



## SONS OF CONFEDERATE VETERANS, TEXAS DIVISION

# THE JOHN H. REAGAN CAMP NEWS

VOLUME 1, ISSUE 2

MARCH 2009

### COMMANDER'S CORNER

Why do we SCV members do what we do especially in these days when political correctness seems to be the lay of the land? Could it be that we are proud of the fact that only 800,000 Confederate soldiers fought off for four years, a Northern invader who had called up 2,800,000 soldiers? Could it be that we are proud that these superb soldiers upheld the Starry Cross against odds more than three to one while ragged, half-fed, and inadequately equipped? Could it be because of the record of our soldiers of the South places them in the front rank of the world's soldiery? Could it be that we are proud of the fact that these soldiers bravely fought and died for the chance that their children could live free in a country that adhered strictly to the words in the Constitution our founding fathers laid out for us?

Could it also be that when modern historians and other people

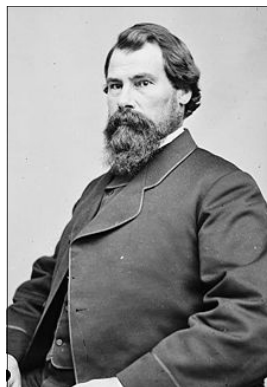
want to depict our brave and courageous ancestors in an untruthful negative light, it causes us to dig in our heels even more and courageously defend their rightful honor?

Sir Winston Churchill, the prime minister of England in World War II, stated that "the Confederate army was the last of the chivalrous knights and is one of the most noble armies to ever take the field of battle and their four year struggle for Southern independence against overwhelming odds was one of the most glorious moments in American history."

I feel for all of these reasons and many more is why we do the things we do.

Confederate veteran and author, Robert Catlett Cave wrote in 1911: "Yes, the high, majestic worth of the Confederate soldiers and sailors shall be

(continued on page 3)



#### 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. Representative from Texas

Chairman Railroad Commission of Texas

A Founder and President of the Texas State Historical Association

### CAMP MEETINGS

2nd Saturday of Each Month  
06:00 PM

Covered Dish Meal  
Museum for East Texas Culture  
400 Micheaux Avenue  
Palestine, Texas

(Old John H. Reagan High School Building, Near State Hwy 19, five blocks east of courthouse)

Guests are welcome!  
Bring the family.

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### HISTORY OF THE VAL VERDE BATTERY BY JOHN ROBINSON

The old Val Verde Cannon, a model 1861 3 inch Ordnance Rifle made of wrought iron, weighs 816 pounds, and is manufactured by Phoenix Iron Company, Phoenixville, PA, and put in Union service on October 25, 1862, re-mounted, and now standing in front of the Courthouse in Fairfield, Freestone County,

Texas, was captured at the battle of Mansfield, LA on April 8, 1864. It later participated as part of the Val Verde Battery against Federal forces in Louisiana. We will now go into how the Val Verde Battery name came about.

During the latter part of 1861, Brigadier General Henry H.

Sibley organized a brigade of mounted Confederate troops in San Antonio, Texas, for the purpose of invading New Mexico and perhaps going on west to the Pacific coast to open up a route for the South in order to avoid the blockade. It was in this expedition that on February 21, 1862, (continued on page 4)



## ON THIS DAY IN CONFEDERATE HISTORY

### APRIL

Provided by Kirby McCord

**April 1, 1865:** Union Generals Philip Sheridan and Gouverneur Warren converge on Confederate General George Pickett's encircled troops at Five Forks, Virginia. Less than half of Pickett's men escape the pincer movement. The next day, the entire Petersburg line is shattered in a massive Union assault launched by U.S. Grant. R.E. Lee begins his retreat toward Appomattox, while Union troops enter Richmond.

**April 2, 1863:** In Richmond, Virginia, a mob of hungry citizens demanding bread from a bakery wagon evolves into a full-scale "bread riot." President Jefferson Davis courageously faces down the angry crowd, telling them, "We do not desire to injure anyone, but this lawlessness must stop. I will give you five minutes to disperse; otherwise, you will be fired upon." The crowd responds favorably and no blood is shed.

