



SONS OF CONFEDERATE VETERANS, TEXAS DIVISION

THE JOHN H. REAGAN CAMP NEWS

www.reaganscvcamp.org

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JULY 2009

COMMANDER'S DISPATCH

Compatriots, I would like to begin by expressing my sincere gratitude to those members of the John H. Reagan Camp, the Johnson-Sayers-Nettles Camp, the Davis-Reagan Chapter of the UDC, and the Invincible Rose Chapter of the OCR who were able to help with the Confederate Four Marker Dedication Ceremony at the Winn Cemetery on June 6th. The family members and guest present were extremely complimentary on how we honored the Confederate Soldiers buried there. One family member stated, "I had no idea that the ceremony would be this nice." I feel like I can speak for everyone of us in that representing these brave and courageous Confederate soldiers who accomplished so much with so little for the sake of freedom is a very humbling experience at each and every ceremony. We are very appreciative of the following newspapers that printed the story and photos of this ceremony: the Palestine Herald Press, Centerville News, Jewett Messenger, Fairfield Recorder, Norman-gue Star, Buffalo Press, and Buffalo Express.

I would like to commend our camp for voting at our last meeting to adopt the monument and surrounding lot that marks the home site of the late John H. Reagan. The original brick side walk leading up to his home were the monument now stands is still there. The site is owned by Anderson County and is periodically mowed by a tractor and shredder. Compatriot Dan Dyer, asked the camp to consider adopting the site and mowing the lot with lawn mowers, edging along the side walk and other

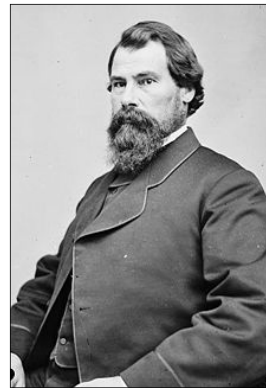
areas. Dan would like to see us mount a photo of Judge Reagan's "Fort Houston" home near the monument. It was also brought up that we could possibly do some landscaping on the lot, probably with drought resistant plants.

The Division Reunion in Waco was very nice. I prepared a report for the members and have more copies available.

At our June meeting we all enjoyed great fellowship and a very interesting program presented by Ms. Norma Holley of Tyler. Her program was presented from a northern perspective and was about a secret Southern society that existed prior to, during, and just after the WBS. It was known as "the Knights of the Golden Circle."

Please make plans to attend what will be a great evening on July 11. The John H. Reagan Camp will be honored by division and brigade officers as they present our camp with its charter certificate. These men will also formally induct all of our camp officers. Texas Division 2nd Lt. Commander Mark Vogl will present a program on Gen. Robert E. Lee. We will have a special meal planned for that evening. I will be sending you more information about the meal preparation.

I have received the Confederate grave marker from Veterans Affairs for Pvt. Egbert B. Beall. This Confederate soldier was an original member of the Val Verde Battery and is buried in the Old Zion Cemetery near Donie, Texas. Pvt. Beall served in the battery until the end of the war. Compatriot James Richard-



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

son of the Johnson-Sayers-Nettles Camp did some extensive research enabling us to acquire this marker and have excellent biography info. Their camp will host the dedication ceremony to be announced later.

Respectfully your obedient servant,

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

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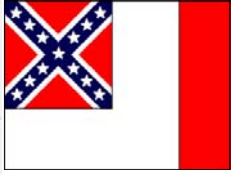
PRESIDENT JEFFERSON DAVIS

FROM HIS FIRST ADDRESS TO THE CONFEDERATE CONGRESS

"We protest solemnly in the face of mankind, that we desire peace at any sacrifice, save that of honor. In independence we seek no conquest, no aggrandizement, no concession of any kind from the states with which we have lately been confederated. All we ask is to be let alone – that those who never held power over us

shall not now attempt our subjugation by arms. This we will, we must resist to the direst extremity. The moment that this pretension is abandoned, the sword will drop from our grasp, and we shall be ready to enter into treaties of amnesty and commerce that cannot but be mutually beneficial. So

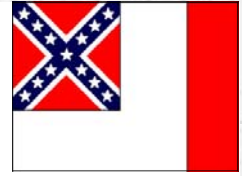
long as this pretension is maintained, with a firm reliance on that Divine Power which covers with its protection the just cause, we must continue to struggle for our inherent right to freedom, independence, and self government."



ON THIS DAY IN CONFEDERATE HISTORY

July

by Kirby McCord



1861

July 1, 1861: Gideon Welles, United States Secretary of the Navy, in response to President Lincoln's call to blockade the Confederacy, announces his preliminary findings for the preparedness of the US Navy for that task: 82 ships of war are in commission, carrying 1,100 guns and 13,000 officers and men, including Marines. Unfortunately, Welles discovers that since Lincoln's inauguration, 259 US Navy officers have resigned their commissions and joined the Confederacy.

