



SONS OF CONFEDERATE VETERANS, TEXAS DIVISION

THE JOHN H. REAGAN CAMP NEWS

www.reaganscvcamp.org

VOLUME 18, ISSUE 8

AUGUST 2026

AUGUST COMMANDER'S DISPATCH



As August (finally) draws to a close, what is most on our minds? I don't think it's how much daylight we have or how little the wind has blown, I think it's more likely how dang hot and dry it's been! We have Burn Bans, wildfires, and people dying in the heat. Of course it's Texas in the summer, but it gets a little old. Can you imagine fighting Yankees in this heat?

We are told that an hour before Pickett's Charge at Gettysburg, the air temperature was 98 with a heat index of 105

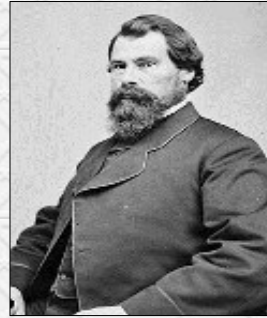
(<https://www.battlefields.org/learn/articles/nature-of-history/if-you-cant-stand-heat-stay-off-battlefield>)

At Second Winchester and Aldie in June 1863, the heat index ranged from 95 to 118. At Cedar Mountain, VA in August 1862, the heat index was only 109. During the

War, there were over 7000 recorded cases of heat stroke with more than 300 deaths recorded (<https://www.civilwarmed.org/sunstroke-in-the-civil-war/>)

Private Randolph Shotwell of the 8th Virginia Infantry remembered in his memoirs the stifling effect caused by his equipment:

Flesh and blood cannot sustain such heat and fatigue as we have undergone this day. It is terrible! All along the roadside since 9 o'clock this morning I have seen men dropping, gasping, dying—or already dead! ...when one's clothing is utterly saturated with perspiration mixing with the dust in a grimy paste; and above all, weighs the heavy musket, the muffling blankets, gripping waist band and belt (upon which hang the heavy cartridge and cap boxes) and the chafing canteen straps—is it strange that one sees hundreds of men gasping for breath, and lolling out their tongues like madmen?



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

Of course there were some cold battles, too, but I think I could have found a hole to dig in if I got cold but I don't know how I could take those wool uniforms at Port Hudson, Vicksburg in July, and in the Atlanta Campaign.

So, when I whine about the heat (and I will), maybe I ought to think about what my dedicated Confederate ancestors were willing to do in a brief moment of time in the 1860's defending their Homeland.

David Franklin
Commander

CAMP MEETINGS

4th Tuesday of Each Month
06:30 PM at the Commercial

Bank of Texas

2121 Tx Loop 256

Palestine, Tx

We will have a meal served
at each meeting.

Guests are welcome!

Bring the family.

www.reaganscvcamp.org


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The John H. Reagan Camp is requesting donations from those who would be willing to contribute financially to help keep the Confederate Heroes Memorial Plaza landscape manicured. **If you would be willing to donate, please contact Marc Robinson at 903-676-6069 or email mrobinson1836@yahoo.com**

Prayer List

- Compatriot Forrest Bradberry
- Former Camp Commander Rudy Ray's family in the passing of Rudy.
- Compatriot Gary Gibson (he has been placed on hospice)
- United Daughters of the Confederacy
- The Sovereign State of Texas

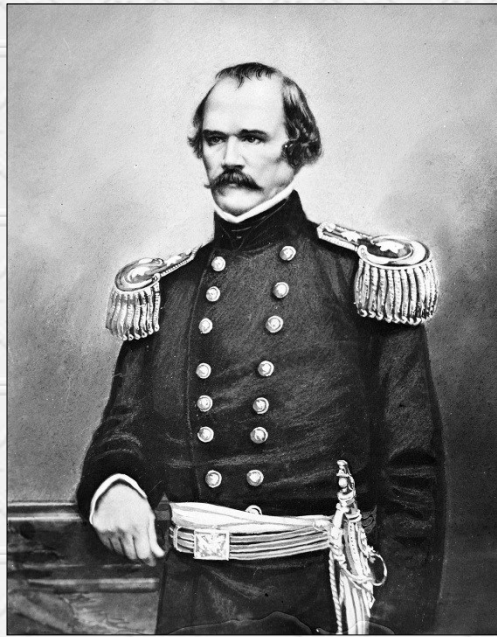
CALENDAR OF EVENTS

The Reagan Camp will have monthly meetings on the 4th Tuesday of each month. Meetings will be held at the [Commercial Bank of Texas](#)
2121 Tx Loop 256, Palestine, Tx

August 25th - August Meeting 6:30 p.m.

Sept 22nd - September Meeting 6:30 p.m.

Oct 22nd - October Meeting 6:30 p.m.



General Albert Sidney Johnston (1803–1862) was a prominent 19th-century military officer who served with distinction in three different national forces: the United States Army, the Texas Army, and the Confederate States Army.

He died on April 6, 1862, as the highest-ranking general killed in action during the American Civil War.

Officers for 2026

Cmdr. - David Franklin

Lt. Cmdr. - Randy Huffman

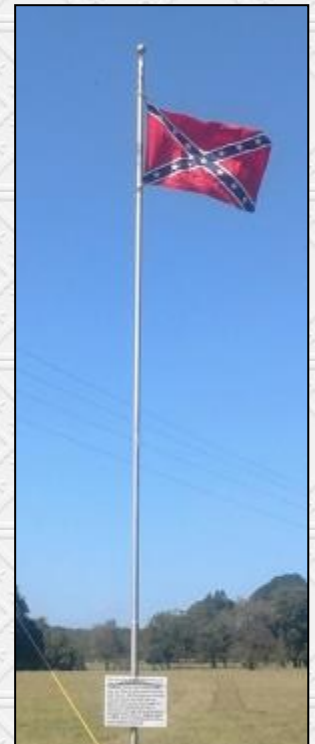
Adjutant/Treasurer - Marc Robinson

Quartermaster - Richard Thornton

Chaplain - Dwight Franklin

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

Provided by the John H. Reagan Camp #2156, Sons of Confederate Veterans.
www.reaganscvcamp.org



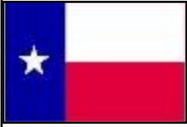
Above: Reagan Camp's battle flag and sign displayed proudly at intersection of FM 315 and Anderson Cty Rd 448, ten miles north of Palestine.