**April 6, 1862:** General Albert S. Johnston's Confederate Army launches a surprise attack on General U.S. Grant's Federal Army at Pittsburgh Landing (Shiloh), Tennessee. While wildly successful initially, the Confederate assault breaks down due to the rough terrain, the lack of experience of their troops, a spirited Union defense at the Hornet's Nest, and the death of General Johnston himself. Reinforced the next day by over 23,000 fresh troops, Grant retakes the lost ground but is unable to pursue the retreating Confederates. The world is stunned at the high casualties: Union losses are 13,047 out of 63,000 engaged, Confederate losses are almost as high: 10,694 out of 47,000 engaged.

**April 7, 1863:** Federal naval forces, attempting to close the vital Southern port of Charleston, South Carolina, attack. Confederate fire from Forts Sumter and Moultrie severely damage five Federal warships and sink one other in repulsing the assault.

**April 8, 1864:** Union General Nathaniel P. Banks' advance up the Red River is completely stymied by Confederate General Richard Taylor's devastating attack at Mansfield, Louisiana. The Northerner's are completely routed, losing more than 2,200 out of 12,000 men engaged in battle. Southern losses are also high: 1,000 out of 8,800 engaged.

**April 9, 1864:** Flushed with the previous day's success, Taylor attacks what he believes is Banks' demoralized force at Pleasant Hill, Louisiana. His assault is repelled with heavy losses and his hope of annihilating the Union forces evaporates. Banks, for his part, is thoroughly rattled, and although he outnumbered his opponent by more than two to one, retreats down the Red River.

**April 9, 1865:** Wilbur McLean had fled his home in Manassas, northern Virginia following its destruction in the first Battle of Bull Run. He had settled in rural western Virginia at peaceful Appomattox Courthouse. Today, his parlor is the scene of General Robert E. Lee's surrender to General U.S. Grant. Lee's magnificent Army of Northern Virginia, decimated by disease, malnutrition, and casualties, unreinforced and unsupplied, has shrunk to a mere 26,000 men. Grant magnanimously offers to immediately begin feeding Lee's army and accepts Lee's suggestion that his men keep their sidearms and mounts. Lee's men, led by General John B. Gordon, officially surrender their arms three days later; they are saluted by Union General Joshua L. Chamberlain as they proudly stack their arms one last time. As for Wilbur McLean, it is still said of him that the war began on his front lawn and ended in his parlor.

**April 12, 1861:** The War Between the States begins in Charleston, South Carolina, when the bombardment of Fort Sumter begins at 4:30 in the morning. The previous day, Captain Stephen Dill Lee had delivered General P.G.T. Beauregard's demand for surrender to US Major Robert Anderson. Anderson had responded that he would capitulate at midnight, April 15, unless he had received reinforcements or new orders by then. With a relief force in sight, Beauregard commences firing. After thirty-four hours and 40,000 artillery shells have been fired, Anderson surrenders. Neither side suffers any fatalities.

**April 12, 1862:** Northern spy James Andrews and 21 others seize the Confederate locomotive *General*. Confederate soldiers pursue in the locomotive *Texas*, ultimately capturing them. Andrews and seven others are executed for espionage.

**April 12, 1864:** Confederate General Nathan Bedford Forrest attacks Union Fort Pillow, Tennessee. Of the 557 Union troops, 231 are killed, 100 wounded, and the rest captured. The real story is that the Federal garrison contained more than 200 black troops, only 58 of whom survived, raising questions of an intentional massacre of blacks.

(Continued on next page)