July 13, 1861: Confederate General Robert S. Garnett becomes the first general on either side to be killed in action, at a skirmish near Carrick's Ford, in what would later become West Virginia. Although the leaderless Confederates retreat, they have inflicted more than twice as many casualties on the Northerners, led by then unknown George B. McClellan, than they suffer themselves. Carrick's Ford, which was preceded by otherwise minor Union victories at Harper's Ferry, Philippi, Rich Mountain, and Laurel Hill, allows McClellan to claim complete possession of the pro-union western counties of Virginia, setting the stage for the birth of the state of West Virginia.

July 21, 1861: The first major battle of the War Between the States occurs at Manassas Junction, Virginia, along a stream known as Bull Run. US General Irwin McDowell has taken five days to march his 35,000 troops the twenty-one miles from Washington to Manassas. This delay, plus vital information obtained from Confederate spy and D.C. socialite Rose Greenhow has allowed Confederate General P.G.T. Beauregard, the hero of Fort Sumter, to prepare his 21,000 men for battle. Modern technology, circa 1861, comes into play as Beauregard is able to wire Jefferson Davis in Richmond for reinforcements. Davis, in turn, wires Confederate General Joseph E. Johnston in the Shenandoah Valley and his 9,000 men travel by train to the battlefield, arriving fresh and eager for action on the afternoon of the 20th. During the battle, Confederate General Barnard Bee bestows the nickname "Stonewall" on Confederate General Thomas J. Jackson, although none can say whether it was an insult or a commendation, as Bee dies in the fight. The battle ends with a completely disorganized rout of the Federal forces, which flee back to Washington, mingled with hundreds of panicked Washington civilians who have come this afternoon to picnic and to watch an anticipated glorious Federal victory. The high casualties shock the country: 1,982 Confederates fall, and 2,896 Federals are casualties.

July 25, 1861: The Crittenden Resolution passes the US Senate. The bill states that the purpose of the war is to preserve the Union and uphold the Constitution. The bill also directly addresses slavery, specifically stating that the war is not being fought to abolish slavery, which shall remain unaltered upon successful completion of the war.

July 26, 1861: 500 Federal troops under Major Isaac Lynde are attacked by 250 Confederates under Lt. Colonel John Baylor at Fort Fillmore, New Mexico. Lynde beats a hasty retreat, leaving the fort and 400 prisoners in Confederate hands. Three Federals are killed; there are no Confederate casualties.

July 30, 1861: In the Federally occupied capitol of Jefferson City, the Missouri State Convention votes 56-25 to declare the office of governor open. The governor, Claiborne Jackson, has been leading Confederate troops in battle. All pro-Southern state officers (namely the secretary of state of the lieutenant governor) and legislators have fled the capitol, and their seats are named vacant as well. The following day, the state convention elects pro-Union Hamilton Gamble as governor.

1862

July 15, 1862: In a miraculous backwoods construction project, the *C.S.S. Arkansas* ironclad is armed and armored far from a dry dock after Memphis is captured. Manned by 60 Missouri volunteers with no artillery or naval experience, she sails out of the Yazoo River onto the Mississippi on this day. Almost immediately, she is attacked by three federal gunboats. The *Arkansas* fights back, disabling one Union boat and harassed by nonstop firing from the *Arkansas*, the other two boats retreat. The *Arkansas* pursues, only to run into the entire Federal river fleet, more than twenty ships, "a forest of masts and smokestacks." Undeterred, the *Arkansas* plunges into the midst of the enemy ships, firing point-blank into the enemy hulls. As the massive cloud of gun smoke clears, the *Arkansas* finds herself, almost unscathed, beyond the Federal fleet. She sets sail for Vicksburg and assumes her post at the bottom of that city's bluffs.

July 29, 1862: Captain Raphael Semmes sails the *C.S.S. Alabama* out of Liverpool, England, over the objections of U.S. Ambassador to that country, Charles F. Adams. The British built *Alabama* will inflict massive damage on the U.S. merchant fleet over the next two years, damage that will result in unsuccessful lawsuits brought by American ship owners against the British government.

1863

July 1, 1863: Uninformed by his absent cavalry, General Robert E. Lee's Army of Northern Virginia blunders into Federal forces east of Gettysburg, Pennsylvania. Major General Henry Heth is wounded and Major General James Archer is captured, adding to the confusion. Still, Lee's disciplined troops enfilade the outnumbered Unionists and rout them, taking more than 4,000 prisoners. The victory is incomplete, however, as General Richard Ewell declines Lee's offer to seize the heights beyond the town, heights that the federals occupy and fortify.

July 2, 1863: Lee attacks the heights south of Gettysburg in a massive *en echelon* attack intending to roll up the Federal line. Despite valiant efforts, the attack fails, leaving Major General John Bell Hood seriously wounded, and Major General William Barksdale dead. Also killed is Brigadier General Paul Jones Semmes, cousin to Raphael Semmes, and Major General William Dorsey Pender.