"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-



JOHN H. REAGAN CAMP AUGUST MEETING PICTURES



The August meeting was held on August 26th at the First Congregational Methodist Church of Elkhart. Although we had only six members in attendance this month, we had a wonderful time visiting with one another and enjoying a delicious meal together.

There was certainly no shortage of good food! Our meal included spaghetti, fried chicken, potato wedges, pinto beans, and fresh-grown onions. Richard Thornton's wife and David Franklin's wife each prepared a delicious cake for dessert, which we enjoyed with ice cream. Everything was wonderful, and we had enough food to easily feed twice as many people as we had in attendance!

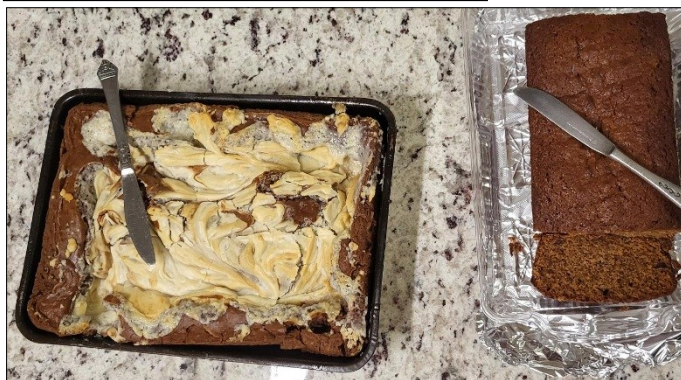
We sincerely appreciate the First Congregational Methodist Church for allowing us to use their fellowship hall for our meetings since Commercial Bank of Texas moved from its former location last year. We are pleased to announce that Commercial Bank of Texas in Palestine has now completed its move to its new location, and they have graciously offered to allow us to meet in their meeting room.

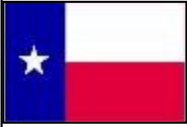
Beginning in September, we will return to meeting at Commercial Bank of Texas at 6:30 p.m. on the fourth Tuesday of each month. We are very thankful to the bank for making their meeting room available to us and look forward to returning to our former meeting location.

And finally, due to the newsletter editor being a little too focused on eating, I am sorry to report that we failed to take any pictures of this month's meeting!

Those in attendance were Richard Thornton, Bobby Fears, David Franklin, Randy Huffman, Marc Robinson, and Dwight Franklin.

We may not have pictures to share this month, but we certainly had plenty of good food, good fellowship, and good memories!





AUGUST HISTORICAL PROGRAM
EMMA SANSOM
BY COMMANDER DAVID FRANKLIN



Commander David Franklin presented the Historical Program for August with a very interesting program about heroine Emma Sansom. David told how this young teen was able to help General Nathan Bedford Forrest in the spring of 1863.

David had a lot of information that is not included in the notes, but he has allowed us to post his notes for those who were unable to attend the meeting. You can read about this brave young lady below.

Emma Sansom was born at Social Circle, Walton County, Georgia, June 2, 1847. Her parents, Micajah Sansom and Levina Vance, came from Georgia to what is now Etowah county in 1836 or 37. The family included twelve children and the Sansom's farmed their land and established a respected name. The father died shortly before the war, leaving his large family in comfortable circumstances.

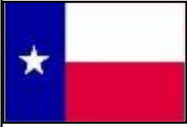


Emma Sansom was only 13 years old when the Civil War began. She was living on her family's farm near Gadsden, Alabama. In April 1863, the Sansom household consisted of Emma's widowed mother, her sister, Jennie, 24, and Emma, 15. Her brother Rufus, 22, was at home recuperating from wounds he had received in battle. Emma was described as an attractive young girl, tall and graceful, with clean cut features, large, deep blue eyes, dark red or auburn hair and of unusually fair complexion.

At the age of 16, Emma became one of the most well-known heroines of the Confederacy. Sansom's actions during Streight's raid of April 19-May 3, 1863, led to her legend.

She aided Brigadier Nathan Bedford Forrest in locating a crossing on Black Creek, on the afternoon of May 2, Union Colonel Abel Streight and 1,700 infantry, many mounted on mules, crossed Black Creek (located three miles from Gadsden) ahead of Forrest and destroyed the only local bridge, thus impeding the Confederate pursuit. Unable to use the bridge to cross the swollen creek, Forrest rode to a nearby home to find someone knowledgeable about the local terrain and came upon 16-year-old Sansom. According to an account published in the *Jacksonville Republican* one week later, Sansom volunteered to guide Forrest to a nearby ford. Initially, her mother objected to the idea of her daughter being escorted by a group of strangers. But Forrest was well known and respected, and Sansom's mother dropped her objections.

- Continued on the next page -



AUGUST HISTORICAL PROGRAM

EMMA SANSOM

BY COMMANDER DAVID FRANKLIN



With Sansom's guidance, Forrest located the ford, crossed it, and caught up with the Union forces. While escorting the general, Sansom reportedly faced enemy fire that ceased after the Union soldiers discovered that they had been firing upon a teenage girl. Emma's actions directly helped Forrest capture Streight and his raiders near Cedar Bluff the following day. By aiding the Confederate general, Sansom risked possible retribution for herself and her family from the federal soldiers had they escaped capture. At the time of the raid, her brother, who had been wounded in battle while serving in the Confederate Army, was at home recuperating from his injuries. His presence, in addition to her actions, would have certainly stirred the interest of the raiding party. That potential sacrifice would make Sansom an enduring heroine of the Confederacy for generations.

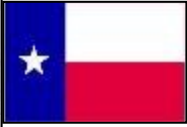


In October 1864, Sansom had married farmer Christopher B. Johnson. Around 1868, they moved to Upshur County, Texas, and the remainder of Sansom's life was spent primarily rearing the couple's seven children and running her household. In 1887, Johnson died, and Sansom never remarried. Years after the war, Sansom's account of the events were published after she was sought out by journalists and Confederate veterans. She died on August 9, 1900, leaving 5 boys and 2 girls, and was buried in Little Mound Cemetery in Upshur County.