**April 14, 1865:** In a Byzantine plot of uncertain origins, famous actor John Wilkes Booth shoots President Abraham Lincoln while the latter watches the play *Our American Cousin* in Ford's Theater in Washington, D.C. After firing the single shot into Lincoln's skull, Booth stabs Lincoln's companion and leaps from the private box to the stage, shouting, "*Sic semper tyrannus!*" ("Thus always to tyrants!" which happens to be Virginia's state motto and is spoken by the character Brutus in Shakespeare's *Julius Caesar* in a role played by Booth). Simultaneously, Booth's co-conspirator George Atzerodt, assigned the task of assassinating Vice President Andrew Johnson, loses his nerve and skulks away; the behemoth Lewis Powell (aka Payne) attempts to stab Secretary of State William Seward while Seward lies bedridden recovering from a carriage accident, but is defeated by a metal brace and three strong men. Secretary of War Edwin Stanton, who has eulogized Lincoln with the words, "Now he belongs to the ages," declares martial law. In the assassination hysteria that follows, Booth refuses to be taken alive and is shot and killed at the Garrett Farm in Virginia, and four accomplices are executed, including the widow who owned the boarding house where Booth resided. Even Dr. Samuel Mudd, a physician who merely repairs Booth's broken leg, unaware of Booth's actions, is convicted of conspiracy.

**April 17, 1861:** In response to President Lincoln's call for 75,000 volunteers to quell the rebellion in South Carolina, delegates from non-seceding states meet in Baltimore, Maryland. Missouri and Tennessee angrily refuse to comply with Lincoln's demand for troops, and Virginia goes one step further: the State Convention in Richmond passes a secession ordinance 88-55 allying herself with her Southern brethren. Virginia's citizenry will ratify the ordinance on May 23: 97,000 to 32,000. Arkansas Governor H.M. Rector supports Tennessee's and Missouri's stance and refuses to send troops to assist the Union.

**April 17, 1864:** Lieutenant General U.S. Grant, now in charge of all US troops, in an attempt to exacerbate the Southern manpower shortage, declares that there will be no more prisoner exchanges with the South. At this time, the North holds 146,634 Southern prisoners.

**April 19, 1861:** The 6<sup>th</sup> Massachusetts marches through Baltimore, Maryland toward Washington, D.C. Rioters carrying Confederate flags block their passage. In the ensuing melee, nine civilians and four soldiers are killed.

**April 20, 1861:** Deeply conflicted, Robert E. Lee resigns his commission with the Federal army.

**April 26, 1865:** Union General William T. Sherman accepts the surrender of Confederate General Joseph E. Johnston in North Carolina. This follows an aborted surrender on April 18, in which Sherman granted amnesty to all Southerners, a term rejected by authorities in Washington, D.C.

**April 28, 1865:** 50,000 citizens view President Lincoln's body as his funeral train reaches Cleveland, Ohio.

**April 29, 1861:** The State Legislature of Maryland defeats an ordinance of secession by a vote of 53-13. Some wag that the legislators feared for their freedom, as President Lincoln had suspended the writ of habeas corpus in the State of Maryland only two days earlier.

**April 30, 1864:** President Jefferson Davis's son Joe dies in a fall off the Confederate White House balcony in Richmond, Virginia.

## COMMANDER'S CORNER - CONTINUED

"survivor of its woe," and, surviving, shall help to lift the world into higher life. Although defeated, their struggle was not in vain. In the world's life wrong has often triumphed for a season. There have been many times of oppression when human rights were trampled in the dust by despotic power and the hopes of men seemed dead. But the student of history will find that every chaos has been followed by a cosmos. The agony and sweat and tears and blood of every age have brought forth a new and better era.

And reasoning from what has been to what shall be, I believe that not in vain were the battles and not in vain was the fall of those who battled and fell under the banner of the Confederacy. Having by their glorious deeds woven a crown of laurel for the brow of the South that drew to her the admiring mind of the world, by their fall they entwined in that crown the cypress leaves that draw to her the sympathizing heart of the world. The land in which we live is dearer to our hearts since it has been hallowed by their sacrifices and

watered with their blood. Though dead, they still speak, admonishing us to prove ourselves worthy of kinship with them by being heroes in peace as they were heroes in war."

Fellow compatriots, let us prove ourselves worthy to be descendants of such honorable men and women who served the South by working hard to fulfill the charge given to us by Lt. General Stephen D. Lee.

Very respectfully your obedient servant, Marc Robinson

"MY ENDEAVOR HAS BEEN TO CONFORM TO THE TRUTH OF HISTORY, AND TO MAKE NO TRUCE WITH ERROR BY COMPROMISE."  
JOHN H. REAGAN  
FROM HIS BOOK,  
MEMOIRS...



