



## SONS OF CONFEDERATE VETERANS, TEXAS DIVISION

# THE JOHN H. REAGAN CAMP NEWS

VOLUME 1, ISSUE 4

MAY 2009

### COMMANDER'S CORNER

April was a busy month for the John H. Reagan camp. We had members reenacting at Pleasant Hill, Louisiana and at the Confederate Reunion Grounds near Mexia, Texas, we started a color/honor guard and participated in the UDC Confederate Memorial Day Ceremony in Elkhart, Texas. The color guard and honor guard held several practices during the month preparing to do their best for our Confederate ancestors.

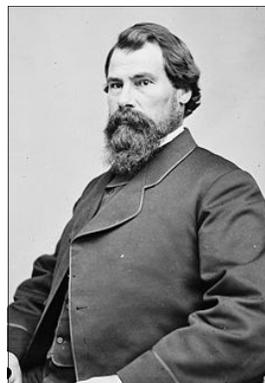
At our regular April meeting we had a special Confederate History Month program by our Sergeant-at-Arms, Ronnie Hatfield. Ronnie's program was a first person reenactment of his Great-grandfather, Private William H. Foster, Company H, 1st Texas Infantry CSA. Private Foster fought at Gettysburg, was captured and eventually died under extremely harsh conditions while a prisoner-of-war at Ft. Delaware, Delaware (see his biography in this issue). Ronnie performed his program on the porch of Hudson Log House, an original pre-1860 cabin that was relocated to the lower level of the Museum for

East Texas Culture from southeast Anderson County.

I want to personally thank all of the men who have been practicing and purchasing uniforms in preparation to reenact either in the Valverde Artillery Battery and/or the Reagan Camp Color/Honor Guard at the Confederate Grave Ceremonies we host or participate in. Our Confederate ancestors would be proud of all of you for your dedicated efforts to honor them.

We have a great meeting planned for May. Thomas Harrison, Commander of the 2nd Texas Frontier District Camp #1904 in DeLeon, Texas will present a program titled, "Cornbread Johnny and Co. G, 1st. Texas Infantry, Hood's Brigade". It is about a Confederate soldier from Anderson County, his family members, other soldiers in Co. G, and their military involvement in the War Between the States. See you there and bring a friend!

Your Obedient Servant,  
Marc Robinson



#### 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.

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

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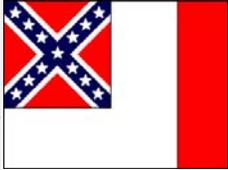
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### HOPE, GRIT, AND VALOR BY GARY WILLIAMS

Every time I read or study the day-to-day hardships of the average Confederate soldier, it never ceases to impress and amaze me. The likelihood of any of these men who served the Confederate States of America during 1861-1865 surviving seems to have been against all odds. The War Be-

tween the States was especially grueling for Texas because in addition to all the other hardships, they had to travel the longest distance to get there--to the seat of war. And for those lucky enough to survive, they had the longest journey home. The hope, grit, and valor of our Southern ances-

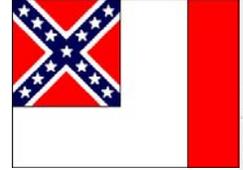
tors is inspirational. The fact that so many Confederate soldiers survived their war-time experience and returned home to their families and lives and helped rebuild the nation is an everlasting tribute and testament to that intangible and timeless quality known as the "Southern Spirit." Cont. page 5