In 1906, the Gadsden Chapter of the United Daughters of the Confederacy erected a monument in Emma's honor. On its pedestal, in Italian marble, stands a full-sized statue of Emma, with her arm outstretched to show General Forrest the way to the ford on Black Creek. The base of the statue contains a

carving of Sansom accompanying Forrest on horseback. She was also the subject of a poem written by **John Trotwood Moore**. SCV Camp #253 in Gadsden, AL, bears her name. A new school built there in 1929 was named Emma Sansom High School. Though she had moved away all those years ago, the people of Gadsden never forgot her important contribution to the Lost Cause.

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AUGUST HISTORICAL PROGRAM

EMMA SANSOM

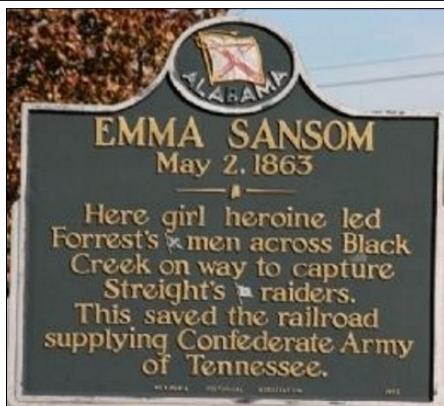
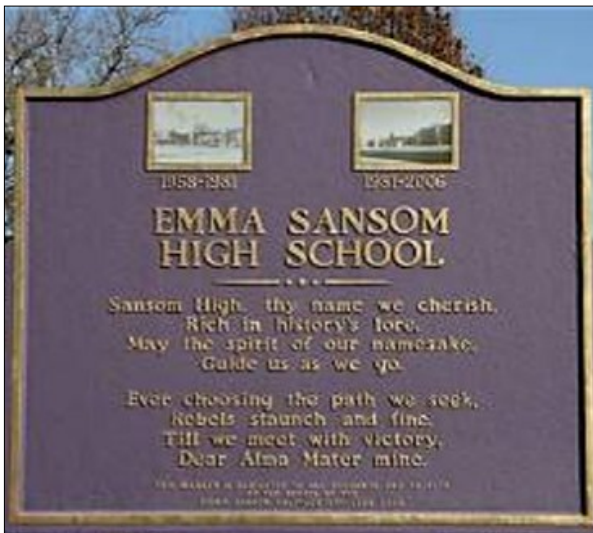
BY COMMANDER DAVID FRANKLIN



Above Left: Emma Sansom Statue, Gadsden, Alabama

Above Right: close-up of bottom of the statue

Bottom Right: Photograph of Emma Sansom





AUGUST HISTORICAL PROGRAM

EMMA SANSOM

BY COMMANDER DAVID FRANKLIN



CONFEDERATE HEROINE BURIED IN UPSHUR COUNTY

Throughout the States which composed the Southern Confederacy, and especially in Alabama, the memory of Emma Sansom is revered, for it was Emma Sansom who enabled Gen. Bedford Forest, noted Confederate general, to gain an important victory over the Union commander, General Strait, who had an army largely superior to Forest's in numbers, during the latter part of the war between the States. A fine oil portrait of Emma Sansom hangs in the library of the State house at Montgomery, capital of Alabama, beside that of General Bedford Forest, dashing Confederate general.

It is not generally known, and until recently the fact had been given no publicity, that the remains of the Confederate heroine mentioned sleep in Texas soil, but the grave of the woman is in a rural cemetery in Upshur county, known as Little Mound cemetery, where she and her husband are buried side by side, with one pretty gray stone marking both graves.

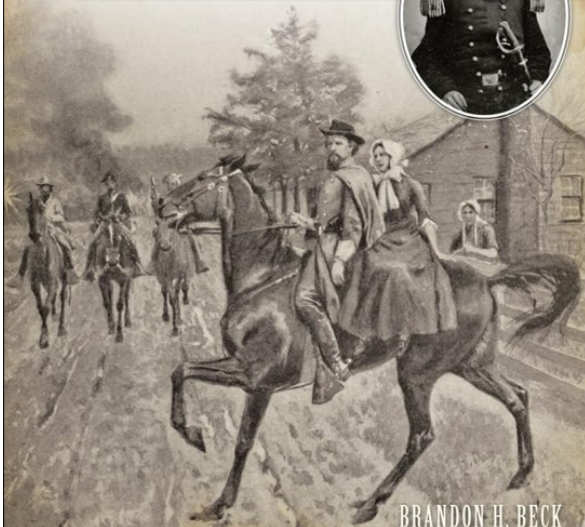
In every history telling of the life of General Bedford Forest and the important part he played in the war between the States, the great internecine strife which bathed the Southland in blood, the story of Emma Sansom is also told. General Forest was following the Union army commanded by General Strait, who was marching on Rome, Ga., to destroy the Confederate's base of supplies there. Forest had divided his army after defeating Strait in an engagement, and

Strait believed Forest had a much larger army than he really had. Near Gadsden, Ala., General Strait succeeded in getting his tired army across Black River, or creek, and then burned the bridge as a protection against the army of Forest, meanwhile shelling the Confederate forces as they came up. The story goes that General Forest, upon observing the situation, and seeing that it would be dangerous to permit the Union forces to rest, rode up to a farm house and asked a fifteen-year-old girl if there was a ford near on the creek. He was informed by the girl that there was a ford down on the farm which her father occasionally used, and at General Forest's request the girl got up behind the noted general on the horse and piloted him through the bottoms to the ford. Finding this ford enabled Forest to make a quick crossing and get to Strait's flanks and rear, force him out of his position of vantage and continue a winning fight which finally led to the surrender of Strait's army to a smaller army under Forest.

Soon after the close of the Civil War Emma Sansom married C. B. Johnson, in Alabama, and a few years later husband and wife came to Texas, locating in Upshur county. Mr. Johnson died in 1887 and Mrs. Johnson passed away in 1900. On one side of the monument which marks their graves appears this inscription: "Emma Sansom Johnson, girl heroine who piloted General Forest Across Black Creek and Enabled Him to Capture General Strait."