July 3, 1863: The three day Battle of Gettysburg culminates in the doomed Pickett's Charge on the Union center. Nine brigades in three divisions participate in the charge. The devastating losses suffered in the attack illustrate the courage displayed in that battle. Two of the three division commanders are casualties: Major General James J. Pettigrew is slightly wounded, only to be killed during the retreat after the battle, Major General Isaac Trimble loses his leg, and Major General George Pickett is unwounded; and eight of nine brigade commanders are casualties of war: Colonel James Marshall, Brigadier General Richard B. Garnett (cousin to Robert S. Garnett), and Brigadier General Lewis Ar-

mistead are killed; Colonel Birkett Fry and Brigadier General James Kemper are wounded and captured, Brigade leaders Alfred M. Scales and James H. Lane are wounded, and Brigadier John M. Brockenborough suffers shell shock and is relieved of command (the debilitation is permanent and he will be discharged from the army a few months later). In Pickett's Division, all thirteen regimental commanders are casualties, in Trimble's Division, six of eight regimental commanders are lost, and in Pettigrew's Division, eight of twelve field officers fall. Of the 12,000 men who participated in the charge, more than 6,500 were casualties. The Battle of Gettysburg has cost Lee 28,063 men and officers who are irreplaceable. They inflict 23,049 casualties on the North-- but the Union can draw on additional manpower.

July 4, 1863: Confederate General John Pemberton surrenders Vicksburg and 29,000 soldiers to Union General Ulysses S. Grant.

July 13, 1863: A mob of over 50,000 people riot in New York City over the draft. Federal troops from Gettysburg are required to quell the violence, which lasts a week, causes untold damage, and costs over 1,000 civilian deaths.

July 18, 1863: Federal troops, spearheaded by the 54th Massachusetts Colored Infantry under Colonel Robert Gould Shaw, futilely attack Battery Wagner in Charleston Harbor. Federal casualties, including Shaw, tally 1,515; Confederate losses are 174.

July 26, 1863: Confederate John Hunt Morgan's Great Raid comes to an end when Morgan and his few surviving gallant companions are captured at New Lisbon, Ohio. Initially designed as a diversionary raid, Morgan, since June 11, has traversed Tennessee and Kentucky, crossed the Ohio River, and raided into Indiana and Ohio. The hoped for Copperhead insurrection in Ohio does not materialize and Morgan's men, averaging 21 hours a day in the saddle, are finally run to ground. He has captured and paroled 6,000 Federal troops, torn up railroads in 60 places, destroyed 34 bridges, captured 2,500 horses, caused 50,000 militiamen to be called to action and 50,000 Federal troops to be redeployed to capture him, burned 4,375 homes and businesses, and caused \$600,000 in property damage. But the price is high, as only about 300 of his 2,400 elite cavalrymen make it home. Of the rest, most are captured and sent to the notorious Camp Douglas in Chicago. But Morgan and his officers are unwisely imprisoned at the Ohio State Penitentiary, where they manage to escape in November, 1863.

1864

July 9, 1864: Confederate General Jubal Early's invasion of Maryland continues virtually unchecked. His 14,000 man army sweeps aside a Federal force of 6,000 at Monocacy, led by General Lew Wallace, author of *Ben Hur*. Confederate losses: 700, Union losses: 2,000. Rather than pursue the fleeing Federals, Early marches on Washington, sending residents into a panic. Over the next several days, Lincoln scrambles to fortify the city, bleeding vital troops from Grant's lines at Petersburg. Having accomplished his mission to divert Union troops from Virginia, Early returns to the Shenandoah Valley.

July 20, 1864: Union General William T. Sherman has marched inexorably across northern Georgia toward Atlanta. An exasperated Jefferson Davis replaces the cautious General Joseph E. Johnston with the aggressive General John Bell Hood. The gallant Hood immediately attacks Federal forces at Peachtree Creek, the only place he can concentrate forces against a similar-sized enemy, but is repulsed with heavy losses. The Confederates suffer 4,796 casualties, while inflicting only 1,779 on the bluecoats. Over the next week, trying to break the siege of Atlanta, Hood attacks twice more, with similar results.

July 30, 1864: At 4:45 in the morning, one of the largest explosions ever seen on the American continent sends flames, earth, cannon, and bodies 100 feet into the air in the midst of a mushroom-shaped cloud. The Federals have detonated a mine under the Confederate earthworks at Petersburg, Virginia, blasting a hole in the rebel defenses. 20,000 Yankees charge into the 30 foot deep crater, which stretches 170 by 80 feet, but none emerge on the Confederate side as the Confederates engineer a murderous crossfire on the hapless Federals, most of whom cover behind debris from the explosion. 3,748 Federals are lost in the unconventional assault, while less than 1,000 Confederates are casualties.

I AM THE CONFEDERATE SOLDIER BY RONNIE HATFIELD, COPYRIGHT 2002

I am the Confederate Soldier! I bear no shame for what I've done!

The Cause for which I fought was pure, though the battle was not won.

I fought that war to free myself, from what I deemed as unjust rule!

Not to keep a race in servitude. God knows me better. He's no fool.

I am 15. I am 50. From Mississippi! From Alabam! From Florida and Georgia! From 13 states in Dixie-land!