## ON THIS DAY IN CONFEDERATE HISTORY

June

Provided by Kirby McCord



1861

**June 3, 1861:** Union Democratic party leader Stephen A. Douglas dies, apparently of a fever, at age 48. Perhaps more than any other politician, Douglas' actions have led to secession and war: his "popular sovereignty" concept, as promulgated in the Kansas Nebraska Act of 1854, resurrected the issue of slavery as a national matter of contention between the North and the South, adding immensely to abolitionist and pro-slavery extremism and resulting in "Bloody Kansas;" his debates with Abraham Lincoln in the 1858 Illinois Senatorial race established a national name for both himself and the "Rail Splitter," and allowed the fledgling Republican Party to gain national status; and his candidacy for president in 1860 so offended southern Democrats that they split the party, guaranteeing an electoral victory for Abraham Lincoln and the Republicans rather than acquiesce to his nomination. One wonders: if they had known he would die less than three months into the Presidential term, would Democrats have selected Douglas as their candidate, instead nominating Vice President John C. Breckinridge of Kentucky carrying perhaps the 1860 election, thus averting civil war?

**June 8, 1861:** In a popular referendum, Tennessee favors secession by 104,913 to 47,238. This popular action serves to formalize the course already chosen for the state by its legislature on May 6.

**June 12, 1861:** Pro-Southern Governor Claiborne Jackson of Missouri calls for 50,000 volunteers to eject Federal troops from the state. Federal General Nathaniel Lyon, who has already occupied Saint Louis, reacts by occupying the state capital at Jefferson City and seizing river traffic on the Missouri River by ousting pro-Confederate Missouri Guardsmen at Boonville. With Federal troops in the capital, Missouri is unable to call for secession.

**June 14, 1861:** The stage is set for the secession of West Virginia from Virginia, when Federal troops, led by George B. McClellan, compel the Confederates occupying Harpers' Ferry to evacuate. This, on the heels of the Confederate rout known as the Philippi Races, leaves West Virginia occupied exclusively by Federals.

1862

**June 11, 1862:** Confederate General Stonewall Jackson concludes his brilliant Valley Campaign with victories at Cross Keys and Port Royal. Assisted by a spectacular diversionary raid Confederate J.E.B. Stuart, demonstrating around Federal General McClellan in the Peninsula, the Federals do not even notice Jackson's disengagement.

**June 16, 1862:** Union forces under General H. W. Benham are repulsed with heavy casualties while trying to capture the symbolically named Secessionville, on James Island, South Carolina. Benham loses 107 killed, 487 wounded, and 89 missing, while the Confederates, under General N.G. Evans, suffer only 52 dead, with 144 wounded.

**June 25, 1862:** Reinforced by Jackson's Valley veterans, newly appointed commander of the Army of Virginia General Robert E. Lee renames the army the Army of Northern Virginia, initiating an unsurpassed American military legacy. Union General George B. McClellan, on the outskirts of Richmond, Virginia, outnumbered the Confederates by about 120,000 to 87,000, but believes he himself is outnumbered and moves cautiously. He sends one wing of his army, numbering 75,000 men against Lee at Oak Grove, beginning what is now known as the Seven Days' Battles. Lee utilizes only about 27,000 men to stymie the very cautious Federal probe, and on June 26, sends more than 60,000 men on a flank march to hit McClellan's exposed wing at Mechanicsville. Although Jackson's leadership of the attack is uncharacteristically lethargic, McClellan falls back. Lee continues attacking on June 27 at Gaine's Mill. The Federals, under Lee's relentless pressure at Garnett's and Golding's Farms, continue retreating on June 28. On June 29, more attacks at Savage's Station drive the Federals further back. Finally, on June 30, the Federals repulse Confederate attacks at White Oak Swamp, and on July 1, Lee launches an ill-advised attack against massed artillery at Malvern Hill. Although tactically victorious on the last two days of the battle, McClellan is completely demoralized. He wires Washington that he has been overpowered by superior numbers, abandons efforts to capture Richmond, and retreats down the James River to Harrison Landing. Lee's attacks, while audacious, and ultimately successful, have been costly. He has lost a quarter of his army (22,000 men), while inflicting only 16,000 casualties on the Federals. But the boost to Southern morale is immense, and the legend of the Army of Northern Virginia is born.