STREIGHT'S FOILED RAID ON THE WESTERN & ATLANTIC RAILROAD

Emma Sansom's Courage and
Nathan Bedford Forrest's Pursuit



BRANDON H. BECK



VS
GADSDEN HIGH
Nov. 5, 1993



REBELS

BUFFALO ROCK COMPANY
P. O. Box 2307 • 101 Spurline Drive • East Gadsden, AL 35903

(205) 492-8400





AUGUST HISTORICAL PROGRAM
EMMA SANSOM
BY COMMANDER DAVID FRANKLIN



Above: The headstone of C.B. Johnson, December 12, 1832 - March 27, 1887
and his wife, Emma Sansom Johnson, June 2, 1847 - August 3, 1900



AUGUST HISTORICAL PROGRAM
EMMA SANSOM
BY COMMANDER DAVID FRANKLIN



JOHN TROTWOOD MOORE.

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Federal sentinel guarding the bridge. Emma Samson, then a girl in her teens, offered to show General Forrest a ford. Her mother demurred, but before anything more could be said she sprang up behind the general and directed him where to ride. As they approached the creek the enemy began to fire. When the general dismounted to use his field glass she held out her skirts to protect him and insisted upon riding in front. The shot passed through her clothes, but no harm was done to either General Forrest or herself. When the enemy recognized a woman they stopped firing and began to cheer, and in a short while the ford was crossed. Streight and his seventeen hundred men were captured. Forrest's men numbered five hundred. Rome, Georgia, would undoubtedly have been burned had it not been for Emma Samson's bravery.

The State of Alabama voted her a gift of land and a very handsome medal in appreciation of these services.

The Trotwood-Taylor Magazine is doing a great work, under Mr. Moore's guidance, in directing attention to the writers of the South, and deserves the support of Southern people.

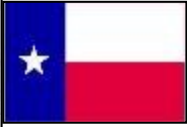
Bob Taylor's excellent magazine has been united with this, and the combination is a good one.

A BALLAD OF EMMA SAMSON.

The courage of man is one thing, but that of a maid is more,
For blood is blood, and death is death, and grim is the battle gore,
And the rose that blooms, tho' blistered by the sleet of an open sky,
Is fairer than its sisters are
Who sleep in the hothouse nigh.

Word came up to Forrest that Streight was on a raid—
Two thousand booted bayonets were riding down the glade.
Eight thousand were before him—he was holding Dodge at bay,
But he turned on his heels like the twist of a steel,
And was off at the break of day.

* * * *



The Confederate Soldier in the Summer of 1864

Pg 1



By the summer of 1864, the Confederate soldier had been at war for more than three years. What had begun in 1861 with enthusiasm, confidence, and hopes of a short war had become a long and increasingly desperate struggle. The Confederate soldier of 1864 was a very different man from the young volunteer who had marched away from home in the spring and summer of 1861. He was tired. His uniform was worn. His shoes were often in poor condition. Food was sometimes scarce, ammunition was precious, and letters from home frequently brought troubling news about shortages and hardships. Yet despite these difficulties, thousands of Confederate soldiers continued to serve in the ranks during the summer of 1864.

A War That Would Not End

In the beginning, many soldiers on both sides believed the war would be over quickly. By 1864, that optimism was long gone.

The Confederate soldier had experienced the bloody battles of Shiloh, Seven Pines, Second Manassas, Sharpsburg, Fredericksburg, Chancellorsville, Gettysburg, Chickamauga, and countless smaller engagements. Many had been wounded. Some had been captured and imprisoned. Almost every soldier had lost friends and comrades.

The summer of 1864 brought no relief.

In Virginia, General Robert E. Lee's Army of Northern Virginia was locked in a relentless struggle with General Ulysses S. Grant. The battles of the Wilderness, Spotsylvania Court House, and Cold Harbor had already taken a terrible toll. Grant's army continued moving south and east toward Petersburg, while Lee's army struggled to stop him.

Farther west, Confederate soldiers under General John Bell Hood were fighting to defend Atlanta against General William T. Sherman's advancing Union army. The Confederate soldier understood that he was no longer fighting merely one campaign. He was fighting a war of survival.

Life in the Confederate Ranks

The daily life of the Confederate soldier was often far removed from the dramatic scenes described in battle reports. Much of a soldier's time was spent marching, standing picket, building fortifications, cooking, cleaning weapons, repairing clothing, gathering firewood, and waiting. Waiting could be as much a part of soldiering as fighting.

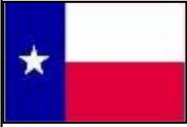
A soldier might spend long hours behind earthworks listening for enemy activity. He might sleep on the ground with little protection from the weather. During the summer, heat, insects, disease, and exhaustion added to the hardships of military life.

The Confederate army suffered from shortages throughout the war, and these became increasingly severe by 1864. The Union blockade made it difficult for the Confederacy to obtain many manufactured goods. Shoes, clothing, blankets, medicines, and other necessities were difficult to replace. A soldier might wear the same uniform for months. His coat could become faded and patched. His trousers might be repaired repeatedly. A pair of good shoes was one of the most valuable possessions a soldier could have. Many Confederate soldiers marched barefoot when their shoes wore out.

Food and Hunger

Food was another constant concern. The Confederate soldier's diet was generally simple: meat, cornmeal, flour, peas, rice, bacon, and other available provisions. Rations varied greatly depending on the army's location and the ability of the supply system to deliver food.

- continued on the next page -



The Confederate Soldier in the Summer of 1864

Page 2



By 1864, shortages were becoming increasingly serious. The soldiers were often hungry, but the situation at home could be even worse. Confederate soldiers received letters describing the difficulties faced by their wives, children, parents, and neighbors. Salt, flour, coffee, sugar, clothing, and other necessities were increasingly difficult to obtain. A soldier could endure hunger in the army more easily when he knew his family was safe and adequately supplied. Knowing that his family was suffering at home made his burden much heavier.

The Importance of Coffee

One small item illustrates the hardships of the Confederate soldier particularly well: coffee. Coffee was extremely popular with soldiers on both sides. Confederate soldiers, however, frequently had difficulty obtaining genuine coffee because of the Union blockade. They learned to make substitutes from roasted grains, seeds, and other materials. Soldiers sometimes traded valuable items for a small amount of real coffee. A cup of coffee may seem insignificant today, but to a soldier who had been living in the field for months, it could be a tremendous comfort. The simple pleasures of army life became important: a warm meal, a letter from home, dry clothing, a good night's sleep, or a few minutes around a campfire with friends.