## VALVERDE BATTERY



CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Sibley's Texans met the Federal forces under Colonel E. R. Canby at Val Verde, New Mexico about 3 miles north of Fort Craig, New Mexico and soundly defeated them, capturing Captain McRae's Union battery of six brass cannons. With these six guns, on April 25, 1862, the Confederates organized a battery of their own that is now known as the Val Verde Battery, electing Joseph Sayers, Captain and T. D. Nettles and Peyton G. Hume, First Lieutenants. This was done at Fort Bliss, just outside Franklin, Texas (which is now El Paso, Texas). Captain Sayers became Governor of Texas after the war.

In May 1862, this elite battery, with its picked men, returned to Texas and took part in the supporting action from Virginia Point in the Battle of Galveston on January 1, 1863. The Battery went on to Louisiana where it assisted in pushing back advancing Union troops and aided in the capture of the Union gunboat, Diana, and Bayou Teche.

At the Battle of Camp Bisland, the Battery was cited for its effectiveness, and Captain Sayers was wounded. After the wounding of Captain Sayers, Lieutenant T. D. Nettles was promoted to Captain and took command of the Battery. The Battery fought in rear guard skirmishing at Vermillionville, Louisiana, and bombarded enemy encampments and a gunboat at the edge of Berwick, enabling the Confederates to defeat the enemy at Brashear City. It also took part in skirmishes on the Natchitoches road as Federal forces advance further into Louisiana.

In the spring of 1864, Federal Commander General Nathaniel P. Banks and a large Federal army was moving up the Red River toward Shreveport. On April 8, the Confederate army under General Richard Taylor engaged the Federal troops in battle at Mansfield, Louisiana, in what was to be the largest battle west of the Mississippi. The Val Verde Battery played a very important part in the Confederate victory at Mansfield, helping to stop the advance of Federal forces up the Red River and the land invasion into Texas. It might be noted that the first cannon firing at Mansfield was the Val Verde Battery.

An account of the Battle of Pleasant Hill is given in the diary of H. C. Medford, a Confederate soldier. Mr. Medford in his record

gave this description of the effectiveness of the Val Verde Battery:

*"Our whole division of cavalry is to charge the enemy, and Walker's and Mouton's divisions not to be brought up unless necessary. At 5 p.m. the Val Verde Battery opens upon the enemy with a telling effect. The enemy opens upon us, and good shooting. The artillery fight continues with great heat, until the enemy's batteries ceased firing, but with loss to the Val Verde Battery — 4 killed, several wounded and six horses killed."*

The Battery also successfully engaged and drove off a Union gunboat near Deloach's Bluff. In May, it fought at Chambers on Bayou Robert Road, and was in a spectacular artillery duel with the retreating Federals at Mansura.

The Val Verde Battery is last mentioned in the official records of the War of the Rebellion on June 1, 1865, nearly two months after the surrender of General Robert E. Lee at Appomattox Courthouse. The record states, "Captain T. D. Nettles had four guns, two three-inch rifles and two six pounder guns, near Nacogdoches, Texas."

The men under the command of Captain Nettles, along with the four cannons, were apparently on their way to San Antonio to be disbanded, but since many of the soldiers in the Battery lived in Fairfield, Texas, they disbanded there instead. The four cannons, according to local folklore, were buried in a buggy house during the Reconstruction period. Sometime later they were dug up, two being sold for scrap, one going to Jacks Creek Confederate Reunion Ground near Mexia, Texas, and the other one remaining in Fairfield.

For many years, the old Val Verde Cannon was fired during the meeting of the Confederate Veterans held at Moody Confederate Reunion Grounds in Fairfield. Later the cannon was mounted on a concrete pedestal on the lawn of the Freestone County Courthouse.

In 1964, the Freestone County Historical Survey Committee had the old Val Verde Cannon remounted. In April of that year, it was carried to Mansfield, Louisiana and fired during the centennial celebration of the Battle of Mansfield. The last firing of this old Val Verde Cannon was in 1995 at the Mexia

Cemetery in Mexia, Texas, during a Roll Call for all Confederate Veterans buried there, one of which was Thomas A. Terry, who participated in the battles of Val Verde and Glorieta, in New Mexico and battles in Louisiana. The gun was taken to Mexia by the Johnson-Sayers-Nettles SCV Camp No. 1012.

