of them. War cries and musketry cut the air as the Confederates rose up and counter-charged. At one point 17 year-old Alice Thompson dashed into the open and waved a Confederate battle flag aloft, exhorting the men to protect the town. The attacking party tumbled back to the hills bisected by the Turnpike and the fighting intensified as the Union guns banged away at the Southern pursuers.

At this point in the battle Coburn suffered a severe shock. Under some authority other than his own, the artillery and cavalry supports of his expedition quit the field. Suddenly outnumbered and outgunned, Coburn faced “a contingency against which all human foresight could not provide.”

Nathan Bedford Forrest, fighting east of the Columbia Turnpike, seemed to sense the vulnerability in front of him. He shouted and cursed at his men to reform amidst the bloody confusion and led them on a wide march to the east and north before finally taking position in Coburn's rear and cutting his line of retreat.

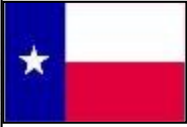
There was nothing now to do but hold, surrender, or die, so Coburn's stubborn Midwesterners hunkered down on their ridge and began to beat back attacks from almost all sides. Forrest led three or four charges and lost one of his favorite mounts, Roderick, when the wounded horse broke free of the hospital and was killed searching for his comrade on the battlefield. The horse's death later inspired a poem, *The General's Mount*, by Nashville journalist Jack Knox.

A Confederate veteran later recalled that the carnage “continued ... about five hours, and, so deadly and stubborn was the nature of the contest, that at times bayonets actually clashed, and hand to hand fights to the death were not uncommon.” In the end, Coburn's exhausted and battered men surrendered.

With thousands of men taken prisoner and a minor scandal brewing over the surprise redeployment of Coburn's cavalry and artillery, the Battle of Thompson's Station was a minor fiasco for the Union army. It certainly did nothing to speed Rosecrans towards a general advance.

The Confederate veterans of Thompson's Station knew that they had just won a striking victory. Their sacrifices were ill-served, however, by Braxton Bragg and the schemers in his camp. The most important lesson of the fight – that the Union army was beginning to uncoil and explore offensive options – was lost in the personal bickering. The Confederates remained dispersed and exposed, and they would pay a steep price for their oversight in the summer of 1863.

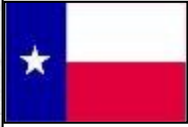
Recently, the Trust partnered with The Land Trust of Tennessee to assist the Town of Thompson's Station in acquiring an important tract. In addition, the Trust continues to campaign for land around Williamson County, Tennessee, with notable successes at the Spring Hill and Franklin battlefields. In fact, the Williamson County preservation legacy demonstrates that battlefield reclamation can re-dedicate significant tracts of hallowed ground. In the words of local historian Gregory Wade, “it is a loss to all historians who watch an entire historical watershed disappear.”



## 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.

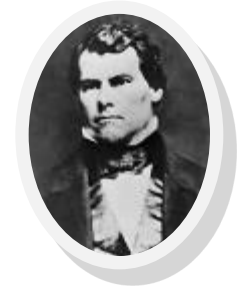


## JOHN H. REAGAN CAMP

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



March 6, 1861 Texas admitted to Confederacy, John H. Reagan accepted post of Postmaster General for C.S.A.



March 19, 1858 John H. Reagan delivered speech in US Congress on Kansas state Adm. and Slavery.

March 20, 1862 John H. Reagan officially appointed Postmaster General of Confederate States of America.



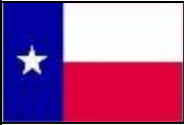
March 22, 23,27,29, 1872 John H. Reagan delivered address on Houston & GN RR building through Anderson Co. In Fosterville, Kickapoo, Washington Mills and Pilgrim.



March 6, 1905 Death of John H. Reagan in Palestine, Texas.

March 8, 1905 Funeral of John H. Reagan; State Leg. Attended in mass; Arrived by special train. Buried in East Hill Cemetery.

