



SONS OF CONFEDERATE VETERANS, TEXAS DIVISION

# THE JOHN H. REAGAN CAMP NEWS

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

VOLUME 1, ISSUE 9

OCTOBER 2009

## COMMANDER'S DISPATCH

Greetings Compatriots,

We had a great meeting on September 12th. Frank Moore, who joined this past month was in attendance and Willis Boedeker, Jr. was there filling out is application to join our camp. We are very much looking forward to enjoying both of these men as members of our camp.

During the meal, Forrest Bradberry played a CD he purchased during a recent trip to the Vicksburg Battlefield that had a documentary on the Rebel Yell . It was quite an attention getter to say the least as it worked up to what the entire Texas Brigade would have sounded like coming at you with every soldier hollering the rebel yell. It was quite an attention getter.

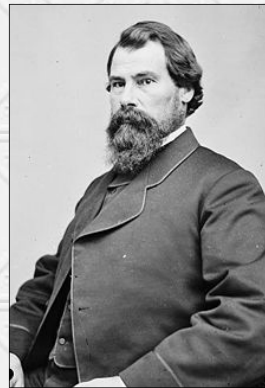
Laurie Durisoe, president of the East Texas Film Commission, spoke to us about what their organization is trying to accomplish in ET as far as encouraging more filming of commercials and motion pictures in ET. There website is [www.easttexasfilmcommission.org](http://www.easttexasfilmcommission.org). The ET Film Commission hosted on Sept 26, a living history, reenactment, entertainment day for film industry executives and others held at her ranch off Hwy 84 near the Trinity River. Several of our camp members along with members from the Halbert Camp in Corsicana participated in our Confederate living history encampment which included the firing of the cannons several times during the afternoon. Those present had a wonderful time in our camp and touring other historical camps and reenactments from various periods of our American

history. Photos of our part in this event can be viewed on page 6.

The Davis-Reagan Chapter 2292 of the UDC is holding their annual John H. Reagan Memorial Ceremony at the Reagan Monument on October 10th at 10:00 AM. Our camp is posting and retiring the colors as well as taking part in other aspects of the program. I hope everyone in our camp can attend this ceremony honoring a great Southern leader and gentleman and the name sake of our SCV camp.

Our camp voted to place and dedicate Lt. James G. Blackmon's Confederate military memorial marker in the Bonner Cemetery on October 17th at 10:00 AM. A biography and letters about Lt. Blackmon can be read in this issue on pages 4 and 7. We will have a small dedication ceremony immediately after placing this marker. Sergeant-at-Arms Ronnie Hatfield is putting this ceremony/program together. Ronnie's great-great grandfather died while a POW in Ft. Delaware as did Lt. Blackmon. I assure you that Ronnie will put together a ceremony that you will not want to miss. We will meet at 08:30 AM at the Museum for East Texas Culture's parking lot to car pool to this dedication. We will probably stop and eat lunch in Fairfield before returning to Palestine around 01:00 PM. Please come even if you don't have a uniform as we would all very much enjoy your presence.

The program presented at the September 12th meeting by Commander Ronnie Matthews of the Halbert Camp in Corsicana kept



**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

my utmost attention from beginning to end. It was a great program on the Battle of Chickamauga.

Business cards for the John H. Reagan Camp are available and were passed out to members who were present at the last meeting to be used in recruiting new members. If you need business cards or need more, please contact me. One of the most important things we can do today for the Confederate Soldier is to recruit more members into the organization that they started, the Sons of Confederate

(continued on page 3)

## 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)

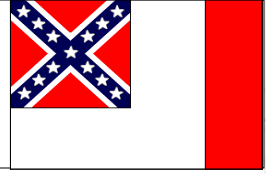
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## ON THIS DAY IN CONFEDERATE HISTORY October

by Kirby McCord



1859

**October 16, 1859:** Abolitionist John Brown and twenty-one men seize the federal arsenal at Harpers Ferry, Virginia. Their plan is to distribute the weapons and ammunition among slaves, create a slave army, and remake Southern society. Taken completely by surprise, the military is unprepared. A hastily assembled 86-man unit composed primarily of U.S. Marines led by U.S. Army Colonel Robert E. Lee besieges the insurrectionists in the Armory Engine House. Two days later, at dawn, a squad of Marines led by U.S. Army Lieutenant J.E.B. Stuart batters down the door to the engine house. Wounded, Brown surrenders; he and eight others are tried, convicted of treason and hung. Eight of the revolutionaries are killed, but five manage to escape.