In December, 1993, the second Val Verde Battery was formed by the Johnson-Sayers-Nettles SCV Camp No. 1012. When the Val Verde Cannon was last fired in 1995, it was this SCV camp that took the cannon to Mexia and fired it once.

On August 8, 1997 the Val Verde Artillery Battery 3 inch Ordinance Rifle at the Freestone County Courthouse was restored from funds raised by the Johnson-Sayers-Nettles Camp No. 1012. During this restoration the tube was preserved by filling it with wax.

On May 29, 2008, restoration work was again completed on the Freestone County Val Verde Ordinance Rifle with funds from the County. The Johnson-Sayers-Nettles Camp No. 1012 performed all of the restoration work. New artillery wheels and axle were fitted and mounted along with a new coat of paint on gun, hardware, trail, axle and wheels. In addition, the County built a new shelter over the concrete pedestal where the cannon is mounted.

Today, the old Val Verde Cannon stands proudly in front of the Freestone County Courthouse, Fairfield, Texas as a lasting tribute to the men who served bravely in this elite artillery battery of the Confederate States Army.\*

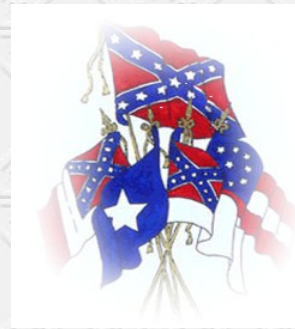
Editors note: John Robinson has been a long time member of the Johnson-Sayers-Nettles Camp 1012, Teague, Texas. He served their camp extremely well as adjutant for many years and was a very active member of the Val Verde Battery in reenactments, parades, and grave ceremonies. Due to health issues he is no longer able to attend meetings. Our prayers are with Mr. Robinson and his family.

## NEW CAMP FORMS IN CENTER, TEXAS

A new SCV Camp in Brigade #8 (East Texas Brigade) is in the process of obtaining their SCV charter. The Captain Jesse Amason Camp, in Center, Texas. They have just sent in their charter application with 21 chartering members. Cindy Bobbitt stated,

“Dwain and I have been working with Commander Hartt and they are a great bunch of compatriots.”

The John H. Reagan Camp wishes them the very best in all of their efforts to defend our Southern heritage.



“I RELY UPON  
TEXAS  
REGIMENTS  
IN ALL TIGHT  
PLACES, AND  
FEAR  
I HAVE TO  
CALL UPON  
THEM TOO  
OFTEN!  
THEY HAVE  
FOUGHT  
BRAVELY,  
NOBLY, ...”  
- ROBERT E. LEE-

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

**March 14, 6:00 pm** - John H. Reagan Camp meeting at the Museum for East Texas Culture. Families and guests are welcomed.

Bring a covered dish and enjoy the fellowship.

**Officer Nominations for Remaining Offices needing filled**

**Program:** Anderson County Historian, Forrest Bradberry, will present a program titled “Why We Remember”

**March 27-29** Camp Ford Living History at Tyler PPO. Johnny Holley [jlh63@flash.net](mailto:jlh63@flash.net)

**April 19 - 2:00 pm.** Memorial & Marker Dedication in Cherokee Co. at Henry Cemetery on FM 23 at Gallatin, Texas. This is an annual event hosted by UDC Moses Buckner and Invincible Rose Chapter 37. Will need uniformed men for rifle squad & flag bearers. Please contact Cindy Bobbitt PPO. 903-683-5554.

[cbobbitt@peoplepc.com](mailto:cbobbitt@peoplepc.com)

**April 25, 2009, 11:00 AM** - Davis– Reagan UDC 2292 - Confederate Memorial Ceremony, Garden of Memories Cemetery, Elkhart, TX

**Reenactment** events calendar at:

[www.12thtexasartillery.org](http://www.12thtexasartillery.org) or contact

1st Lt. Calvin Nicholson,  
903-391-3243

[cwnicholson@hotmail.com](mailto:cwnicholson@hotmail.com)

**May 2 , 09:30 AM** - Bonner Cemetery Confederate Memorial Ceremony, near Fairfield, TX, Host camp: Johnson-Sayers-Nettles Camp 1012—Valverde Battery.

