



Sons of Confederate Veterans Texas Division

The John H. Reagan Camp News

www.reaganscvcamp.org

Commander's Dispatch

Sons of Confederate Veterans
 Texas Division

September 2026



The month of September makes me think of Bloody Chickamauga. The Battle of Chickamauga, fought on September 18–20, 1863, marked the end of a U.S. Army offensive, the [Chickamauga Campaign](#), in southeastern [Tennessee](#) and northwestern [Georgia](#). It was the first major battle of the war fought in Georgia and the most significant [Union](#) defeat in the [Western Theater](#), and it involved the second-highest number of casualties after the [Battle of Gettysburg](#).

Since it was a great Confederate victory, not much is said about Chickamauga, other than the wonderful movements of the Yankee (and Southern-born) General George Thomas, the "Rock of Chickamauga." Another item modern-day historians remember about Chickamauga is the appearance of the post-war Yankee's favorite general, James Longstreet.

Lee had sent Longstreet west after Gettysburg and I'll withhold my personal opinion as to the reasons Lee did that.

What I like to remember most about the Chickamauga campaign is the performance of one of the South's most talented commanders, Irish-born Patrick Cleburne, namesake of Cleburne, Texas, the Stonewall of the West. During the campaigns of 1863 in [Tennessee](#), Cleburne and his soldiers fought at the [Battle of Chickamauga](#). They successfully resisted a much larger Union force under Maj. Gen. [William T. Sherman](#) on the northern end of Missionary Ridge during the [Battle of Missionary Ridge](#), and [Joseph Hooker](#) at the [Battle of Ringgold Gap](#) in northern Georgia, in which Cleburne's men again protected the Army of Tennessee as it retreated to Tunnel Hill, Georgia. Cleburne and his troops received an official Thanks from the [Confederate Congress](#) for their actions during this campaign.

So, yes the Rock of Chickamauga was amazing, the Old War Horse Longstreet was

**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

stupendous, but my thanks, admiration, and remembrance this September go to Patrick R. Cleburne of County Cork, who fought, bled, and died for the Cause of the South: his adopted home.

 David Franklin
 Reagan Camp
 Commander

 Above: Painting of Cleburne
 at Chickamauga
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**Inside this issue**

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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
- 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 [Commercial Bank of Texas 2121 Tx Loop 256 Palestine, Tx.](#)

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

Oct 27th - October Meeting 6:30 p.m.

No meeting in November due to Thanksgiving

“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-



Beginning early on the morning of September 17, 1862, Confederate and Union troops in the Civil War clash near Maryland's Antietam Creek in the bloodiest single day in American military history.

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.

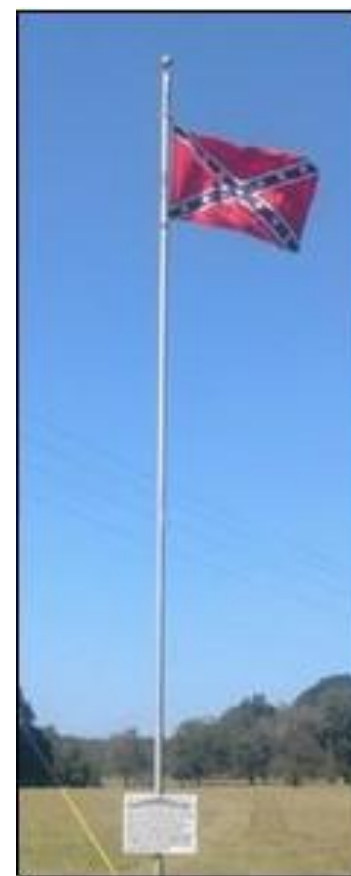
Provided by the John H. Reagan Camp #2156, Sons of Confederate Veterans.

www.reaganscvcamp.org



“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-



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.



September Meeting Pictures



The September Reagan Camp Meeting was held on September 22nd in the Commercial Bank of Texas Community Room at 6:30 p.m.. We had 9 in attendance at the September meeting.

We always have a nice meal at the meetings, and tonight's was no exception. We had fried chicken, potato wedges, barbeque, potato salad, pinto beans loaded with ham, cornbread, homemade coconut pie (thanks Sheri Franklin) and other desserts. We had much more food than we were able to eat, but it sure was fun trying.

We appreciate everyone who attended, and we appreciate everyone who contributed by bringing food for the meeting. Everything was delicious!