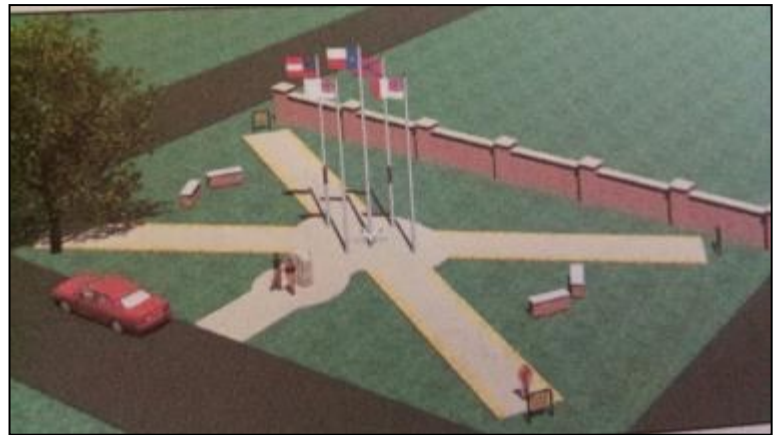




## A GREAT WAY TO ENSURE THAT YOUR ANCESTOR'S SERVICE AND HONOR IS NOT FORGOTTEN



Many Americans have forgotten that freedom isn't free at all. There have been hundreds of thousands of Americans who have willingly given their life for their country so that we could continue to have the rights of free men. But there is a group of people in our country who have decided that they have the right to take away the rights of others, especially if those others do not agree with their agenda. These people have no respect for the true history of anything that goes against what they want. Although they cannot change true history, they are changing the history books and in so doing are changing what people are taught about the history of our country. These people don't care if they are dishonoring our Confederate ancestors. They care nothing about our ancestor's service. Do you care about preserving your ancestor's service? If so, you can do so by having his service noted in the Confederate Veteran's Memorial Plaza with a paver that will include his name and service information on it for only \$50. It will last for years and years to come and will let countless people see his name and information. It is a wonderful way to give him the recognition that he deserves.



WILLIAM C FRANKLIN CO D 12 BTNN ARK SHARP SHOOTERS	JOHN DANIEL LILES PVT DIED 4 25 1865 POW	WILLIAM J. CHAFFIN CO H 5 TEX CAV CSA 1829 - 1908	JOHN H. REAGAN SCV CAMP #2156 PALESTINE TEXAS	PVT WM. H. FOSTER CO. H 1ST TEX INF DIED AS POW OCT 63
JASPER N. CARNES CO B 8 REGIMENT TEXAS INFANTRY	RICHARD A. HODGES CO K 22 TX INF CSA 1833 - 1905	ANDREW J BEAUCHAMP CO F 13 TEX INF 12-9-1834 9-1-1894	GEORGE KNOX GIBSON PVT. CO. B 12TH TEXAS CAVLRY, CSA	WILLIAM H. CRIST COMPANY I 7 TX CAV C.S.A.
JACOB L. SHERIDAN CAPT CO I 1ST REGT TEXAS INFANTRY	JOHN H. SHERIDAN PVT. CO I 1ST REGT TEXAS INFANTRY	COL. A.T. RAINEY CO. H 1 TEX. INF. HOOD'S TEX. BRIG	PVT. R. M. LUMMUS 53 GEORGIA INF. COMPANY B C.S.A	PVT ALLEN G TURNER CO A 7TH BATTALION MISS INF. CSA
L. E. SHERIDAN PVT. CO I 1ST REGT TEXAS INFANTRY	PVT WM. N SHERIDAN CO C 6 BATTALION TEXAS CALVARY	STEPHEN O. RAINEY CAPTAIN 1ST BATT. TEX CAV	SGT. AMOS G. HANKS CO F. 1ST TEX INF HOODS BRIGADE CSA	WILLIAM H. DYER PVT CO K MISS INF C.S.A.

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

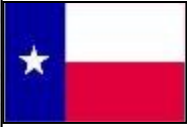


## ROBERT E. LEE CALENDAR

MARCH 2026



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 1864 Kilpatrick's raid goes awry as troops and horses succumb to fatigue.	2 1863: Much of East Coast digs out after crippling snowstorm.	3 1865: 38th U.S. Congress meets for the final time to outline aid for displaced African Americans.	4 1865: Lincoln delivers his greatest speech, a 750 word second inaugural address.	5 1864: CSA government demands half of all space on blockade runners.	6 1865: Clara Baron attends Lincoln's inaugural ball at the White House	7 1862: Largest battle west of the Mississippi continues at Pea Ridge, Ar.
8 1865: Sherman enters North Carolina, having advanced some 350 miles through the Deep South.	9 1862: Modern naval warfare begins as ironclads clash off Virginia coast.	10 1809: U.S. Navy Admiral David Porter is born.	11 1861: Confederate Congress adopts constitution that specifically allows slavery.	12 1864: Admiral Porter leads a fleet of 13 ironclads into the Red River.	13 1865: President Davis signs law allowing African Americans to Carry arms for Confederacy	14 1865: African Americans seen in Richmond for the first time in soldier uniforms.
15 1866 Texas repeals the actions of the Secessionist Convention	16 1861: Robert E. Lee promoted by Lincoln to colonel of U.S. 1st Cavalry.	17 1862: McClellan's army begins its deployment to Fort Monroe on Virginia's Peninsula.	18 1861: In Texas, war hero Sam Houston refuses to take oath of allegiance to Confederacy.	19 1865: Heavy fighting erupts around Raleigh, NC, near the Harper House.	20 1865: Battle of Bentonville continues to rage outside Raleigh	21, 1864 Abe Lincoln signs legislation allowing Nevada & Colorado to become states even though they don't meet requirements
22 1864: After a wet snowfall, Confederate soldiers enjoy a huge snowball fight in Richmond	23 1862: Stonewall Jackson opens famous Valley Campaign outside Winchester, Va	24 1863: The last attempt to take Vicksburg, Ms, by water fails.	25 1865: In his last assault of the war, Lee attacks Union lines at Fort Stedman, Va.	26 1863: West Virginia voters approve gradual emancipation of slaves.	27 1865: Lincoln meets with Grant, Sherman, and Porter on riverboat to discuss war's ending.	28 1862: Battle of Glorieta Pass rages near Santa Fe, New Mexico
29, 1861 Mississippi ratifies the Confederate Constitution	30 1865: In pouring rain, U.S. forces probe Lee's fatally overstretched lines.	31 1862: Lincoln meddles with McClellan and recalls some 15,000 troops to defend Washington.				