Musket and flag carriers are appreciated. POC - Marc Robinson, 903-676-6069,  
[mrobinson@tvcc.edu](mailto:mrobinson@tvcc.edu)

**June 12, 13, and 14 2009** SCV State Convention Reunion in Waco, Texas. 14 at the Waco Hilton, located at 113 S. University Parks Dr. The phone number is 254-754-8484. You can call and make reservations or go to

their website which is:

[www.waco.hilton.com](http://www.waco.hilton.com).

Then click on, make reservations. Our group code is: SCV. You can reserve rooms with one king size or with 2 double. Either way you reserve the price per room is \$109. You must reserve by April 30 to get this price. After that the rooms jump to \$139. All events will take place at the hotel except the memorial service which will be held at a local church which is close by. Shelly Campbell is our contact there if any problems.

THE MEN IN GRAY,  
WHO, WITH  
MATCHLESS COURAGE,  
FOUGHT TO  
MAINTAIN THE  
PRINCIPLES OF THE  
CONSTITUTION  
AND PERPETUATE  
THE GOVERNMENT  
ESTABLISHED BY  
THEIR FATHERS,  
AND WHOSE HEROIC  
DEEDS  
CROWNED THE  
SOUTH WITH  
DEATHLESS GLORY.

ROBERT CATLETT  
CAVE  
CONFEDERATE  
VETERAN, AUTHOR,  
AND PASTOR

## APRIL IS CONFEDERATE HERITAGE MONTH



### *The Senate of the State of Texas*

#### SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 526

**WHEREAS**, April is the month in which the Confederate States of America began and ended a four year struggle for states' rights, individual freedom, and local government control; and

**WHEREAS**, The State of Texas declared herself to be a free and independent state and subsequently joined the Confederate States of America of which it was a member state from 1861 until 1865; and

**WHEREAS**, The battlefields, monuments, museums, and other historical sites to be found in Texas allow our citizens and visitors to remember, study, and appreciate the men and women of that unique time in the history of Texas and the nation; and

**WHEREAS**, The flag of the State of Texas was carried by Texas Confederate soldiers in every major battle of the War Between the States and the state contributed over 115,000 soldiers and sailors to the service of the Confederate States of America; and

**WHEREAS**, During the period of reconciliation, Texas Confederate veterans became instrumental in the continued development of our state and local governments and our institutions of higher learning; and

**WHEREAS**, We honor our past and draw from it the courage, strength, and wisdom to go forward into the future together as Texans and Americans; and

**WHEREAS**, The State of Texas has long recognized her Confederate history and the leaders who made sacrifices on behalf of the Confederate cause; and

**WHEREAS**, The Texans who served in the War Between the States are memorialized in almost every county in the state, and many cities and counties in the State of Texas bear the name of Confederate veterans; and

**WHEREAS**, It is important for all Texans to reflect upon our state's past and to respect the devotion of her Confederate leaders, soldiers, and citizens to the cause of Southern liberty; and

**WHEREAS**, In years since the war, the morally abhorrent practice of slavery has in the minds of many Texans become the prime motivation of Southern soldiers, despite the fact that 98 percent of Texas Confederate soldiers never owned a slave and never fought to defend slavery; and

**WHEREAS**, Politically correct revisionists would have Texas children believe that their Confederate ancestors fought for slavery when in fact most Texans joined the Confederate armed forces to defend their homes, their families, and their proud heritage as Texans; and

**WHEREAS**, Confederate Memorial Day in April is a time for all Texans to honor those men and women who died for Texas, and also all the Texans who came afterward and benefitted from their legacy of honor and devotion to our state; now, therefore, be it

**RESOLVED**, That the Senate of the State of Texas, 76th Legislature, hereby recognize April as Confederate History and Heritage Month in the State of Texas and encourage all Texas schools and citizens to join in efforts to become more knowledgeable of the role of the Confederate States of America in the history of our country.

**Rick Perry**

President of the Senate

I hereby certify that the above Resolution was adopted by the Senate on March 30, 1999.