After the meeting, Commander David Franklin presented us with a historical meeting on Confederate descendant Lewis McDonald Grizzard Jr. It was a very interesting program. You can read about it on the following pages.

Our next meeting will be held on October 27th at the Commercial Bank of Texas. Please come join us for a good meal and a program following the meal.





September Historical Program

Lewis McDonald Grizzard, Jr. by David Franklin



Commander David Franklin presented the historical program for our September meeting. His program was about Confederate descendant and famed journalist Lewis McDonald Grizzard, Jr. David has passed his notes along so we can include them in this newsletter for those who were unable to attend the meeting.

Lewis McDonald Grizzard, Jr.

Lewis McDonald Grizzard, Jr. was an extremely talented journalist, speaker, actor who was a proud descendant of his Confederate ancestors.

Lewis recorded 10 comedy albums and published 25 books. He was named Sports Editor at the Athens newspaper and at the Atlanta Journal-Constitution at the age of 21. In 1975 he left the

Journal to write for Sports Illustrated and then become the executive sports editor of the Chicago Sun-Times at 28. He later recalled this as the most miserable period of his life. He wrote the book *If I Ever Get to Georgia I'm Gonna Nail My Feet to the Ground* about that experience.

In 1988 he debuted on the television show *Designing Women* as Clayton Sugarbaker the brother of Julia (Dixie Carter) and Suzanne (Delta Burk) Sugarbaker.

Following his fourth heart valve replacement surgery, Lewis died. Today there is a Lewis Grizzard museum in Moreland, Georgia.

In Lewis' obituary (front page of the Atlanta Journal-Constitution): "in large part, his family roots were responsible for making Grizzard a fiercely proud Southerner. His 20 books and syndicated columns in the Journal-Constitution and 450 other newspapers played redneck humor to the hilt. He took special delight in attacking Yankees, liberal politicians, draft evaders and feminists.

Divorced three times, Grizzard wrote that women's activities should be limited to rubbing his back, hugging his neck, baking pies, frying chicken and washing his clothes.

Grizzard was a popular figure on the lecture circuit, commanding up to \$20,000 a speech. This was in the early 1990s. He occasionally appeared on television, including

- continued on the next page -





September Historical Program



Guest spots on “The Tonight Show”, “Designing Women” and “Larry King Live”. His move into book-writing became a Southern publishing event. Peachtree Publishers of Atlanta distributed his first book, the 1979 collection of his columns titled “Kathy Sue Loudermilk, I Love You,” and it sold 75000 copies the first week.

His second book, “Elvis Is Dead And I Don’t Feel So Good Myself,” made the New York Times best-seller list. He was annually the region’s best-selling author.

Grizzard was proud of his Confederate heritage. His Confederate ancestry consisted of his Great Great Grandfather, Martin Van Buren (V.B.) Smith, 23 Oct 1838 Alabama – 23 March 1899 Carroll County, Georgia, Co C. 56th Georgia Infantry, CSA.

Great Great Grandfather, David Lewis McDonald – 1 April 1824 Greenville County, SC – 8 April 1901 Centerville, Gwinnett County, Georgia. His obituary said, “He made a second trip to the far distant state of California in 1860, but came back home when the war broke out between the states and enlisted in the Confederate Army. He bravely bore arms in defense of his country and at the end of the four years’ struggle Mr. McDonald again took up his abode on the plantation in this county and remained there until his death.”

Great Great uncle – James L. Grizzard – 18 Feb 1847 – 25 Nov 1880, Private, Hanleiters Company, Georgia Light Artillery.

Excerpt from Southern by the Grace of God: “Born Right” *All of us native Southerners knew it was coming. And now, it is here. The Sunday paper carried a large article about Northern migration to the capital city of the South.*

In the metro Atlanta area, the article said, native Georgians still have the edge, but it’s not an overpowering one and the margin is dwindling...The article also quoted a Yankee population expert, William Frey of the University of Michigan, as saying, “The nice Southern flavor of Atlanta may be diluted a bit with all the Northerners moving in.”

The nice Southern flavor of Atlanta may be diluted a bit...Will the downtown Atlanta statue of the Phoenix, symbolic of the city’s rising from the ashes, be replaced by a statue of Sherman holding a can of lighter fluid? Will cornbread give way to the bagel?...I was having lunch at an Atlanta gold club recently. A man sitting at another table heard me speaking and asked, “Where are you all from?” He was mocking me. He was mocking my Southern accent. He was sitting in Atlanta, Georgia, making fun of the way I speak.