1860

**October 21, 1860:** The looming presidential election breaks down as a purely sectional contest. Democratic Party nominee Stephen Douglas of Illinois is the only candidate to even try to appear on ballots in all states. Southern Democratic nominee John Breckinridge of Kentucky only appears on Southern ballots; Republican nominee Abraham Lincoln's name only appears on Northern ballots. On this day, promises of secession are published in newspapers around the South-- if Lincoln is elected.

1861

**October 1, 1861:** Six weeks after their victory at Bull Run, General Joseph Johnston and General P.G.T. Beauregard meet with Confederate President Jefferson Davis in Centerville, Virginia, to plan strategy. Although Southern public opinion is demanding an offensive against the Northern capital, the three men decide on an exclusively defensive strategy: they will launch no attack in the North.

**October 3, 1861:** Louisiana Governor Thomas O. Moore, like most Southerners, is disappointed that European nations have refused to recognize Southern independence. In an attempt to coerce such diplomatic recognition, Moore declares the export of cotton to foreign nations from his state illegal. Moore believes that European textile mills, starving for cotton, will compel their governments to support the Confederacy. Moore has miscalculated, as Indian and Egyptian cotton replace American cotton in Europe.

**October 4, 1861:** Treaties of alliance are signed by the Confederacy with the Cherokee, Shawnee, and Seneca Nations in Indian Territory. Native Americans flock to the Confederate Army.

**October 21, 1861:** Union troops under the command of Colonel Edward Baker, attempt to occupy high ground on the south side of the Potomac River at Ball's Bluff, near Leesburg, Virginia. Baker's troop placements are incompetent, and a sharp Confederate advance ordered by General Nathan Evans easily dislodges the invaders. The retreat turns into a rout when panicked Federal troops overload boats, dumping soldiers into the river. Federal losses are severe, with 49 killed (including Colonel Baker), 158 wounded, and 714 missing and presumed drowned. The Confederate force loses only 165 total casualties, three-fourths of which are wounded. Baker, being a prominent Republican, is deemed a martyr in the North; his immediate superior, General Charles Stone is saddled with the blame for the disastrous defeat, and in response, the U.S. Congress will create the Joint Committee on the Conduct of the War to investigate and prosecute the commanders of unsuccessful military actions. This wholly political entity will meddle in military matters the rest of the war, hampering Northern military effectiveness as generals, fearful of any error, will pass responsibility to others whenever possible.

1862

**October 4, 1862:** Confederate Earl Van Dorn, merging units from the Trans-Mississippi Theater, Army of Tennessee, and Army of Mississippi, attacks the Federal Army at the vital railroad junction of Corinth, Mississippi. The Union Army, under the command of General William Rosecrans, although isolated and outnumbered, has a strong defensive position. Eschewing flanking movements and even artillery support, Van Dorn sends his troops on a suicidal frontal attack. Confederate losses are extremely heavy: 4,233, while the men in blue lose 2,520.

**October 8, 1862:** The third prong of the Confederacy's fall offensive (Lee's invasion of Maryland-- stymied at Antietam/Sharpsburg in September, and Van Dorn's attack at Corinth being the other coordinated attacks) ends dismally. Confederate General Braxton Bragg has lured Union General Don Carlos Buell out of his fortifications at Nashville and brought him to battle at Perryville, Kentucky. Although outfighting the numerically superior Unionists, Bragg is compelled to retreat to prevent the encirclement of his army. He has lost 3,396 men out of 16,000, while inflicting 3,696 casualties on Buell's force of over 36,000. All three offensives have enjoyed minimal success, seizing the initiative for a month and outfighting their opponents, but ultimately succumbing to logistical and organizational failures.