**Betty King**

Secretary of the Senate

**Mike Jackson**

Member, Texas Senate

## JOHN H. REAGAN—October 18, 1818–March 6, 1905—*The Old Roman*

By Forrest Bradberry, Jr.

John Reagan was born in Sevierville (present day Gatlinburg), Sevier County Tennessee, the oldest son of Timothy and Elizabeth Reagan, a farming family. His early education was minimal at best, primarily because of his rural environment. Records indicated, at times, he briefly attended Nancy Academy, Boyd's Creek Academy and Southwestern Seminary in Maryland. He 1838, he settled at Nacogdoches in the Republic of Texas. Shortly after arrival, he joined the local militia during the Cherokee War and participated in the battle on July 15, 1839 where the Indian leader Chief Bowles was killed. Following this he was a frontier scout, surveyor until elected as justice of the peace and captain of a militia company in Nacogdoches. Studying the law, in 1846 he received his temporary law license and opened an office in Buffalo near the Trinity River.

Reagan's political career began in earnest after Texas joined the union in 1846. He was elected the first county judge of Henderson County, then a member of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Texas Legislature. Losing reelection, he moved to Palestine, Anderson County, Texas and bought a farm on land west of town which had originally been the site of Fort Houston, a post for the Republic of Texas. He named his home, appropriately, Fort Houston. A democrat, in 1852 he ran and won a vacant judge position in the 9<sup>th</sup> Judicial District and reelected in 1856. In 1857 he was elected to the US Congress, serving until Texas withdrew from the union in 1861.

He was a member of the Texas Secession Convention of 1861. During the convention he was included in a committee to approach Governor Sam Houston, an anti-secessionist, to support Texas and the Resolution of Secession. The governor would not change his position. Reagan was appointed a delegate to the Convention of Southern States in Montgomery Alabama. Here, he accepted appointment as Postmaster General of the Confederate States of America by Jefferson Davis, the Confederate President. He became a trusted friend and confidant of President Davis and re-

mained in this position throughout the war.

It has been noted the Confederate Postal Service has been the only national postal service to have actually made a profit. As Postmaster General, Reagan was also responsible for the southern telegraph system. Trying to maintain postal services and telegraph service throughout the war was most assuredly an almost impossible task. The movement of armies with their fluid successes or failures, territory and towns changing hands multiple times in some cases, and the enormous task in obtaining supplies and equipment necessary to provide for any reasonable attempts to establish, expand or the reasonable maintenance of telegraph and postal services and facilities cannot be overemphasized. As the war progressed and the successes of the Union forces became ever increasing and the Confederate forces and territories shrunk and became separated or isolated, the problems were magnified beyond imagination.

In the closing days of war, during the flight of the Confederate government, Reagan accompanied President Davis, the last of the original cabinet appointees. President Davis appointed him Secretary of the Treasury shortly before they were captured in May 1865. He was imprisoned at Fort Warren in Boston Harbor for a few months and from there wrote the "Fort Warren Letter" in which he encouraged the people of Texas to recognize the war's outcome, emancipation and suffrage of their former slaves and the terms of the federal government. He hoped Texas would avoid conflict and retribution by the occupying forces. The letter made Reagan extremely unpopular in Texas for years until his premonitions were proven right and Texas suffered the ruthlessness and indignities of reconstruction. It was because of his courage to sacrifice his personal popularity for the people of Texas he acquired the honored nick name "The Old Roman."

Returning to his home at Fort Houston, Reagan began rebuilding his farm and his life. In 1872 he was elected to the State Constitutional Convention. In 1874, 1876, 1878 and 1880, he was elected to Congress for the 1<sup>st</sup> District and US Senator in 1887. In 1891, the Governor appointed him head of the Texas Railroad Commission, a position he held until he retired in 1903. He completed his "MEMOIRS" which was printed in 1906. He died at Fort Houston on March 6, 1906. The Texas Legislature turned out in a body to remember the Old Roman and attend his funeral.