I was in my doctor’s office in Atlanta. One of the women who works there, a transplanted Northerner, asked how I pronounced the word “siren.” I said I pronounced it “si-reen.” I was half-kidding, but that is the way I heard the word pronounced when I was a child. The woman laughed and said, “You Southerners really crack me up. You have a language all your own.” Yeah, we do. If you don’t like it, go back home and stick your head in a snow bank. We really don’t care how you said it or how you did it back in Buffalo...



September Historical Program



(Excerpt continued)

I don't go around sulking about the fact that the South lost the Civil War. But I am aware that once upon a long time ago, a group of Americans saw fit to rebel against what they thought was an overbearing federal government. There is no record anywhere that indicates anybody in my family living in 1861 owned slaves. As a matter of fact, I come from a long line of sharecroppers, horse thieves, and used car dealers. But a few of them fought anyway – not to keep their slaves, because they didn't have any. I guess they simply thought it was the right thing to do at the time. Whatever their reasons there was a citizenry that once saw fit to fight and died, and I come from all that and I look at those people as brave and gallant, and a frightful force until their hearts and their lands were burnt away. I will never turn my back on that heritage. I am proud to be a Southerner. If I've said it once, I've said it a thousand times: I'm an American by birth, but I'm Southern by the grace of God.



Above: Marker at Moreland Hometown Heritage Museum; A Tribute to Lewis Grizzard, 7 Main Street, in Moreland, Georgia

Right: Lewis McDonald Grizzard, Jr.
October 20, 1946 – March 20, 1994
Proud Southern Confederate Descendant

After David had told us the program that you read in the notes above, he played three audio tracks of Lewis Grizzard. They were very funny, and they showed the humor in his voice. It was easy to see that he was able to get \$20,000 for a speaking engagement.

We appreciate David for providing the program for this month's meeting. He always does a great job.





Richard Rowland Kirkland The Angel of Marye's Heights



The Kirkland Memorial at the Sunken Road highlights how humanity shines through our darkest days. *NPS Photo*

On the evening on December 13, 1862, as hundreds of US soldiers lay wounded on the fields in front of the Sunken Road, a young Confederate sergeant crossed over the stone wall, and, under cover of darkness distributed water to the wounded enemy soldiers.

The soldier who committed this brave act was reported later by Confederate General Joseph Kershaw to be Richard Kirkland, of the 2nd South Carolina. Kirkland became known as the "Angel of Marye's Heights" and his story is an oft-repeated one, highlighting the bravery of soldiers, the horrors of war, and the hope that the connections between us are more powerful than things that divide us.

Kirkland did not survive the war; he died at the Battle of Chickamauga on September 20, 1863.

MEMORY, MYTH, AND TRUTH IN THE STORY OF RICHARD KIRKLAND

Whether the Kirkland story is based in fact or if it exists only in legend has been a question surrounding the story for a long time. What does the evidence tell us?

People did tell stories after the battle of good deeds, like the ones attributed to Kirkland. A few weeks after the battle, Walt Whitman, volunteering in a Union hospital, recorded a wounded US soldier recounting several Confederate good Samaritans who crossed the battle lines to provide aid for the wounded. In 1870, a James Hagood wrote of a soldier in Kershaw's brigade who went over the wall to assist the Union wounded.

In 1880, newspaper editor Carlyle McKinley prompted Kershaw to identify the good Samaritan in his brigade. Kershaw quickly identified Richard Kirkland and wrote the account of Kirkland's deeds that became the version of the story most often retold today. After 1880, at least 5 other members of the 2nd South Carolina also named Kirkland as the hero.

- Continued on the next page -



Richard Rowland Kirkland The Angel of Marye's Heights



There is little reason to doubt Kershaw's naming of Kirkland, the two were not connected or related in any way. At the same time, Kershaw's story is filled with dialogue and detail that seem improbable to have been remembered with such exactness over 20 years after the event.

A History of the Memorial

At the time of the Civil War, the parcel of land where the Kirkland Monument now stands was the location of the Ebert House. The Ebert family purchased the land in 1858 and ran a small family store from their home which stood in the shadows of Brompton, perched atop Marye's Heights. By the 1950s the Ebert House had deteriorated and was ultimately demolished in 1957. In the 1960s the land was saved from development by the University of Mary Washington. The University of Mary Washington also owns and maintains the large manor, Brompton, across the Sunken Road as housing for the university president.