I went to war and left my loved ones, so that yours might safely sleep!
I walked from Texas to Gettysburg. I slept in snow so cold and deep.

The bloodline of my father, who loved this land as much as I,

is passed now to your tender care, to honor until you die!

Tell your children of my sacrifice! Let not my blood be spilled in vain!

Teach them honor, pride, and heritage! Show them fields my blood has stained!

When you speak my name, speak proudly! Tell your daughters and your sons!

For I am the Confederate soldier! I bear no shame for what I've done!



BIOGRAPHIES OF OUR CONFEDERATE ANCESTORS

Colonel Alexis T. Rainey Company H 1st Texas Infantry By Judy Callaway Ostler

Alexis Theodore Rainey was born 5 June 1822 in Tuscaloosa County, Alabama to Matthew F. Rainey Jr. and Polly Hobson Rainey. He was the grandson of Matthew Rainey, Sr. who was born in Virginia in 1736 and was a Revolutionary War soldier from Sussex County, Va. His grandfather moved to Georgia in the late 1790's where he was a probate judge and an ordained Deacon in Millstone Baptist Church in Oglethorpe, Georgia. Matthew Rainey, Sr. died in Oglethorpe Co. Georgia, 18 December, 1836 at 80 years of age.

Matthew F. Rainey, Jr. was known as M. F. Rainey. He was born in Henry Co., Va. in 1790 and moved to Georgia with his parents as a young boy. He married Polly Hobson 24 Nov. 1819 in Jackson Co., Ga. and moved to Alabama in 1820. All eight of his children were born in Alabama. Alexis Theodore was the second child of M. F. Rainey. Alexis' father was the sheriff of Greene Co., Al. and was a man of large social, personal, and political influence. He was a state representative of Greene Co. and at the time of the "nullification in 1833, M. F. was president of the state convention which took legal action on the alleged apostasy of Governor Gabriel Moore of Alabama.

A T. Rainey "grew up" in Alabama and was educated there. It is known that his brother, Oscar, trained for law in Alabama. Since Alexis T. was only one year in age behind Oscar, it is likely he studied law there also.

Sometime after the birth of their last child (1837), M. F. Rainey left Greene Co., Al. and arrived in Arkansas after a short sojourn in Louisiana. Alexis' mother is not enumerated with the family in the 1850 Arkansas census so it is assumed she died sometime after the birth of her last child (1837) and before the family's arrival in Arkansas in 1842-43.

A.T. Rainey's father, Matthew F., was the founder of El Dorado, Arkansas in 1843. He was given the honor of naming the town when he gave the land for the town site which became, and still is, the county seat of Union County, Arkansas. Once again, M. F. Rainey became very active in politics. In 1852, he was the president of the Democratic State Convention of Arkansas and was strongly urged by friends to stand for Governor. He was elected to the state senate from Union Co., but died soon after his election.

A.T. Rainey was a young man of twenty-one years when he came to Arkansas with his family. He practiced law in El Dorado and like his father, became politically active. He was a member of the Arkansas legislature. On 1 January 1850, Alexis married Anne Elizabeth Quarles. A. T.'s sister, Sarah Albina, later married Ann Elizabeth's brother, James Madison Quarles. The Rainey and Quarles families had both come from Greene Co. Al. to Ar. so they remained close. They eventually ended up in Anderson Co., Texas In 1854, after the birth of their son, Arthur, A.T. moved his family to Texas and settled near Palestine, Anderson County. He practiced law and served in the Texas Legislature.

In 1861, the week of January 28- February 4, Alexis Theodore and his attorney friend, John H. Reagan were Anderson County delegates to the Texas Secession Conference in Austin, Texas. They both signed the historical document, The Ordinance of Texas Secession, which eventually led to Texas' participation in the Civil War (better known in the south as the "War of Northern Aggression"). In May, 1861, A.T. Rainey organized Company H., 1st Texas Infantry Regiment at Palestine, Anderson County, Texas. He was Captain and commanding officer of this regiment. His orders were to report to New Orleans, La. and from there travel by rail to Richmond, Virginia. In August, 1861, the 1st Texas Infantry organized in Virginia listing as it's original officers A.T. Rainey as Major under Col. Louis T. Wigfall and Lt. Col. Hugh McLeod. Company H. 1st Texas Infantry became a part of General John B. Hood's famous brigade.



The Bonnie Blue Flag

While the regiment was with the Army of Northern Virginia, under Gen. Joseph E. Johnston, they took part in the battles of Second Manassas, West Point, Gaines' Mill (where the Texans achieved sudden fame by their reckless charge up the heights held by the enemy), Sharpsburg, and Fredericksburg. Letters written to Col. Rainey's wife give an accurate account of his wartime experiences.

After arrival at the Richmond fairgrounds for outfitting, Captain Rainey's company was sent to Camp Wigfall, Manassas, Va., where only a few weeks before the South had won the first large scale battle of the war. On 1 Oct. 1861, A.T. Rainey was promoted to Major and by the 21st of October, 1861 he was promoted to Lt. Col. He received his promotion to Colonel on the 3rd of January 1862. In May, 1862, he saw action against Federal troops on the York River near West Point, Va. From there his company moved to Richmond, Va., where he fought in the Battle of Seven Pines, which he termed in a letter to his wife, Anne Elizabeth, "one of the bloodiest battles ever fought on this continent".