Letters From Home

Perhaps nothing sustained the Confederate soldier more than his connection to home. Letters were eagerly anticipated and carefully preserved. A soldier might carry a letter from his wife, mother, sweetheart, or children in the pocket of his uniform for weeks or months. He might read it repeatedly until the paper became worn and fragile. The letters from home could bring encouragement, but they could also bring heartbreaking news.

A wife might write about a child who was sick. A mother might report the death of a neighbor or relative. A soldier might learn that crops had failed, that food prices had risen, or that his family was struggling to survive. These letters reminded the soldier of what he was fighting for, but they also reminded him of everything he had left behind.

The Summer Heat

The summer of 1864 was particularly difficult because much of the fighting occurred during the hottest months of the year. Imagine marching several miles under a hot Southern sun while carrying a rifle, ammunition, blanket, canteen, and other equipment. Then imagine doing it in worn-out clothing and shoes.

The soldier had no air conditioning, no refrigeration, and very little protection from the elements. Drinking water was extremely important, but clean water was not always available. Heat exhaustion and disease could be as dangerous as enemy bullets.

The soldier's greatest enemy was not always the man wearing the opposing uniform. Disease claimed enormous numbers of soldiers during the Civil War. Dysentery, diarrhea, typhoid fever, malaria, pneumonia, and other illnesses were constant threats.

The Fortifications at Petersburg

By the summer of 1864, Confederate soldiers around Petersburg, Virginia, were spending much of their time behind extensive earthworks. The fighting around Petersburg developed into a prolonged siege. For the common soldier, this meant living in trenches and fortifications for extended periods. The trenches offered protection from enemy fire, but they were miserable places to live. Soldiers dug, repaired, and strengthened their positions. They endured artillery fire and sharpshooters while trying to sleep, eat, and remain alert.

- Continued on the next page -



The Confederate Soldier in the Summer of 1864

Page 3



The soldier could never completely relax. At any moment, the enemy might attack.

Yet there was also a strange routine to trench warfare. Soldiers became accustomed to certain sounds and patterns. They learned where it was safest to stand, where water could be found, and which areas were most exposed to enemy fire. They became experts at surviving.

The Army of Tennessee and Atlanta

While Lee's soldiers fought in Virginia, Confederate soldiers in the West faced their own desperate struggle.

General William T. Sherman's Union army was advancing toward Atlanta, an important railroad and manufacturing center of the Confederacy.

General Joseph E. Johnston commanded the Confederate Army of Tennessee during much of the campaign. His army repeatedly withdrew southward while attempting to slow the Union advance.

In July, Johnston was replaced by General John Bell Hood. Hood was aggressive and determined to defend Atlanta. His soldiers fought a series of fierce battles around the city, including Peachtree Creek, Atlanta, and Ezra Church. By August, Confederate soldiers were still fighting desperately to hold the city. The men in the Army of Tennessee knew what Atlanta meant. Its loss would be a tremendous blow to the Confederacy. For these soldiers, the summer of 1864 was a season of almost continuous marching, fighting, digging, and suffering.

Why Did They Keep Fighting?

Perhaps the most interesting question is why Confederate soldiers continued fighting after so many years of war. The answer was different for every man.

Some fought because they believed strongly in the Confederate cause. Others were devoted to their home state. Some believed they were defending their families and communities from invasion. Others remained in the army because they had made a commitment to their comrades. And many simply could not abandon the men with whom they had shared so much.

The bond between soldiers was extremely powerful. A man might be willing to endure tremendous hardship for the fellow soldier standing beside him. They had marched together, slept beside one another, shared food, endured battles, and watched friends die. The soldier did not want to be the man who abandoned his comrades.

The Human Cost

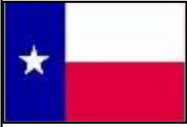
By 1864, the Confederate soldier had learned the true cost of war. The romantic ideas of military glory had largely disappeared. He had seen men killed by artillery shells. He had watched wounded comrades suffer. He had helped bury friends. He had seen battlefields covered with the dead. The war had become personal. Behind every name on a casualty list was a father, son, brother, husband, or friend.

A regiment that had marched away in 1861 with hundreds of men might contain only a fraction of its original number by 1864. Replacements arrived, but the veterans knew what the newcomers had yet to learn. War was not glorious. War was suffering, fear, exhaustion, sacrifice, and death.

The Veteran of 1864

The Confederate soldier of the summer of 1864 was a veteran. He knew how to march. He knew how to build a defensive position. He knew how to sleep on the ground. He knew how to conserve ammunition. He knew how to recognize the sound of different artillery pieces. He knew what incoming artillery sounded like. Most importantly, he knew what battle meant. Many of these men had survived experiences that would have broken the strongest of men. Yet they continued to serve.

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The Confederate Soldier in the Summer of 1864

Page 4



Their endurance should not be confused with a lack of fear. Courage does not mean the absence of fear. Courage means doing one's duty despite fear. The Confederate soldier who stood behind an earthwork in 1864 could be frightened, exhausted, hungry, and homesick—and still remain at his post.

The Summer Before the End

The summer of 1864 was a turning point in the Civil War. The Confederacy was still capable of fighting, but its resources were shrinking. Union armies were advancing on multiple fronts. Atlanta was threatened. Petersburg was under siege. The Confederate economy was struggling. The blockade continued to restrict supplies. Yet the Confederate soldier continued to do what he had been doing for years: march, fight, dig, endure, and wait. He did not know exactly how the war would end. He did not know that within less than a year, Lee would surrender at Appomattox. He did not know that the Confederate armies would soon cease to exist. He only knew what was immediately in front of him. Another march. Another battle. Another night in the trenches. Another letter from home. Another day to survive.

Remembering the Confederate Soldier

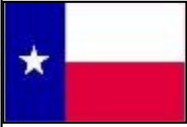
When we look back at the Civil War, it is easy to concentrate on generals, battles, campaigns, and political leaders. But the war was ultimately fought by ordinary men who endured extraordinary circumstances. The Confederate soldier of 1864 was one of those men. He was a farmer, mechanic, laborer, clerk, teacher, blacksmith, storekeeper, or student who had become a soldier. He had a family somewhere behind the lines. He had friends who had already been killed. He had experienced hardship that most modern Americans can scarcely imagine.