1863

**June 7, 1863:** In an attempt to relieve pressure on besieged Vicksburg, Confederate General Henry McCulloch leads a contingent of Walker's Texas Division against a supposed Union supply Depot at Milliken's Bend, Louisiana. Fortified behind fifteen foot high levees and massive hedgerows, the Union troops consist of 1,300 men from the 26<sup>th</sup> Iowa, the 9<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> Louisiana (Colored) and the 1<sup>st</sup> Mississippi (Colored), all supported by Union gunboats on the Mississippi River behind them. The Confederate force of 1,550 men (with no artillery) attacks impetuously, carrying the fortifications and engaging in hand-to-hand combat (a Civil War rarity) before being driven off by fire from the gunboats. Half of the Union force (652) are casualties, but Confederate losses are less than 200. This is the first major combat between Confederate soldiers and U.S. Colored troops. But the futility of the action is apparent to the Confederates once the engagement begins: the supplies for Grant's Vicksburg campaign that are supposed to be at Milliken's Bend have already been shipped to him.

**June 9, 1863:** Trying to locate Robert E. Lee's Confederate forces, which are moving north toward Gettysburg, 11,000 Union cavalry under General Alfred Pleasanton attack J.E.B. Stuart's 10,000 cavalymen at Brandy Station, Virginia. Although initially surprised by the attack, Stuart lashes back, preventing Pleasanton from piercing his cavalry screen to locate Lee. With more than 20,000 horsemen engaged, Brandy Station is the largest cavalry engagement of the war. Stuart loses 523 men; Pleasanton's losses are 866.

**June 15, 1863:** As Lee advances north toward Gettysburg, the Third Battle of Winchester occurs as 9,000 Federals resist General Richard Ewell's advance, resulting in 4,443 (almost 4,000 captured) Union casualties and 269 Confederate losses. Confederate forces also capture massive amounts of supplies.

**June 20, 1863:** Contrary to the delegation of authority in the U.S. Constitution to Congress, President Lincoln issues a proclamation which declares West Virginia to be the 35<sup>th</sup> state of the Union.

**June 27, 1863:** General Joseph Hooker is replaced as Federal commander of the Union Army of the Potomac. General George G. Meade is named the new commander. He will face the legendary General Robert E. Lee and the Army of Northern Virginia in three days at Gettysburg.

#### 1864

**June 3, 1864:** Union General Ulysses S. Grant attacks General Robert E. Lee's fortified position at Cold Harbor. Within the space of a half hour, 7,000 Federal troops are killed and wounded. A second assault is also murderously turned back. Union soldiers ignore a third order to attack. Confederate losses are about 1,500. The men of the Confederate Army of Northern Virginia and the Union Army of the Potomac have marched, slept, and fought for one month in the same blood- and sweat-stiffened uniforms; the roads of their march are strewn with the carcasses of 6,000 horses. Federal casualties in the month of incessant campaigning have been 50,000, about 40% of their initial strength; the South has lost 36,000, or 48% of its strength, and these losses are irreplaceable.

**June 10, 1864:** Union General S.D. Sturgis leads 8,000 men to destroy Confederate General Nathan Bedford Forrest. 3,500 men. But Forrest ambushes Sturgis at Brice's Crossroads, Mississippi. The ensuing Union defeat turns into a rout, and the Federals leave so much abandoned equipment in the field that the Confederates have difficulty getting around it to pursue the men in blue. Sturgis loses 2,246 men, 16 of his 18 guns, and his entire supply train of 250 vehicles. Forrest loses 492.

**June 15, 1864:** Grant has fooled Lee. His troops sit outside Petersburg, Virginia, while Lee fortifies positions north of Richmond, thinking Grant will strike there. The meager forces defending that Petersburg, 14,000 strong and led by P.G.T. Beauregard, are driven back by forces four times greater in number. But inexplicably, Grant's troops merely occupy the trenches, giving Lee time to recover. Over the next four days, Lee sends reinforcements and Union assaults are repelled with heavy losses (11,386 of 63,797 engaged). By June 18, Grant has amassed 110,000 men to Beauregard's 50,000; Lee himself arrives and Grant must resort to a lengthy siege.