On June 30, 1862, Col. Rainey fought his last battle in Confederate uniform at the Battle of Gaines' Mill. One of the four battles to defend the Confederate Capitol of Richmond, these became known as the Seven Days Battles. After taking a mini ball in his left arm, resulting in the loss of his little finger, and being in poor health as a result of camp and battle conditions, Col. Rainey returned to Palestine, Anderson Co., Texas to recover. On 18th August, 1863, still unable to return to the battle front, Col. A. T. Rainey received special orders assigning him to the Houston/Galveston area under the command of General J. B. Magruder. His duties were to aid
(Continued on next page)

BIOGRAPHIES OF OUR ANCESTORS, CONTINUED

in planning a defense against the pending invasion of Texas coastal parts. Colonel Rainey served in Galveston for the remainder of the war. He returned to Palestine, Anderson Co., Texas where he resumed his law practice and once again served in the Texas Legislature. He also served as a State District Judge.

Col. A.T. Rainey died in Elkhart, Anderson Co., Texas on 17 May 1891. He is buried in Pilgrim Cemetery, at the same location, beside his wife, Anne Elizabeth Quarles Rainey who died 14 August, 1903. Numerous descendants of Col. Alexis Theodore Rainey continue to live in the Anderson and Houston county area where he first planted his Texas roots.

QUOTES FROM AND ABOUT COL. A.T. RAINEY, CO. H. 1ST TEXAS INFANTRY

“I have the best set of officers and men ever banded together”. A.T. Rainey in a letter to his wife from Manassas Va. 28 Aug. 1861

“The Confederate Army is fighting for those noble patriots whose souls beat in unison with ours and whose hearts swell with sympathy for the suffering soldier who leaves all that is dear to him on earth and who perils life itself upon the field of carnage, for his bleeding country... Those who through toil and suffering have dragged their wearied limbs to the field of battle to fight, to bleed, and to die for their country’s liberty and their country’s homes.”

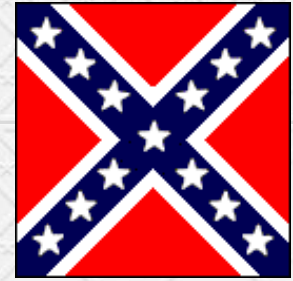
A.T. Rainey (same letter)

“The Texas Brigade engaged the Federal forces near York River and fought as become Texians in most gallant style... Col Rainey

is said to have led his men splendidly, remaining in front during the whole fight... Persons who were in the field spoke in unmeasured terms of praise of his conduct.”

John H. Reagan, Postmaster General, Confederate States of America in a letter to Anne E. Rainey dated 9 May 1862

Editors Note: Colonel Alexis Theodore Rainey is the great, great grandfather of Kerry D. Barnhart, John B. Barnhart, and William S. Barnhart who are members of the John H. Reagan Camp #2156, Sons of Confederate Veterans, Palestine, Anderson Co., Texas



“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-

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

July 11, 06:00 PM—John H. Reagan Camp Meeting at the Museum for East Texas Culture.

Program: Special Camp Charter Ceremony by Texas Division and East Texas Brigade Officers. ET Brigade Commander Johnnie Holley and former ET Brigade Commander Tommy Holmes will be present.

Guest speaker: Texas Division 2nd Lt. Commander Mark Vogl will speak on Gen. Robert E. Lee

August 1, 08:00 AM to noon—Cannon school and color/honor guard practice. Ronnie Hatfield’s home near Tucker. Bring a sack lunch and we will all eat lunch together.

Reenactment events calendar at: www.12thtexasartillery.org or contact Lt. Commander Calvin Nicholson, 903-391-3243 cwnicholson@hotmail.com



Thanks to Calvin Nicholson and Marc Robinson for painting and replacing the floor in the Val Verde Battery’s Cannon Trailer over the June 25 weekend.

**CONFEDERATE 4 MARKER DEDICATION CEREMONY, JUNE 6, 2009
WINN CEMETERY, LEON COUNTY, TEXAS
HOSTED BY THE JOHN H. REAGAN CAMP #2156 SCV**



The John H. Reagan Camp #2156 Color Guard opening the four marker dedication ceremony. Photo by Dana Stubbs



Sergeant-at-Arms Ronnie Hatfield presents Ms. Mable Cash the Confederate Flag that covered her ancestor, Pvt. Arthur B. Allison's, marker. Photo by Dana Stubbs



Reagan Honor Guard, L-R, Sgt Ronnie Hatfield, Gary Williams, John Barnhart, and Dan Dyer. Photo by Linda Mullen



Ms. Dollye Jeffus, Davis-Reagan Chapter #2292 United Daughters of the Confederacy placing the UDC Wreath and dedicating the four markers. Photo by Dana Stubbs