**October 9, 1862:** Confederate General J.E.B. Stuart begins his raid around the Federal Army of the Potomac, completely befuddling the Union high command and outriding and outfighting the Northern cavalry. In three days, he will take his 1800 troopers 126 miles, capturing 500 horses and 125 Federal soldiers while destroying dozens of wagons and tons of military supplies.

1863

**October 13, 1863:** Ohio Democratic Party gubernatorial candidate Clement Laird Vallandigham, although garnering a substantial vote, loses to John Brough. Vallandigham had been arrested for treason in May (he had called the war "cruel" and "wicked") and exiled from the country in a sham trial. His shabby treatment by the federal government had resulted in his nomination for governor *in absentia*. Campaigning from Windsor, Ontario, Vallandigham had asked, "Shall there be free speech, a free press, peaceable assemblages of the people, and a free ballot any longer in Ohio?" His platform called for withdrawal from the Union if "King Abraham" refused to reconcile with the Confederacy. Drawing from Vallandigham's passion, Edward Everett Hale writes a short story, "The Man Without a Country" in December, that becomes an instant classic.

**October 24, 1863:** Following the Confederate victory at Chickamauga in September, C.S.A. General Bragg has besieged the Federal Army of the Cumberland in Chattanooga. The Northerners are starving to death. A mere week before, Union General U.S. Grant is named Department head and determined to relieve Chattanooga. Preceding his reinforcing army, Grant has slipped into Chattanooga to review the situation. He and General George Thomas find themselves within a hundred yards of the Confederate lines while reconnoitering. But the Confederate pickets, apparently considering the general staff no threat, refuse to fire on them. A golden opportunity is missed, as these two generals will that night devise a supply

line to feed the marooned Federals in Chattanooga, and within a month lift the siege with dramatic attacks at Lookout Mountain and Missionary Ridge. The South may have missed its one great chance to destroy a Federal Army and perhaps win the war.

1864

**October 1, 1864:** The *Condor*, a blockade runner, is fleeing from the gunboat *USS Nippon* near Fort Fisher, North Carolina. The *Nippon* is gaining fast. On board the *Condor* is the famous Confederate spy Rose O'Neal Greenhow, who, as a Washington, D.C. socialite, has sent coded messages South, resulting in intelligence that allowed Confederate Generals Beauregard and Johnston to combine and win the first battle of Manassas. Mrs. Greenhow has been arrested and imprisoned (twice) for her espionage activities, but Union authorities can not bring themselves to execute a woman. She has been exiled to Europe, where much to the chagrin of the United States government, she garners much support for the Confederacy with her charm and wit, and is now delivering dispatches to the Confederate government, together with a large sum of gold. Desperate to avoid capture, she slips off the *Condor* in a rowboat and makes for shore. But the waves and rain are too much and the little boat capsizes. Mrs. Greenhow, now known internationally as the Wild Southern Rose, is dragged to the bottom of the sea by the weight of the gold she carries. When her body is recovered, she is given full military honors and interred at Oakdale Cemetery in nearby Wilmington.

**October 2, 1864:** A Union cavalry raid intent on destroying salt mines near Saltville, in southwestern Virginia, is repulsed. Union casualties are 348, Confederate losses are 110. The skirmish is notable for the fact that the Union cavalry brigade includes the 5<sup>th</sup> U.S. Colored Cavalry, one of the few black cavalry regiments. The defeated U.S. troopers contend that at least 46 black soldiers were captured and executed, and although the accusation is never proven, it casts a cloud over this Confederate victory.