**June 27, 1864:** Union General William Sherman attacks Confederate forces at Kennesaw Mountain, near Marietta, Georgia. Confederate General Joseph Johnston's position is strong. The Confederates lose only 442 men while inflicting 2,051 casualties on the routed Union forces.

## Do You Know Me? BY RONNIE HATFIELD COPYRIGHT 2003

"Do you know me?" asked the gray haired man, as he smiled a gentle smile.  
And feebly knelt to gaze into the blue eyes of the child.

"No Sir! I've never heard of you." "Is that a uniform you wear?"

"Mom and Dad have never mentioned you." "Were you in a war somewhere?"

"Yes child," the old man nodded, "A long long time ago."

"And it pains me now to learn your generation doesn't know!"

"Have you never heard of Stonewall, Gettysburg, or Bloody Lane?"

"Have you never been to Shiloh, or quietly stood at a soldier's grave?"

The child could only shake his head, as tears escaped the old man's eyes.

For he knew that all had been in vain, all the thousands who had died.

"Mister?" asked the blue-eyed child. "Those men who died.....were they your friends?"

"Oh more than that," the old man answered, "Those men who died....they were your kin."

For a moment the child stood quietly, and then he took the old man's hand.

He looked up at the old man eyes, and this is what he said.

"I'm sorry we forgot you Sir!" It pains me too, to see you cry."

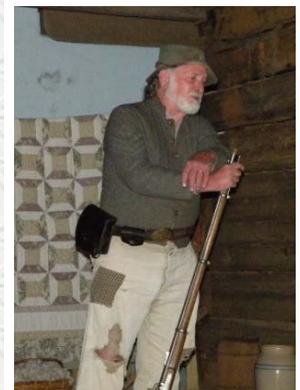
"No Sir, you didn't die in vain, 'cause I'll hold your memory high!"

With that, the old man smiled again, and wiped his eyes as best he could.

"Thank you son. I see you do know me, as I've always hoped you would."

"No Sir, thank you!" the child replied. "I've had the honor don't you see?"

"You're the hero in my family tree, and I'm just proud that you know me!"



RONNIE HATFIELD  
PORTRAYING HIS  
GREAT-GREAT  
GRANDFATHER,  
PVT. WILLIAM H. FOSTER  
ON THE PORCH OF THE  
HUDSON HOUSE AT THE  
MUSEUM FOR EAST  
TEXAS CULTURE ON  
APRIL 11, 2009

## BIOGRAPHIES OF OUR CONFEDERATE ANCESTORS

### Biography of Private William H. Foster Company H, 1st Texas Infantry By Ronnie Hatfield

William Foster was born in Amelia County, Virginia in the fall of 1813, to parents Richard and Mary Foster. He grew up on his family's farm, helping with the daily chores of farm life and getting an education when the demands of planting and harvesting didn't have priority.

In about 1830, the family moved to Maury County Tennessee, and settled into farm life again. Owning over 600 acres, the family relied solely on itself to manage the crops, livestock, etc., which kept William busy until the late 1830's when he met and married Sarah Goad of Maury County, and relative to the Polk and Tyler families. They immediately began a family and in 1855 decided, as did many others of the period, to move west and take advantage of free or cheap land in Texas. The entire family, along with Sarah's brothers Robert and William, all packed up and moved to the northwest corner of Anderson County, Texas, and settled in a community that they called Fosterville, near present day Poyner.

Once again, farming and children were the center of their lives, and by 1860, William and Sarah had their own large spread, and plenty of children and in-laws to help work the land. William also became active in local government, serving as part time magistrate and Peace Justice, mostly settling disputes and ruling on land deeds for his neighbors.