## TEXAS CIVIL WAR HISTORY IN MARCH

From the Texas State Historical Association



March 1, 1861: Texas accepted as a state by the provisional government of the Confederate States of America.

March 2, 1861: Texas Secessionist Convention reconvenes.

March 5, 1861: Texas secessionist convention accepts Confederate statehood.

March 11, 1864: U.S. Troops move into disputed land between Nueces and Rio Grande Rivers.

March 28, 1864: Civil War guerrilla leader William Quantrill was arrested by Confederate forces in Bonham, Texas. The Ohio native, wanted for murder in Utah by 1860, collected a group of renegades in the Kansas-Missouri area at the beginning of the Civil War. He fought with Confederate forces at the battle of Wilson's Creek in August 1861 but soon thereafter began irregular independent operations. Quantrill and his band attacked Union camps, patrols, and settlements. While Union authorities declared him and outlaw, Quantrill eventually held the rank of colonel in the Confederate forces. After his infamous sack of Lawrence, Kansas, and the massacre of Union prisoners at Baxter Springs, Quantrill and his men fled to Texas in October of 1863. There he quarreled with his associate, William "Bloody Bill" Anderson, and his band preyed on the citizens of Fannin and Grayson counties. Acts of violence proliferated so much that regular confederate forces had to be assigned to protect residents from the activities of the irregular Confederate forces, and Gen. Henry McCulloch determined to rid North Texas of Quantrill's influence. On March 28, 1864, when Quantrill appeared at Bonham as requested, McCulloch had him arrested on the charge of ordering the murder of a Confederate major. Quantrill escaped that day and returned to his camp near Sherman, pursued by more than 300 state and Confederate troops. He and his men crossed the Red River into Indian Territory. Except for a brief return in May, Quantrill's activities in Texas were at an end. Quantrill was killed by Union forces at the very end of the war.

March 31, 1861: General John Bankhead Magruder reassigned from Arkansas to Texas.



## CONFEDERATE VETERANS MEMORIAL PLAZA INFORMATION



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

<p><b>WILLIAM C FRANKLIN</b>  <b>CO D 12 BTTN ARK</b>  <b>SHARP SHOOTERS</b></p>	<p><b>JOHN DANIEL LILES</b>  <b>PVT</b>  <b>DIED 4 / 25 / 1865 POW</b></p>	<p><b>WILLIAM J. CHAFFIN</b>  <b>CO H 5 TEX CAV CSA</b>  <b>1829 - 1908</b></p>
<p><b>JASPER N. CARNES</b>  <b>CO B 8 REGIMENT</b>  <b>TEXAS INFANTRY</b></p>	<p><b>RICHARD A. HODGES</b>  <b>CO K 22 TX INF CSA</b>  <b>1833 - 1905</b></p>	<p><b>ANDREW J BEAUCHAMP</b>  <b>CO F 13 TEX INF</b>  <b>12-9-1834 9-1-1894</b></p>

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  
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Dwight Franklin, Chaplain/Newsletter  
Editor: dwightfranklin1@yahoo.com

Please visit our website @

[www.reaganscvcamp.org](http://www.reaganscvcamp.org)

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

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

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

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

## THE CHARGE TO THE SONS OF CONFEDERATE VETERANS

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

Lt. General Stephen Dill Lee, Commander-in-Chief

United Confederate Veterans

New Orleans, Louisiana, April 25, 1906.



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

Held at First Congregational  
Methodist Church of Elkhart

510 N. US 287, Elkhart, Tx  
75839