The legendary story of Richard Kirkland proved particularly inspiring to Dr. Richard Lanier, a South Carolinian who had a dental practice in Fredericksburg. Dr. Lanier led fundraising efforts, ultimately resulting in significant contributions from the states of Virginia and South Carolina and the creation of the Kirkland Memorial Committee.

With funds in place, the Committee commissioned sculptor Felix de Weldon (who had completed the famous Iwo Jima Memorial) to design and fabricate the new memorial. The finished statue depicts Kirkland bending over a fallen US soldier, offering the wounded man a canteen in one hand, and holding his hand in the other.

In 1965 the Kirkland Monument was dedicated at its current location. In 1987, the University of Mary Washington transferred the land, and Kirkland Memorial, to the National Park Service.

DESCRIPTION

This life-size bronze statue measuring 5'6" x 8'4" x 4'9" depicts Kirkland bending over the figure of a wounded Union soldier. He supports the head of his recumbent foe on his right knee while giving him water from a canteen. The Confederate symbolically grasps the left hand of the Union soldier as if in brotherhood. The sculpture is situated atop a rectangular base of black marble measuring 3'2" x 9'0" x 5'6" that is engraved with the words:

[South Face]

IN MEMORIAM RICHARD ROWLAND KIRKLAND
CO. G, 2ND SOUTH CAROLINA VOLUNTEERS
C.S.A.

AT THE RISK OF HIS LIFE, THIS AMERICAN
SOLDIER OF SUBLIME COMPASSION BROUGHT
WATER TO HIS WOUNDED FOES AT
FREDERICKSBURG. THE FIGHTING MEN ON
BOTH SIDES OF THE LINE CALLED HIM
"THE ANGEL OF MARYE'S HEIGHTS."

FELIX DE WELDON
S. C. 1965

[East Face]

DEDICATED
TO
NATIONAL UNITY
AND THE
BROTHERHOOD OF MAN

[North Face]

KILLED IN ACTION AT CHICK-
AMAUGA, SEPTEMBER, 1863
BORN, KERSHAW COUNTY,
S. C., AUGUST, 1843
SERGEANT AT FREDERICKS-
BURG, DECEMBER, 1862
LIEUTENANT AT GETTYS-
BURG, JULY, 1863

[West Face]

ERECTED BY
THE STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA
THE COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA
COLLATERAL DESCENDENTS OF
RICHARD KIRKLAND AND
CITIZENS OF THE UNITED
STATES DR.

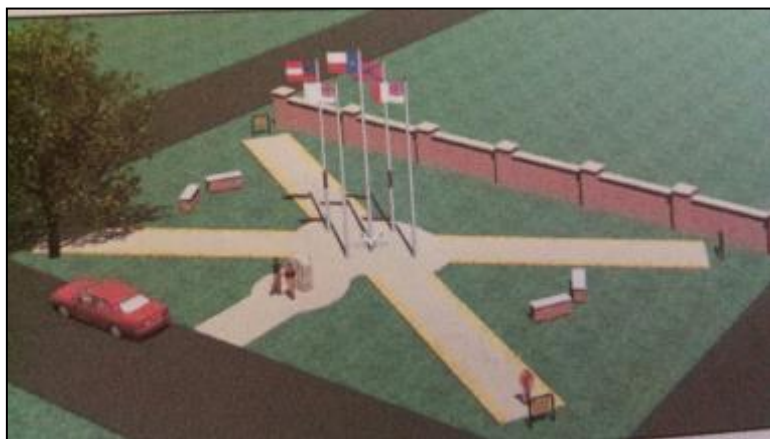
RICHARD NUNN LANIER
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
OF THE
RICHARD ROWLAND KIRKLAND
MEMORIAL FOUNDATION
1964



A Great Way To Ensure That You Ancestor's Service and Honor Are Not Forgotten



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



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

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



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.