In January 1861, his last child Viola was born, and she later married George Washington Hatfield, relative of the famous or infamous (depending on your perspective) feudin' Hatfields of Pike County, Kentucky. George and his two sisters had come to Anderson County in 1861 to escape the path of invading Federal forces through Arkansas at the start of the WBTS. They had been first in Perry, and

then Conway County Arkansas after a move from Prestenburg, Kentucky in the 1830's.

In late April of 1861, after an earlier county wide vote to secede passed with only 2 dissenters, Anderson county began to raise troops to defend it's new national borders, and William, along with about 1,000 other men from Anderson County, answered the call to duty. He and younger brother John made the trip on horseback to Kickapoo, about 15 miles away, and a few miles south of present day Frankston, and it was there that William, at the tender young age of 47 enlisted in Co. H, of the 1st Texas Infantry Regt. John intended to enlist as well, but was wished to stay home by his mother, and did so.

William left Palestine in May from the northeast corner of the courthouse square at the front steps of the Hunter Hotel, where the company had been presented a flag and issued uniforms paid for by the local government. They marched first to Shreveport, Louisiana, where they boarded transports on the Red River that took them down stream, and after a few changeovers, to New Orleans, arriving in mid June. He was officially mustered into Confederate service, for the "duration of the war" on June 24th, 1861, by Lt. John G. Devereaux. In mid July, the company was placed on trains and shipped to Richmond and there assigned to the Army of Northern Virginia. The unit suffered terrible losses to cold and disease the winter of 61-62, and a recruiting detail sent back to Texas returned in March with, among others, William's brother John.

His first major actions were in the 7 days battles around Richmond including Gaine's Mill, Malvern Hill, White Oak Swamp. Brother John was killed in action at Gaine's Mill and is buried in Hollywood Cemetery in Richmond. Next came Sharpsburg in the fall of '62 where he was involved in the fighting in Miller's Cornfield where the 1st Texas Infantry suffered 82 % casualties. Returning to Virginia, he became ill and was in the hospital in Richmond for almost



The Bonnie Blue Flag

6 months recovering from pneumonia. Upon release he was ordered to Culpepper and marched north in the Pennsylvania invasion of June 1863.

Gettysburg was his final campaign, taken prisoner on July the 2nd during the brutal fighting at Devil's Den. Shipped to Ft. Delaware, he suffered through the overcrowding, foul weather, malnutrition, and exposure to finally fall victim to a typhoid outbreak in late September of 1863. He died on October 13, 1863, and was buried in trench graves with the other mass casualties of the epidemic on the New Jersey shore across from Pea Patch Island in the Delaware River where the prison camp stood. Later renamed Finn's Point National Cemetery, it is the final resting place of almost 2500 Confederate POW's, a few Federal troops of the garrison at the prison, and some German POWs from WW2.

In 1996, I went to the cemetery and removed earth from the burial site supposedly assigned to William. The earth was brought home to Anderson County Texas, and placed in a small casket. In October of 2000, almost 137 years to the day of his death, his symbolic remains were finally buried with full Confederate military honors at the foot of his daughter Viola's grave. Members of the 1st Texas Infantry reenactor group served as pall bearers, and Co. A of the 12th Texas Infantry served as Honor and Color Guards, supported by scores of descendants, the Val Verde Battery, the Johnson Sayers Nettles SCV Camp, and the Davis-Reagan chapter of the UDC.