Whatever one's interpretation of the Confederate cause or the Civil War itself, the human story of the individual soldier deserves to be remembered.

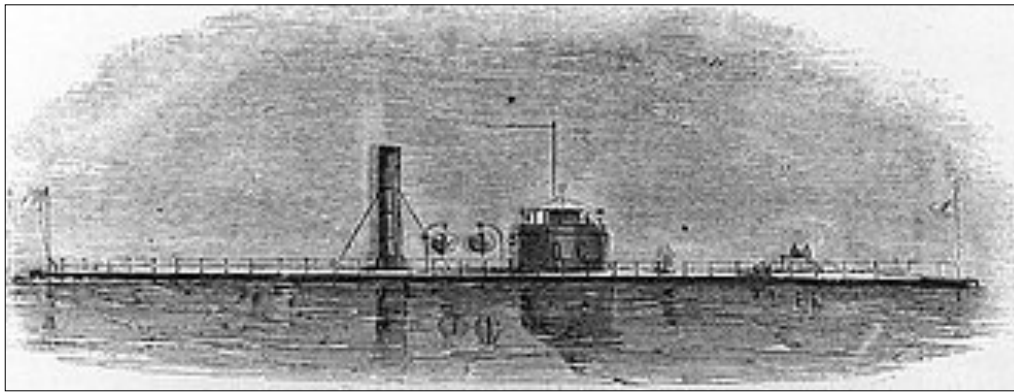
The summer of 1864 found him tired but still marching, hungry but still fighting, homesick but still serving beside his comrades. He had already given much. And before the war was over, he would be asked to give even more.

The Confederate soldier of the summer of 1864 was not simply a name on a muster roll or a figure in a battle report. He was a man—far from home, enduring hardship, facing danger, and wondering when the war would finally end.





The Civil War's Forgotten Water War: How the Confederacy Fought in Brown- and Green-Water Campaigns



At left is a picture of an engraving that depicts the Union gunboat *USS Yazoo*. It shows the type of shallow-draft ironclad that Confederate raiders captured and destroyed on the Yazoo River in April 1864—one example of the South's surprisingly effective "brown-water" warfare.

The Confederate States of America achieved many naval technological successes during the Civil War. Defying conventional warfare, Confederates sank enemy ships with ironclads, mines, torpedoes, and submarines.

The South also fought another, less familiar war on water: effective riverine ("brown-water") and shallow coastal ("green-water") warfare. Civilians, marines, sailors, and soldiers succeeded spectacularly in this ancient "shore-to-ship" combat.

Shallow inlets, swamps, channels, and bays offered ideal launching points for attacks on Federal blockaders and supply ships. Enemy ships might become lost, accidentally grounded, or rendered helpless by a storm; or they might simply venture within striking distance.

In May 1863, Acting Master James Duke and 18 civilians from Mobile, traveling in a small boat, captured the *Boston* at Pass à l'Ostre, Louisiana. They then used her to capture and destroy the *Jenny Lind* and the barks *Texana* and *Lenox*. Confederates employed similar tactics on April 22, 1864, when they captured the ironclad gunboat *Petrel* on Mississippi's Yazoo River.

Shallow-water raiders did not always need boats. On May 15, 1863, 30 members of a local defense force under Captain John T. Elliott dropped from a drawbridge on the Albemarle and Chesapeake Canal to seize the civilian mail side-wheel steamer *Emily*. They then used her to capture the *Arrow*. Along the North Carolina coast, Captain J. N. Whitford and his company ambushed a side-wheeler and a fleet of Federal gunboats from shore.

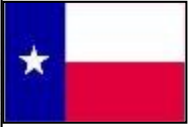
Elsewhere, Colonel Richard Thomas Zarvona and his Maryland Zouaves boarded four vessels while posing as passengers (Zarvona reportedly disguised as a woman). In mid-1863, Captain J. W. Person dressed his men as escaped enslaved people, both men and women, to lure a Federal skiff into an ambush near Tampa, Florida.

The spring of 1864 proved to be the height of successful Confederate shore-to-water operations. On the Mississippi River, Colonel Colton Greene used his brigade's artillery to successfully engage 21 Federal vessels. On Florida's St. Johns River, Captain John Jackson Dickison and his cavalry severely damaged the Union gunboat *Ottawa* and destroyed the gunboat *Columbine*. Elsewhere in Florida, at the mouth of the Yellow River, Captain William T. Amos and Company Fifteen of the Fifteenth Confederate Cavalry Regiment captured three vessels.

In Tennessee, during several days in October and November 1864, General Nathan Bedford Forrest's command achieved perhaps the greatest success of the war. His men captured or destroyed 4 gunboats, 14 transports, and 20 barges, took approximately 150 prisoners, and inflicted nearly \$10 million in damage.

A complete accounting of the many ships taken by the South's civilians and military is not possible. More such raids could have succeeded, but the Confederate government ignored this type of warfare. Seeking prize money required a lengthy court process. By contrast, the United States government provided generous bounties and easy prize money that encouraged raids on Southern ships.

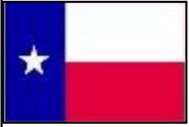
Nonetheless, brave, determined, and largely ignored Confederate Davids set out in shallow waters to challenge—and often defeat—their Federal Goliaths.



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

AUGUST IN THE LIFE OF JOHN H. REAGAN



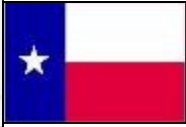
August 3, 1857: John H. Reagan
Defeated Lemuel D. Evans by a vote
of 341 to 9,929 in the race for U.S.
Representative.