Robert E. Lee Calendar

September 2026



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		Sept 1, 1856 to wife. We are all in the hands of a kind God, who will do for us what is best, & more than we deserve & we have only to endeavor to deserve more & to do our duty to him.	Sept 2, 1864 to Jeff Davis. Our ranks are constantly diminishing by battle & disease, & few recruits are received.	Sept 3, 1861 to Custis. Know that wherever you may be placed you will do your duty. That is all the pleasure, all the comfort, all the glory we can enjoy in this world.	Sept 4, 1865 to A.M. Keiley. It should be the object of all to avoid controversy.	Sept 5, 1857 to Agnes. It is persuasion and not force...cultivate the powers of pleasing.
Sept 6 undated to A.M. Keiley. Encouraging our citizens to engage in the duties of life with all their heart & mind our country will not only be restored but will be advanced in science, virtue, & religion.	Sept 7, 1865 to Capt. Tatnall. I believe it to be the duty of every one to unite in the restoration of the country & the reestablishment of peace & harmony	Sept 8 undated to J. Gordon. The thorough education of all classes of the people is the most efficacious means, in my opinion, of promoting prosperity.	Sept 9, 1861 to his wife. Everybody is slandered, even the good.	Sept 10, 1863 to Mildred. You have only always to do what is right. It will become easier by practice.	Sept 11 undated I shall, however, endeavor to do my duty and fight to the last.	Sept 12 undated to wife. Feeling lonesome, as the saying is, and out of sorts, I got on a horse & took a ride.
Sept 13 Undated to Capt. Tatnall. I have since the cessation of hostilities advised all with whom come within the terms of the President's proclamation to take the oath of allegiance	Sept 14, 1869 to Col. Duncan. As individuals prosper, communities will become rich	Sept 15 undated Study human nature, more by experience than by precept.	Sept 16, 1853 to his wife. Young men must not expect to escape contact with evil, but must learn not to be contaminated by it.	Sept 17, 1861 to wife. I had taken every precaution to insure success, & counted on it; but the Ruler of the Universe willed otherwise.	Sept 18, 1864 to wife. It is from no desire of exposure or hazard that I live in a tent, but from necessity. I must be where I can speedily attend to the duties of my position.	Sept 19 undated To Markie Action in this World goes farther than Sentiment.
Sept 20 undated To wife. I have been offered rooms in the houses of our citizens, but I could not turn the dwellings of my kind hosts into a barrack.	Sept 21 undated to Capt Maury I look forward to better days, & trust that time & experience, the great teachers of men, under the guidance of an ever merciful God, save us from destruction.	Sept 22 undate to Capt Maury. The thought of abandoning the country is abhorrent to my feelings & I prefer to struggle for its restoration & share its fate, rather than give up all as lost.	Sept 23 undated to Mildred. The more you know, the more you find there is to know in this grand & beautiful world.	Sept 24 undated The more you learn the more you are conscious of your ignorance	Sept 25 undated to Mildred. You will find all the days of your life that there is much to learn & much to do...learn all you can.	Sept 26, 1861 to wife. It is raining. The men are exposed on the mountain without tents. Today my tent came up & I am in it. Yet I fear I shall not sleep for thinking of the men.
Sept 27 undated to Mildred. The struggle which you describe you experience between doing what you ought & what you desire is common to all.	Sept 28 undated As long as virtue was dominant in the republic, so long was the happiness of the people secure	Sept 29, 1862 to Mary. If God spares me to the end of the war, I trust to be with you all at least, for the few remnant years of life.	Sept 30 My Beautiful Daughters:.... May good angels guard you & bright visions cheer you.			



TEXAS CIVIL WAR HISTORY IN SEPTEMBER

From the Texas State Historical Association



Sept 1—On this day in 1863, Maj. Santos Benavides, the highest-ranking Mexican American to serve in the Confederacy, led seventy-nine men of the predominantly Tejano Thirty-third Texas Cavalry across the Rio Grande in pursuit of the bandit Octaviano Zapata. Union agents had recruited Zapata, a former associate of Juan N. Cortina, to lead raids into Texas and thus force Confederate troops to remain in the Rio Grande valley rather than participate in military campaigns in the east. Zapata was also associated with Edmund J. Davis, who was conducting Northern-sponsored military activities in the vicinity of Brownsville and Matamoros. For these reasons, and because his men often flew the American flag during their raids, Zapata's band was often referred to as the "First Regiment of Union Troops." Benavides caught up with Zapata on September 2 near Mier, Tamaulipas. After a brief exchange of gunfire, the Zapatistas dispersed, leaving ten men dead, including Zapata. Benavides later defended Laredo against Davis's First Texas Cavalry and arranged for the safe passage of Texas cotton to Matamoros during the Union occupation of Brownsville. He died at his Laredo home in 1891.