Editors note: Ronnie Hatfield is the Great-great grandson of Private William H. Foster and a member of the John H. Reagan Camp #2156, Sons of Confederate Veterans

## HOPE, GRIT, AND VALOR—CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

I often visit the graves of these soldiers in the old city cemetery in Palestine and stand before them. I reflect on their era and bygone times when they served and lived during the American Civil War, at time far removed from the 21st century. Sometimes I recall the words spoken by Joshua Lawrence Chamberlain at the 1889 dedication of a monument to the 20th Maine at Gettysburg. As the hero of Little Round Top who commanded that regiment, Chamberlain had a great awe and respect for those men from Texas with whom he did battle on July 2, 1863. Both Union and Confederate veterans were present and his words to them are equally appropriate to us today:

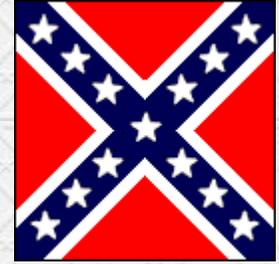
*"In great deeds, something abides. On great fields, something stays. Forms change and pass, bodies disappear, but spirits linger, to consecrate*

*ground for the vision-place of souls. And reverent men and women from afar and generations that know us not and that we know not of, heart-drawn to see where and by whom great things were suffered and done for them, shall come to this place, to ponder and dream, and lo! The shadow of a mighty presence shall wrap them in its bosom, and the power of the vision will pass into their souls."*

To the end of his long and honorable life, Joshua Chamberlain would never fail to pay homage to the heroic legacy of the Confederate soldier. In a postwar address to the Society of the Army of the Potomac, Chamberlain echoed the message of that profound moment at Appomatox:

*"The Army of Northern Virginia! Who can help looking*

*back upon them now with feelings half fraternal? Ragged and reckless, yet careful to keep their bayonets bright and lines of battle well dressed, reduced to dire extremity sometimes, yet always ready for a fight, rough and rude, yet knowing well how to make a field illustrious. Who can forget them—the brave, bronzed faces that looked at us for years across flaming fields of battle—men whom in a hundred fierce grapples we found them with remorseless desperation with all the terrible weapons of death, till on the one side and the other a quarter of a million fell—and yet we never hated. Main force again main force—there was good reason why, when valor like that was exhausted, the sun should go down on thousands dead, but not one forgotten."*



"WE FAILED, BUT  
IN THE GOOD  
PROVIDENCE OF  
GOD APPARENT  
FAILURE OFTEN  
PROVES A  
BLESSING."

- ROBERT E. LEE-

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

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

**May 9, 04:00 PM** Honor/Color guard practice prior to meeting. Museum for East Texas Culture Parking lot.

**May 9, 6:00 PM**— John H. Reagan Camp meeting at the Museum for East Texas Culture.

**Program: Thomas Harrison,** Commander of the 2nd Texas Frontier District Camp #1904 in DeLeon, Texas will present at program titled, "Cornbread Johnny and Co. G, 1st. Texas Infantry, Hood's Brigade." It is about a Confederate soldier from Anderson County, his family members, other soldiers in Co. G, and of course their military involvement in the WBS.

**June 6, 10:30 AM** - Confederate Grave Marker Dedication, Hosted by Reagan Camp. Honor-

ing Private Obediah Joseph Syfrett. Possibly three other markers will be dedicated if they arrive in time. Reagan Camp's Honor Guard and the Johnson-Sayers-Nettles Camp's Val Verde Artillery Battery will be a part of the ceremony, To get to the Winn Cemetery from the intersection of U.S. Hwy 79 and Texas Hwy 7 at Marquez, TX, travel southward 3 miles to FM 3 and turn left toward Hilltop Lakes. The cemetery is on the left approximately 6 tenths of one mile just across the railroad tracks. POC Marc Robinson at 903-676-6069

**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.

**June 20, 06:00 PM**— John H. Reagan Camp Meeting at the Museum for East Texas Culture. Meeting is moved to third Saturday for this month only due to Division (State) Convention Reunion.