August 1, 1859 John H. Reagan defeated William B.
Ochiltree by a vote of 23,977 to 3,464 for a 2nd term
as a U.S. Representative

August 1, 1946: Home site of John H. Reagan
deeded to Anderson County by Mrs. Jeff D. Reagan

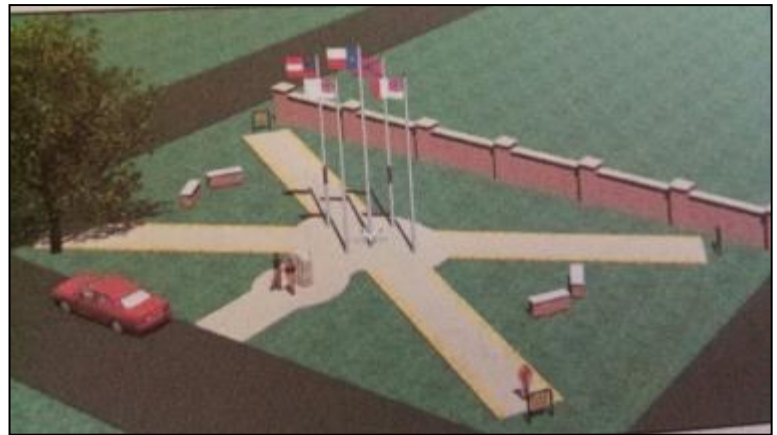




A GREAT WAY TO ENSURE THAT YOUR ANCESTOR'S SERVICE AND HONOR IS NOT FORGOTTEN



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



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

JOHN H. REAGAN SCV CAMP #2156 PALESTINE TEXAS	PVT WM. H. FOSTER CO. H 1ST TEX INF DIED AS POW OCT 63
GEORGE KNOX GIBSON PVT. CO. B 12TH TEXAS CAVLRY, CSA	WILLIAM H. CRIST COMPANY I 7 TX CAV C.S.A.

JACOB L. SHERIDAN CAPT CO I 1ST REGT TEXAS INFANTRY	JOHN H. SHERIDAN PVT. CO I 1ST REGT TEXAS INFANTRY	COL. A.T. RAINEY CO. H 1 TEX. INF. HOOD'S TEX. BRIG
L. E. SHERIDAN PVT. CO I 1ST REGT TEXAS INFANTRY	PVT WM. N SHERIDAN CO C 6 BATTALION TEXAS CALVARY	STEPHEN O. RAINEY CAPTAIN 1ST BATT. TEX CAV

PVT. R. M. LUMMUS 53 GEORGIA INF. COMPANY B C.S.A	PVT ALLEN G TURNER CO A 7TH BATTALION MISS INF. CSA
SGT. AMOS G. HANKS CO F. 1ST TEX INF HOODS BRIGADE CSA	WILLIAM H. DYER PVT CO K MISS INF C.S.A.

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

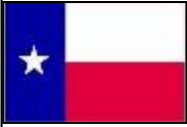


ROBERT E. LEE CALENDAR

AUGUST 2026



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1 undated - to Annie I wish you to be very good, very wise, very healthy, & very happy
2 undated - If the subject of education could be of more importance at one period of our history than at another, that period is the present.	3 undated - My only object is to endeavor to make students see their true interest, to teach them to labor diligently & to prepare themselves for the great work of life.	4, August 1861 - to wife. What a glorious world Almighty god has given us. How thankless & ungrateful we are, & how we labour to mar his gifts.	5, August 1867 - to Robert A farmer's life is one of labour, but it is also one of pleasure.	6 undated - We must expect reverses, even defeats. They are sent to teach us wisdom & prudence, to call forth greater energies, & to prevent our falling into greater disasters.	7 undated I dislike to have more than I actually require	8 undated - to Jeff Davis I know how prone we are to blame others for the nonfulfillment of our expectations. This is unbecoming in a generous people & I grieve to see its expression.
9 undated to Jeff Davis No matter what may be the ability of the officer, if he loses the confidence of his troops disaster must sooner or later ensue.	10, August - to Rooney I shall endeavor to procure some humble, but quiet, abode for your mother & sisters, where I hope they can be happy.	11 undated - To succeed it is necessary to set the example.	12 undated - Incubating discipline is a painful tedious process, & is not apt to win popular favour.	13, August 1863 - God is our refuge & strength. Let us humble ourselves before Him. Let us beseech Him to give us a higher courage, a purer patriotism, & more determined will	14 undated - to Eliza Stiles It is sad to see a soldier die, & heart rending to announce it to his parents.	15 undated - to Charlotte. Teach him that his only refuge is in Him, the greatness of whose mercy reacheth unto the heavens, & His truth unto the clouds.
16 undated — to a son. I hope you will continue never to exceed your means. It will save you much anxiety & mortification	17 undated — to Judge Andrew Magrath The best troops are ineffective without good officers	18, August 1865 — To Carter Lee I have to labour for my living and I am ashamed to do nothing that will give me honest support.	19 undated — That is a political question, Mr. Hill & you politicians must determine it; I shall endeavor to take care of the Army.	20 undated to Custis Do not dream. It is too ideal. Live in the world you inhabit. Look upon things as they are. Take them as you find them	21, August 1835 - to wife I must not consent to do aught that would lower me in your eyes, my own & that of others.	22 August 1866 - to H. C. Saunder I prefer remaining silent to doing anything that might excite angry discussion.
23 undated - to College Trustees I think it the duty of every citizen, in the present condition of the country, to do all in his power to aid in the restoration of peace & harmony.	24 August, 1865 - to College Trustees it is particularly incumbent on those charged with the instruction of the youth to set them an example of submission to authority.	25 undated - I speak of the proper rule in republics, where, I think, we should have neither military statesmen nor political generals.	26 undated - to Jack Mackay It is so much more easy to make heroes on paper than in the field.	27 August 1864 - to Custis I have only one earthly want, that God in His infinite mercy will send our enemies back to their homes.	28 August 1865 - There is no labour so beneficent, so elevated & so sublime, as the teaching of salvation to every man.	29 undated - to Gov. Letcher It is the part of wisdom to acquiesce in the result.
30 undated - to B. Duncan Every man must do his part in this great work. He must carry into the administration of his affairs industry, fidelity & economy.	31 undated - to E. Pollard My thanks for the compliment by your proposition to write a history of my life. Independently of the few national events it presents little to interest the reader.					