**October 7, 1864:** Union General Philip Sheridan continues his destructive march through the Shenandoah Valley. Today he writes to Grant that he has "burned 2,000 barns filled with wheat, hay, and farm implements, destroyed in excess of 70 flour mills, driven off 4,000 head of livestock, and killed over 3,000 sheep." The area between Winchester and Staunton, he brags, "will have little in it for man or beast . . . a crow flying across (the Valley) must carry his own rations."

**October 8, 1864:** The *Sea King*, later commissioned the *C.S.S. Shenandoah*, sails out of London to begin its career as a Confederate commerce raider. Under the command of Captain James Waddell, she sails south, around the tip of Africa, across the Indian Ocean to Victoria, Australia, through the Pacific Ocean to the Bering Sea. Along the way, she takes thirty-eight prizes, mostly whalers, captures over 1,000 men, and doesn't lose a man, before learning that the Confederate government has been captured. Realizing they will be prosecuted as pirates, the crew of the *Shenandoah* is determined not to surrender to Americans; they sail down the Pacific coast of the Americas, around Cape Horn, and up the Atlantic to Liverpool, where they surrender to British authorities on November 6, 1865. Her 44,000 mile circumnavigation is takes the Confederate flag around the world.

**October 19, 1864:** Confederate Lieutenant Bennet H. Young leads a group of escaped Confederate prisoners from Canada into St. Albans, Vermont. They rob three local banks of over \$200,000 before fleeing back across the border. Following U.S. government protests, the band of eleven raiders are arrested by the Canadian authorities, but are later released when a pro-Confederate magistrate determines they have no jurisdiction.

**October 19, 1864:** Confederate General Jubal Early launches a surprise dawn attack against his numerically superior opponent, Union General Philip Sheridan, at Cedar Creek, in the Shenandoah Valley. Achieving initial success, the attack breaks down when Early's starving men begin to loot the captured Federal camps. This allows the retreating Federals to reform and counterattack, driving the Confederates from the field. Early loses 2,910 men, but inflicts 5,665 casualties on the Northerners.

**October 24, 1864:** Confederate General Sterling Price has led a daring raid into Missouri. At the head of 12,000 cavalymen and assisted by Generals John Marmaduke and Jo Shelby, Price has captured a dozen cities and several thousand Union soldiers, while threatening St. Louis. But now, pursued by 20,000 Union cavalymen under Generals Samuel Curtis, Alfred Pleasanton, and Alfred Smith in converging columns, Price attempts to engage the enemy piecemeal at Westport, Missouri. Marmaduke's line is broken, and the Confederates are driven from the field. Each side suffers about 1,500 casualties. Two days later, Curtis attacks Price again at Marais de Cygnes, Kansas, capturing 1,000 men. Price returns to Arkansas with only about half of his men.

**October 27, 1864:** Union General U.S. Grant, believing he has stretched Confederate General Robert E. Lee's lines to the breaking point at Petersburg, launches an attack against an isolated portion of the rebel line. Confederate General A.P. Hill's 20,000 man division withstands the attack of 40,000 Federals, inflicting 1,758 casualties while suffering half that many losses themselves.

**October 31, 1864:** With the war stalemated in the east, President Lincoln is concerned with the upcoming presidential election. Sherman has captured Atlanta, and Sheridan has razed the Shenandoah Valley, but otherwise, there seems to be little to show for the war effort but hundreds of thousands of casualties. Grant is closer to Richmond, but seems unable to wrestle Lee to the ground, despite an overwhelming manpower advantage. It seems possible that the Democratic candidate, former general George B. McClellan, and his peace platform may win, which would mean the successful independence of the South. To boost his political future, Lincoln has engineered the secession of West Virginia from Virginia and its annexation to the Union as the 35<sup>th</sup> state in June. Today, he admits the state of Nevada to the Union. These two additions, with their seven electoral votes, allay Lincoln's fears of a Democratic victory, giving him a projected electoral victory of 118 to 115 (in the end, the election would not be that close, as Ohio and New York, totaling 54 electoral votes, will surprisingly side with the Republicans).