**July 20, 06:00 PM**—John H. Reagan Camp Meeting at the Museum for East Texas Culture. **Program:** Special Camp Charter Ceremony by the East Texas Brigade. Guest speaker arranged by East Texas Brigade

**Reenactment** events calendar at: [www.12thtexasartillery.org](http://www.12thtexasartillery.org) or contact Lt. Commander Calvin Nicholson, 903-391-3243 [cwnicholson@hotmail.com](mailto:cwnicholson@hotmail.com)

**DAVIS-REAGAN CHAPTER #2292 UDC  
CONFEDERATE MEMORIAL DAY CEREMONY  
GARDEN OF MEMORIES CEMETERY, ELKHART, TEXAS  
APRIL 25, 2009**



Val Verde Battery members from left to right: Calvin Nicholson, Sid Hullum, Stanley Black, Marc Robinson, and our Event Detail Commander Ronnie Hatfield



John H. Reagan Camp #2156 Color Guard posting colors from left to right: Marc Robinson, Calvin Nicholson, John Barnhart, Ronnie Hatfield, and Event Coordinator Forrest Bradberry, Jr. near podium



John H. Reagan Camp #2156 Sergeant-at-Arms, Ronnie Hatfield reciting his poem "Play Dixie When I Die"



Cross of St. Andrew's Camp # 2009 Rifle Squad with Reagan Camp Honor Guard member John Barnhart on far right firing their muskets

Ten Confederate Soldiers who are buried in this cemetery were honored at this ceremony. The ceremony included a team effort with the John H. Reagan Camp #2156 Adjutant Forrest Bradberry being the event coordinator and their color guard posting and retiring the colors, the Davis-Reagan Chapter #2292 UDC ladies presenting their nice program and hosting the event, the Cross of St. Andrews Camp #2009 reading several tributes and firing their muskets during a three round rifle salute, and the Johnson-Sayers-Nettles Camp #1012 bringing their cannon to help with a three round cannon salute. Old Southern music was played as folks gathered for the ceremony. Pledges to the U. S. Flag and the Texas Flag and a Salute to the Confederate Flag were recited by all. After the musket and cannon salute, a recording of a bugle playing taps was played, and after the colors were retired, everyone sang Dixie. There were veterans descendants in attendance from as far away as California. Family members including children posed for photos by the cannon. A wonderful meal was prepared and served at a local church by the ladies of the Davis-Reagan Chapter of the UDC.

## REAGAN CAMP COLOR/HONOR GUARD FORMED

BY MARC ROBINSON

John H. Reagan Camp's Sergeant-at-Arms, Ronnie Hatfield, began training the camp color and honor guard on Saturday April 11 at 02:00 PM at his Little Dixie Ranch near Tucker, Texas. The men are very appreciative that Ronnie is willing to put his twenty plus years of experience to use in training our color/honor guard. We first met inside and Ronnie covered the Reagan Camp's Color/Honor Guard Procedures Manual that he prepared. This manual is available for download on the camp's website. After going over the manual we all went outside and took up either a musket or a flag and began learning how to properly march, post colors, fire muskets, and more. I might add that Ronnie is not only a great instructor, he and his wife Leigh Ann are also wonderful hosts as they went above and beyond providing snacks and refreshments for all of us.

During the classroom part of the practice and before Ronnie began going over safety, military procedures, etc. in the manual, he reiterated on some great words he wrote on the opening page of the manual. Ronnie's words are as follows:

"As a member of the Sons of Confederate Veterans, we were given a charge from our ancestors to honor and perpetuate their memory, their heroic deeds, their sacrifice, and their devotion to cause. We took an oath to do just that. Don't take that oath lightly. At each opportunity to put on that uniform and fulfill that charge, pause for a moment and take in just exactly what it means to represent them, the SCV, and your personal ancestor.

If there is no sense of personal pride and unyielding devotion to doing our very best, then we should take another moment and re-assess our priorities

before stepping into public representing the Confederate soldier. As a member of the Color Guard or Honor Guard, especially at a marker dedication, we are the closest representative that a family has to their ancestor, at whose grave we stand. The flag that soldier fought and died for is in our hands. His reputation is reflected in our military and personal behavior.