TEXAS CIVIL WAR HISTORY IN AUGUST

From the Texas State Historical Association



August 9, 1946 - On this day, the last Confederate reunion was held at Camp Ben McCulloch. This golden Jubilee included a memorial service for the camp's last two members, who had died the previous year. The camp, near Driftwood, in Hays County, was organized in the summer of 1896 as a reunion camp for Confederate veterans and named for Confederate General Benjamin McCulloch. Annual three-day reunions were held at the camp, often with 5,000 to 6,000 persons attending. In 1930, Ben McCulloch was said to be the largest Confederate Camp in existence. Subsequently, the camp became the location of the annual meetings of the Sons and Daughters of the Confederacy, with various activities and services spanning a week in early June. The campsite, on a branch of Onion Creek, also remains a popular picnic area for residents of northern Hays County.

August 10, 1862 - On this day, Confederate soldiers attacked a force of Hill Country Unionists camped in route to Mexico beside the Nueces River in Kinney County. The skirmish is known as the battle of the Nueces. The sixty-odd Unionists, mostly German intellectuals, had camped without choosing a defensive position or posting a strong guard. Nineteen of them were killed and nine were wounded. The wounded were executed by the Confederates later in the day. Two Confederates were killed and eighteen wounded. Of the Unionists who escaped from the battle, eight were killed on October 18 while trying to cross into Mexico. After the war, the remains of the Unionists were gathered and interred at Comfort, where a monument commemorates them.

August 13, 1906 - On this day, black soldiers of the Twenty-fifth U.S. Infantry allegedly attacked citizens of Brownsville. The event resulted in the largest summary dismissals in the history of the United States Army. The soldiers, newly arrived at Fort Brown from the Philippines and Nebraska, confronted racial discrimination for some businesses and suffered physical abuse from some federal customs collectors. A reported attack on a white woman during the night of August 12 so enraged the citizens that Maj. Charles W. Penrose, after consultation with Mayor Frederick Combe, declared an early curfew. Just after midnight on the thirteenth, a bartender was fatally shot and a police lieutenant was wounded. Various citizens claimed to have seen soldiers running through the streets shooting, even though it was dark. Several civilian and military investigations presumed the guilt of the soldiers without identifying individual culprits. When suspects were not forthcoming, the army inspector general charged a "conspiracy of silence." On November 5, president Theodore Roosevelt discharged "without honor" all 167 enlisted men garrisoned at Fort Brown. This action fueled political and "due process" arguments for more than sixty years. In 1972, the Nixon administration awarded honorable discharges, without back pay, to the soldiers involved. The only surviving veteran, Dorsie Willis, received a \$25,000 settlement.

August 20, 1866 - On this day, President Andrew Johnson, declaring that "the insurrection in the State of Texas has been completely and everywhere suppressed and ended," officially ended the Civil War by issuing a proclamation of peace between the United States and Texas. Johnson had declared a state of peace between the U.S. and the other ten Confederate states on April 2, 1866. The last land battle of the Civil War took place at Palmito Ranch near Brownsville on May 13, 1865, more than a month after Robert E. Lee surrendered at Appomattox Courthouse.

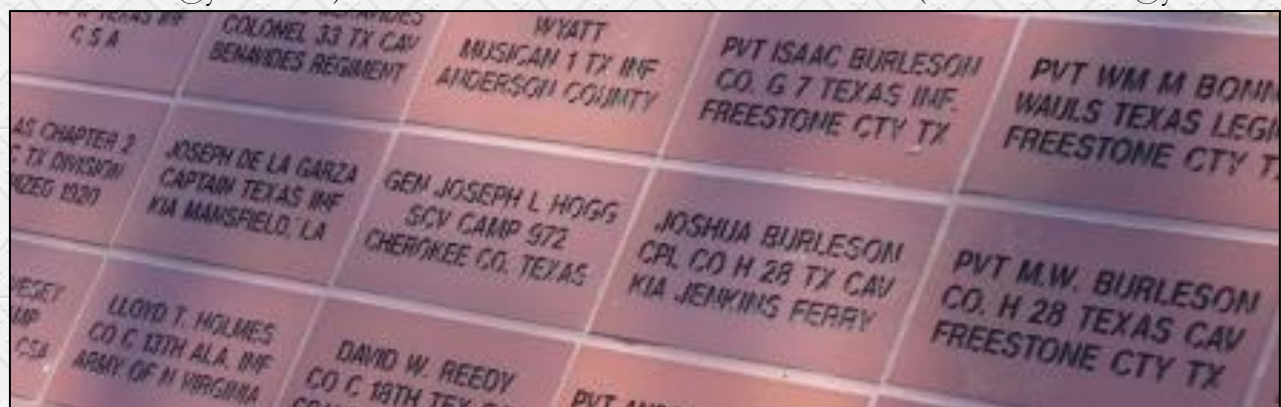
August 30, 1862 - On this day, Hood's Texas Brigade played a distinguished part in the battle of Second Manassas. After a Union assault was broken up by artillery fire, Confederate General Longstreet launched his First Corps, with the Texas Brigade in the lead, in one of the most successful counterattacks of the Civil War. The Fourth Texas Infantry, under the command of Lt. Col. B. F. Carter, captured a federal battery of artillery, losing eleven killed and twenty wounded in the process. After the battle the commander of the brigade, Gen. John Hood, encountered the commander of the Army of Northern Virginia, Robert E. Lee, who playfully asked him what had become of the enemy. Hood answered that the Texans had chased them across Bull Run "almost at a double quick." A regiment of New York Zouaves was shattered by the assault, and, seeing their brightly uniformed bodies scattered about the next morning, a Texas officer wrote that they gave the battlefield "the appearance of a Texas hillside when carpeted in the spring by wildflowers of many hues and tints."



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 Adjutant Marc Robinson at 903-676-6069 (email mrobinson1836@yahoo.com) or Commander David Franklin at 214-957-7086 (email slocumdave@yahoo.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 Commercial Bank of
Texas 2121 Tx Loop 256, Palestine, Tx
with a meal served at each meeting.
Guests are welcome!

David Franklin
Reagan Camp Commander
Email: slocumdave@yahoo.com

Marc Robinson
Adjutant/Treasurer
E-mail: mrobinson1836@yahoo.com

Dwight Franklin
Chaplain/Newsletter Editor:
[dwightfranklin1@yahoo.com](mailto:dwrightfranklin1@yahoo.com)

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