Left-Val Verde Battery L-R , Stanley Black, Marc Robinson, Chance Robinson, Norman Stubbs; Right-OCR Ladies L-R, Channa Robinson, Deborah Robinson, Carline Bobbitt, Cindy Bobbitt. Photos by Dana Stubbs





Once Upon a Time in Texas

Weekly column in the Jewett Messenger by Mable Cash



It's midmorning on Saturday, June 6, 2009 at the Winn cemetery where approximately 50 people have gathered to witness the John H. Reagan Camp #2156, Sons of Confederate Veterans of Palestine, Texas, assisted by compatriots from other Texas Camps to host a Confederate Grave Marker Dedication ceremony.. Those assisting are Johnson-Sayers-Nettles Camp #1012 Val Verde Battery, Teague, Texas, Ladies of the Invincible Rose Chapter #37, order of the Confederate Rose, Davies-Reagan Chapter #2292 and United Daughters of the Confederacy, Palestine, Texas.

Soldiers clad in Confederate uniforms marched in bearing our colors and all participated in pledges to our American flag, the Texas flag and a salute to the Confederate flag and our undying devotion to the cause for which it stands.

Pvt. Obediah Joseph Syfrett buried in the Winn cemetery in 1925, was first to be honored by placing a Confederate marker at his grave. This special ceremony also honored other Confederate soldiers buried at the same site. These Civil War soldiers included are Pvt. William P. Mullen, Pvt. James W. Winn, Pvt. Arthur B. Allison and Pvt. Orlando L. Neyland.

Some of their descendants shared biographies of these five Civil War heroes as we sat in the shade of old trees in this peaceful, windswept resting place. These stalwart men of honor are:

Pvt. William Peterson Mullen
Co. A., 4th Regiment, Mississippi Cavalry, CSA
Born Jan. 13, 1838, Died Nov. 23, 1909

Pvt. Orlando Lawrence Neyland

Co. D., 8th Regiment, Texas Infantry, CSA
Born May 13, 1841, Died Nov. 13, 1912

Pvt. Obediah Joseph Syfrett
Co. G., 25th Regiment, South Carolina Volunteers (Infantry) CSA
Born Feb. 16, 1846, Died Feb. 19, 1925

Pvt. James Welton Winn
Co. B, 22nd Regiment, Texas Infantry, CSA
Born Jan. 4, 1833, Died Jan. 6, 1908

Pvt. Arthur Butler Allison
Co. C, 5th Regiment Texas Infantry, CSA
Born Oct. 26, 1841, Died Feb. 5, 1910

Markers at each soldier's gravesite were respectfully unveiled and women of the Invincible Rose Chapter #37 thoughtfully performed the Black Rose ceremony. A woman veiled and dressed in black placed a rose on each of these graves. The United Daughters of the Confederacy, Davis-Reagan Chapter # 2292 presented the Marker dedication and placed a UDC wreath at the site.

One by one, Confederate flags were removed from each honored soldier's grave, carefully folded by members of the honor guard, and ceremonially presented to the oldest descendant of his lineage present.

Final roll call for these fallen Confederate soldiers, laid to rest in the Winn cemetery. "Present, on the field of honor!" One by one, male voices spoke aloud respectfully answering roll call for their ancestors.

Rotational three shot muskets were fired by the honor guard. The Val-Verde Artillery Battery honored their dead comrades by firing the cannon, three times in succession. The sound echoed and resounded through the rolling hills.

Sobering thoughts filled my mind. How courageous and tenacious these men must have been. Just think of their valor in the face of overwhelming odds to defend the principles they each loved and the ideals of freedom they cherished. We should ever honor their memory.

"We are a band of brothers, and native to the soil."

Editors note: Ms. Cash is a descendant of Pvt. Arthur B. Allison and was presented the Confederate flag covering his marker at this ceremony.



Unveiling Pvt. J. W. Winn's marker are Compatriots John Barnhart, Gary Williams, Dan Dyer, and Ronnie Hatfield of the Reagan Camp 2156



GOD'S PROGRAM

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



I am sure the people of Noah's day were amused by this strange preacher building an ark while he warned of impending judgment. **Today** it would be a popular diversion to go out and watch this eccentric prophet build his oversized houseboat. But just the same, Noah was right and the people of his day were wrong. They **may** have been intelligent and popular, but "They knew not!" They were ignorant of God's program.

Josh Billings, the well known 19th century humorist, said, "I'd rather know a few things for certain than be sure of a lot of things that ain't so." It might offend some of **today's** higher-ups, but the outstanding characteristic of this generation is ignorance. We have never had so much smartness and stupidity at the same time. We know a lot about a lot of things, but of God's Word and will we are of all men most ignorant. There has never been a generation that prided itself more on it's cleverness, smartness, sophistication, and education than we have **today**. But Jesus tells them, "Ye do err, not knowing the Scriptures, nor the power of God." (Matt. 22: 29)

A hundred or so years ago, something snapped in America. We lost something and it has never come back. Progress had not yet run us crazy. We still had time to live. The old virtues were still preached and practiced. We still believed the Bible. Then the world went crazy and we have been in a madhouse ever since. Higher criticism denied the Scriptures, minimized sin, reasoned away atonement, and air-conditioned hell. Man was deified and God was humanized. Liberalism dismissed the devil, and now we have more devil than ever and fewer people who believe there is a devil. But just as it was in Noah's day, God has a program.