Sept 7—On this day in 1866, federal soldiers under Bvt. Maj. George W. Smith reportedly set fire to and looted several stores in Brenham. The incident grew out of a controversy involving newspaper editor D. L. McGary's frequent attacks on the local Freedmen's Bureau in the Brenham *Banner*. McGary was arrested by federal authorities; after his release, on September 7, three soldiers were shot during an altercation at a dance. Other soldiers returned to the scene, arrested two citizens, and set a fire that burned part of the town. Smith maintained the innocence of his men and refused to turn them over to local officials. The episode helped Brenham gain a reputation for the "unreconstructed" Southern mentality of its white residents. After lengthy hearings by both federal and state officials, the issue of the soldiers' guilt remained unresolved. Smith was transferred to Seguin, where he was later convicted of theft of Freedmen's Bureau funds. Though his conviction was overturned on appeal, he resigned his commission in 1869, the same year that a convention of Democratic editors met in Brenham and denounced, among other things, the idea of black suffrage. Smith died in 1890.

Sept 9—On this day in 1861, the Eighth Texas Cavalry, a group of volunteers popularly known as Terry's Texas Rangers, was mustered into Confederate service in Houston. The regiment had been assembled by Benjamin Franklin Terry in August. Terry was elected colonel, Thomas S. Lubbock lieutenant colonel, and Thomas Harrison major; by the fall of 1862, Terry and Lubbock were dead, and Harrison became regimental commander, serving in that post until the end of the Civil War. The Terry Rangers distinguished themselves in a number of battles, including those at Shiloh (1862) and Chickamauga (1863); in the Atlanta campaign (1864); and as raiders in Kentucky and Tennessee under Lt. Gen. Nathan Bedford Forrest. They were also part of the force under Gen. Joseph E. Johnston that attempted in vain to slow Maj. Gen. William T. Sherman's "march to the sea" during the final months of the war. Rather than surrender with the rest of Johnston's army in April 1865, 158 of the reported 248 survivors of the regiment slipped through Union lines to join other Confederates yet in the field. With the total collapse of the Southern cause, however, the Terry Rangers drifted home as individuals and in small groups, having never officially surrendered. With the exception of Hood's Texas Brigade, the Eighth Texas Cavalry was probably the best-known Texas unit to serve in the Civil War.

Sept 19—On this day in 1863, the two-day battle of Chickamauga began, ending in one of the last great field victories for the Confederacy. The first day's action, fought in densely wooded terrain, became a classic "soldier's battle" in which generalship counted for little and the outcome was decided by fierce small-unit encounters. Texas units in the Georgia battle included Hood's Texas Brigade, Ector's Brigade, Deshler's Brigade, and Terry's Texas Rangers. As Hood's Brigade went into battle they called to a regiment of exhausted Tennesseans, "Rise up, Tennesseans, and see the Texans go in!" When they in turn came staggering back from the woods after being repulsed by Union cavalry, a Tennessean was waiting to yell, "Rise up, Tennesseans, and see the Texans come out!" Among the Texas casualties in the battle were Gen. James Deshler, who was killed, and John Bell Hood, who lost a leg.

Sept 29—On this day in 1867, Francis McMullan, the leader of a group of Texans who moved to Brazil rather than remain under a Reconstruction government, died at Iguape, Brazil. McMullan was active in politics in Hill County before the Civil War and served as a delegate to the Texas Democratic convention in Galveston in 1860. After serving the Confederacy in Mexico during the Civil War, he joined William Bowen in a plan to take advantage of liberal Brazilian immigration terms and move a colony of 154 from north central Texas to South America. McMullan and Bowen left for Brazil in late 1865 to locate lands and decided on fifty square leagues on the headwaters of the São Lourenço River south of São Paulo. McMullan returned to Texas in June 1866. After a series of delays and misadventures, he guided the emigrants to colony lands before becoming terminally ill with tuberculosis. His colony is credited with introducing the moldboard plow and modern agriculture to Brazil. In addition, colony members established a Baptist church there and made major contributions to Brazil's educational system.



Confederate Veteran's Memorial Plaza



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 marobinson1836@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 6:00 PM at the Commercial
Bank of Texas 2121 Tx Loop 256
Palestine, Tx

With a meal served at each meeting

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Please visit our website

www.reaganscvcamp.org

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

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

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

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

THE CHARGE TO THE SONS OF CONFEDERATE

*"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.



Meeting the 4th Tuesday
of Each Month,
06:30 PM at the
Commercial Bank of
Texas
2121 Tx Loop 256
Palestine, Tx