A color bearer's life expectancy in battle was about 20 seconds. To the enemy, killing a color bearer caused confusion in logistics and troop location, so they were a prime target. Still, the position of color bearer was considered an honor and a privilege, therefore the bravery those men showed deserves nothing less than absolute respect from us as a Color Guard today.

As a member of the Honor Guard, we are responsible for delivering the closest thing to military honors that the

veteran will ever receive for his Confederate military service. Think about that before we slouch in formation, show up late, or fail to execute a ceremony with all the dignity, solemnity, and precision that it deserves.

With this in mind, thank you for making this decision and commitment to the SCV, to your ancestor, and to what can and will be the finest Color/Honor Guard in our organization."

Again, on behalf of the John H. Reagan Camp #2156 we wish to thank our Sergeant-at-Arms, Ronnie Hatfield for all of his efforts. And I would like to thank all of the patriots who are giving of their valuable time to honor our Confederate ancestors by participating in the Reagan Camp's Color/Honor Guard, and/or the Val Verde Artillery Battery.

Deo Vindice



Reagan Camp's Color/Honor Guard's first practice held at Ronnie Hatfield's Little Dixie Ranch near Tucker, Texas. From Left to Right: Dan Dyer, Ed Furman, Ronnie Hatfield, Jimmy Odom, John Barnhart, Gary Williams, Marc Robinson, and Calvin Nicholson, Not in photo—Forrest Bradberry, Jr.



## ANCIENT LANDMARKS

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



There are those who seem to always follow the path of, "Out with the old and in with the new." Of course there are times when updating is important. Few of us would want to do without air conditioning, television, our personal computer, or something as simple as fitted sheets and coffee pots that start brewing ten minutes before the alarm goes off in the morning. But, there are also many things that do not need to be changed. An evangelist preaching in a church I was pastoring some years ago, stated, "If it's new, it can't be true." That statement may not apply to everything, but it does apply. Out with the old, and in with the new is not always a good idea, and in many circumstances, leads to destruction.

The Scripture says, "Remove not the ancient landmark, which thy fathers have set." (Prov: 22: 28) Obviously, the landmarks referred to in these writings (and gatherings) of Solomon about three thousand years ago, are not the same today. For example: The Bible, and especially the New Testament, written by our Christian Fathers under the inspiration of God, does not need to be changed (except for translations) amended, updated, and certainly not removed. But it has been. The Bible has been removed from our schools, courts and public assemblies, and the result has lead to chaos, destruction, and even death. Prayer has also been removed along with the Cross, Nativity scenes and anything else that represents the "Faith of our fathers." What can we, as a people, expect when we remove these ancient landmarks which our fathers have set.

Not only has the faith of our fathers been removed, but so has their morality and sense of decency. I won't belabor this point or we'll be here all day. However, I will mention the recent Miss America Pageant. How can America expect God's blessing when a young woman loses her chance to be crowned because she states that a marriage should be between a man and a woman, and the openly homosexual judge who asked the question didn't like it. Well, imagine that. I doubt our fathers would believe such an thing even possible. The ancient landmark of morality and decency set by our fathers has

been removed. Far removed.

As members of the Sons of Confederate Veterans, we also have ancient landmarks set by our fathers that must not be removed. Our Confederate forefathers set and example of courage and determination in the face of a destructive and unwarranted invasion, which we are to preserve, uphold and emulate. It is their name, their flag, their monuments, and their honor which is under attack today. This is the legacy, this is the responsibility, this is the honor they passed on to us, and it's up to us to insure that these ancient landmarks are preserved and never removed.

May God grant to the Sons of Confederate Veterans the strength, unity of purpose, spiritual guidance, and faith, to protect and preserve the ancient landmarks set by our fathers. Amen.

Bro. Len Patterson, Th.D  
Chaplain Army of Trans-Mississippi

"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)