Several times in the New Testament (Rom. 11 :25; 1 Cor. 10:1, 12: 1; 2 Cor. 1: 8; 1 Thess. 4: 13; 2 Pet. 3: 8) we read, with slight variations, "I would not have you ignorant." But **today's** generation is ignorant, willfully ignorant as the Bibles says, and they continue to live in error. It has been said, "As scarce as truth is, there is still

a greater supply than there is demand." Most people are ignorant because they want to be. But we need not be ignorant. We can know Him and the power of His resurrection. We can know in whom we have believed. We can know He abides in us by His Spirit. We can know His Word and His will for us. We can be part of God's program.

The answer to ignorance is Christ Himself, who is the Truth and Wisdom of God. I have heard of a spider that tried to build a web on the moving hands of a town clock. Just a futile is the plan of any man to build against God's program for the ages or God's will for His life. The only man who can understand the times is the man who views them in light of the Living and Written Word of God.

I believe God has a plan for my life, and I am certain God has a plan for your life. I am also quite convinced that God has a plan for the Sons of Confederate Veterans. Of course, I don't know the details of God's program, but I do know He has one. And, no man can interfere with God's program and win. Like Noah, we live in a generation that knows not. So, let us stand on God's sure Word. Then our hearts will be fixed, trusting in the Lord, not disturbed by evil tidings. For, "great peace have they which love thy law: and nothing shall offend them."

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

"DUTY IS OURS; CONSEQUENCES ARE GOD'S."
LT. GENERAL THOMAS J. "STONEWALL" JACKSON



EXTRACT FROM THE PAST PREPARED BY MARC ROBINSON



In John H. Reagan's Book Memoirs... he wrote more than once about the brave and noble Texas Troops. Here from pages 140-145, he writes about some events at the **Battle of Seven Pines**.

Mr. Reagan writes, "On the 31st of May, 1862, battle was joined between the armies of McClellan and Johnston — known as Seven Pines or Fair Oaks. On the morning of that day I rode with the President to the front, and found General Lee with General Magruder at the headquarters of the latter. I left them and rode on with General Hatton until we overtook his brigade, and, leaving the General, passed on to where General G. W. Smith was putting the Confederate brigades into battle as they came up. I had promised the men of Hood's brigade that if they got into a battle near Richmond, I would try to be with them. In going to the front, I met General Randolph, the Secretary of War, who, on learning my purpose to join the Texas men, advised, "You had better go back with me; Yankee bullets have no respect for Postmaster Generals."

On reaching General Smith I inquired of him where I would find Hood's brigade. He said he could not tell me, but that if I would take the right hand road of the three that branched off there, and keep a lookout to the right I might possibly find it in half a mile or so. I rode on to the field at Fair Oaks House, and saw some men across the railroad at the far side of the field. It was cloudy, and that together with the smoke on the field kept me from knowing who they raised a shout, and that seemed to have invited the opening of the enemy's artillery on them. The firing was quite rapid. About one-half of the brigade was there, but on account of the boggy condition of the ground, the field officers and the remainder of the brigade had not been able to reach that place, and there were no officers present above the rank of captain. They requested me to lead them in a charge. In the absence of all information and authority as to what should be done, I thought it best not to risk such a step. The men lay down, and were being furiously shelled, when I saw some persons ride up to the Fair Oaks House, nearly midway between where we were and the Federal batteries. Through the smoke I thought it to be General Johnston and his staff, and galloped to where they were. General Johnston was in the house. I did not dismount and did not see him, but the Hon. Muscoe Garnett, with whom I had served four years in Congress, and Major J. D. Banks, two members of his staff, were in the yard, and I somewhat emphatically expressed my surprise that the commander of an army in a great battle should put himself in a position where he could not live long, as the officers and men could not know where he was. This statement was taken to him, and I was advised by the officer who took it that his only answer was that this was no time to look for safe places.

At this time General Hatton came up within a short distance of us and I rode to where he was. He ordered his men to front, load, and forward by the front. As he rode off at the head of his brigade he turned to me and said he hoped we might meet again. These were probably his last words, as he had gone but a short distance when he was killed by a shot. I there witnessed the advance of his and of Pettigrew's brigades on the Federal line of earthworks, bristling with cannon. While this was their first battle they showed the steadiness of regulars, and marched into the jaws of death.