**JOHN H. REAGAN  
MEMORIAL  
REAGAN PARK  
PALESTINE, TEXAS**



## BUT GOD HAD A PLAN

BY BRO. L.E. "LEN" PATTERSON, THD.  
ARMY OF TRANS-MISSISSIPPI SCV CHAPLAIN



In Genesis 12:2, God promised Abraham that He would make of him a great nation. This promise, or covenant, is repeated in Chapter 17. Then Abraham begot Isaac, and Isaac begot Jacob, and Jacob had twelve sons, the second to youngest being named Joseph. Joseph was sold by his brothers to Midianite merchants who then sold him to Potiphar in Egypt as a slave. (Gen 37:28 & 39:1) Later, Potiphar had Joseph thrown into prison. Joseph went from a favorite son in his father's house, to slavery, then "into the prison, a place where the king's prisoners were bound." (Gen. 39:20)

Although the Scripture doesn't indicate it, we might understand how Joseph may have despaired. He had lived upright and faithful before God and man, he was innocent of any wrong doing, but now he was in prison. He may have wondered why this had happened to him when he was on the side of truth. He may have felt that God had abandoned him, as we might. But, God had a plan.

Most of us know what happened next. Under God's guidance, Joseph went from the king's prison to being the second most powerful man in Egypt. As such, Joseph was able to save his father, brothers, and their families from a great famine and bring them to Egypt where they multiplied and flourished. Of course, after the death of Joseph there would be generations of Egyptian bondage, and the Hebrews did despair. Many thought that God had forgotten them in their plight. But again, God had a plan.

We can go on to speak of Moses, who went from living in the luxury of a king's palace to a desert shepherd. We can think of David, the Babylonian captivity, and all the trials of the Hebrew Nation. In the New Testament, we are told of the imprisonment and death of John the Baptist, the Lord's Apostles and other Christian Saints. And most importantly, the Crucifixion of Christ. But in all of this, God had a Plan.

We know the South was right and was on the side of truth. The Southern Armies were more Christian, moral and honorable. But, the South lost it's bid for independence. Then followed the suffering and humiliation of Union occupation. Since then, the Union has constantly and with determination mocked and vilified everything Southern. So now, many Southerners agree and believe, what they've been taught and brought up to believe, that the South was wrong, their Confederate forefathers were criminals, Robert E. Lee

was a traitor, Abe Lincoln was a great man, and our Southern heritage is a legacy of shame. It seems that the bad guys are winning. But we should not despair, because I believe God has a plan.

We may not know what God's plan is. But, we do know that there is a purpose in everything He does. God always has a plan and a purpose. The Bible tells us, "And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to His purpose." (Rom. 8:28) God has a plan and purpose for you and me. I believe that God has a plan for the Sons of Confederate Veterans. What we must do is trust Him, follow His guidance, understand that He is still in control of every situation, and accept His authority and Lordship in our lives.

It is my prayer that every member of the Sons of Confederate Veterans would turn to Christ and put their life and future in His hands. May God bless you as you serve Him in faith, and our just and most worthy Southern Cause with honor.

Bro. L.E. "Len" Patterson, ThD.  
Army of Trans-Mississippi Chaplain

"MY RELIGIOUS BELIEF TEACHES ME TO FEEL AS SAFE IN BATTLE AS IN BED. GOD HAS FIXED THE TIME FOR MY DEATH. I DO NOT CONCERN MYSELF ABOUT THAT, BUT TO BE ALWAYS READY, NO MATTER WHEN IT MAY OVERTAKE ME. THAT IS THE WAY ALL MEN SHOULD LIVE, AND THEN ALL WOULD BE EQUALLY BRAVE."

LT. GENERAL THOMAS J. "STONEWALL" JACKSON





## JOHN H. REAGAN SCV CAMP

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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. **Camp associate membership** is available as well to those who are committed to uphold our charge and do not have the Confederate lineage.

## 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 General,  
United Confederate Veterans,  
New Orleans, Louisiana, April 25, 1906.



Camp meetings: 2nd Saturday of  
Each Month - 06:00 PM  
Covered Dish Meal  
Museum for East Texas Culture  
400 Micheaux Ave.  
Palestine, Texas

(Old John H. Reagan High School bldg.  
Near State Hwy 19, five blocks east of  
courthouse)