I passed across the field into the woods beyond it, and there found President Davis and Generals Lee and Ma-

gruder under a fire of small arms. I protested against the President's unnecessary exposure and said to them that I had just left General Johnston where he was in great danger, exposed as he was to the enemy's fire. A few minutes later a courier came from our left and announced that General Hampton had been wounded; and at nearly the same time another announced that General Johnston had been killed; and after a short interval he was brought past us on a stretcher, apparently in a lifeless condition. President Davis at once gave General Lee verbal direction to take command of the army and to issue the necessary orders. The archives of the War Department show that he was appointed to the command three days later, but he assumed control of the field during the battle, as indicated. Gen. G. W. Smith was next in rank to General Johnston, and the records indicate that he was in command of the army three days, which came from the delay in issuing the formal order of appointment to General Lee. General Smith, because of Mr. Davis's failure to put him in command, was aggrieved and became an active enemy of the President afterward. Mr. Davis had great respect for General Smith, he having been proposed for Secretary of War, but thought General Lee the proper man to take command of the army.

In this battle we lost in killed, wounded and missing, 6,084 officers and men; the Federal loss was stated to be 4,857, our greater loss resulting from our having to attack their earthworks. The Confederate loss of officers was so great, owing to their leading their men in the charges, that General Lee issued an order to the effect that thereafter they should occupy their prescribed positions in battle. But I may state that this order was often violated, many of our most gallant leaders being killed at the head of their commands.

During the first day's fighting, as I have stated, I was on the battlefield and under the fire of both artillery and small arms. I reached the field and rode over it with the President, after the main part of the fighting of the second day was over, though we witnessed the shelling by the Federals of some cars used as temporary hospitals for our wounded, in spite of the fact that yellow flags were flying over them.

Among the sights I had in early years wished to see was the field of a great battle. In riding over the ground that day a scene was presented, especially on and near the Williamsburg road, such as I trust I shall never have to witness again. In that part of the field the Confederates had stormed the captured lines of very strong earthworks, and held them. The ground over which the armies fought was very wet and soft, and as we rode along our horses much of the time were bogged up to their knees; and it was covered with the dead and wounded men of both armies, wrecked and overturned gun carriages, exploded caissons, and abandoned ambulances. Great numbers of small arms and accouterments were scattered among the dead and wounded soldiers. The sight was so ghastly and sickening as to cause me to wish that there might be no more wars.

After an indecisive battle McClellan drew the corps he had advanced beyond the Chickahominy back across that stream. Nearly a month elapsed before the opposing armies were again in conflict. Once more the Confederates were the aggressors, and June 26th began what is known as the "seven days' battles," which ended at Malvern Hill, where the Federals, under the protection of their gunboats on the James River, were glad enough to

find refuge — and for the battle of Gaines' Mill, there occurred a struggle which has few parallels for heroic courage and valor in all the annals of war. Because of the part taken in it by Texas, I shall relate some of the circumstances.

A part of the Federal forces occupied a very strong position on a hill on the east side of Gaines' Mill Creek, with three lines of infantry; one was stationed about a third of the distance from the foot of the hill, the second about half way up, and the third between that one and the top of the hill, which was probably 300 or 400 feet high. Their lines were protected by fallen trees, with a swamp and abattis one or two hundred yards wide in their front. The crown of the hill was occupied by the field batteries of the enemy. In order to attack this position the Confederate soldiers had to advance through a gradually descending open field. Two assaults had been repulsed, when, in the general movement of the forces, Hood's brigade was brought to its front. General Lee inquired of him whether he thought he could take it. Hood's answer was in the affirmative.

It so happened that the First Regiment of Texas Infantry, commanded by Col. John Marshall, was launched against the Federal stronghold. Colonel Marshall was soon killed; the lieutenant-colonel was very seriously and the major mortally wounded before the advance reached the creek, and many others of the regiment were killed or wounded before they got through the abattis. This regiment, with no officer above the grade of captain, drove the three lines of infantry from their defenses, and captured the artillery which crowned the hill, and which had been pouring a deadly fire into the charging columns. A few hundred yards farther on the Texans saw two field batteries across a depression of the field. Before they had gone far, however, they were assailed by a brigade of Federal cavalry under General McCook. This was put to flight and then the Texans again rushed forward and captured the batteries.

The Fifth Texas Regiment, commanded by Col. Jerome B. Robertson, had also broken through the Federal lines and come in view of what was left of the First Regiment. Robertson's statement made afterward to me was that when he saw General McCook's cavalry moving rapidly to the attack of the First Texas Regiment, and saw the small remainder of that regiment, it made his heart ache, as it seemed out of the question for them successfully to resist such a force. But he said the men quickly aligned and stolidly awaited the attack, and that when the brigade got within range he never saw saddles emptied so fast.

The cavalry recoiled, defeated, and as soon as this was accomplished, and the field batteries taken, the Texans started for a Federal siege battery, nearly a mile farther on. Gen. T. J. Chambers, who had followed them, as a looker-on, hastened after them and got them to stop, saying that the enemy was then in their rear, and that if they went forward they would certainly be captured. Colonel Robertson's regiment then joined the remainder of Marshall's, and on their return they found that the gap they made in passing through the Federal line had been occupied by a New Jersey regiment, which on demand surrendered. The beautiful silk banner of this regiment was sent as a trophy to Austin, Texas; and was after the war returned to New Jersey by the military governor, Hamilton.



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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)