## COMMANDER'S DISPATCH, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1



Veterans. It is the premier organization that works diligently to protect and honor the good name of the Confederate Soldier and preserve his true history.

Respectfully your obedient servant,

Marc Robinson

Proud father, Marc Robinson, with his 2 1/2 year old son, Craig, at the East Texas Film Commission event on September 26th. →



## BIOGRAPHIES OF OUR CONFEDERATE ANCESTORS

Lt. James G. Blackmon  
Waul's Texas Legion  
By Chance M. Robinson

James G. Blackmon was born about 1835 in Alabama. On January 3, 1861 he married Mary Ann Bonner McCrery. They had one daughter, Mary Charlotte Blackmon, born May 31, 1862. He entered into the service of his state and country on February 3, 1862 at Hempstead, Texas in Captain L. D. Bradley's Company Waul's Texas Legion he was 27 years old. He was elected 1<sup>st</sup> Lieutenant of Company F Waul's Texas Legion which was also known as Captain Bradley's Company and later as Company B, 2<sup>nd</sup> Infantry Battalion, Waul's Texas Legion. He fought in the Battle of Vicksburg and was captured shortly after the fall of Vicksburg at Yazoo City, Mississippi on or about July 14, 1863. After his imprisonment, he was sent to various Union prisons, first to Gratiot Street Prison, St. Louis, Missouri, then to Johnsons Island, Ohio, and then to Point Lookout, Maryland where he penned these words in another soldier's autograph album: "I am married," he wrote, "and have an angel wife, and one angelic little Babe, God bless them. I have not seen them for over two years, but from the complexion of the news we have been having for the past few days [i.e. the progress of the Spotsylvania Campaign], we have great hopes ere long of seeing our sunny homes again...." In December 1864, he was at Fort Delaware, Delaware where he died of pneumonia on January 1, 1865, and was buried far from home on that northern "Jersey shore" never to see his wife and daughter again. Mary Ann Blackmon died August 30, 1867 followed in death by daughter, Mary Charlotte Blackmon on September 19, 1870. (*Information provided by Sue Bonner Thornton's Bonner Family History*)

*Excerpts from Bonner Family History by Sue Bonner Thornton:*

The following letters were written to Mary Ann Blackmon during her husband's absence with the Confederate service:

Holley Spring, Oct. 17<sup>th</sup>/62

My Darling Wife,

I reached here day before yesterday. I found things somewhat changed from what they were when I left, all about which William has mentioned in his letter.

I found William right sick with Flux when I reached here. I took him immediately under my

care; and I have got him about well.

The Yankees gave our forces a tolerably genteel flogging in the last fight at Corinth, [sic], but our Army has been heavily reinforced, and we are now armed equipped and ready for the fight.

Give my love to Mother & Joe, your Grand Pa, and kiss little Minnie, I don't care how often for her dear father.

Direct your next letter to Holley Springs, Miss.

God protect you is the prayer of your dear husband. Write soon. I would write you a long letter, but Lieut. Collett is now waiting to get on the Cars. I must close. Write soon.

Your Affectionate Husband,

*J. G. Blackmon*

I send you Five hundred and Seventy Dollars by Mr. Collett. I want you to pay Mr. Byrd all that we are indebted to him & Dr. Wilson what I owe him.

Your affety [sic], *James G. B.*

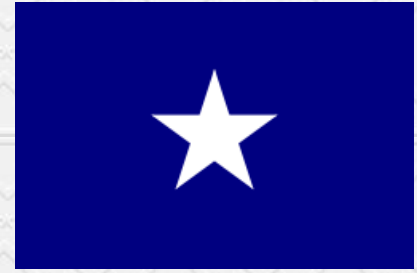
Johnsons Island, Ohio, Nov. 9<sup>th</sup>, 1863

N. W. Burtiz Esqr

My dear friend,

I wrote you some three weeks ago and up to the present date have received no reply. Thinking that you did not receive my letter, I have concluded to write you again. We now have arrangements by which we can write longer letters.

I will attempt to explain more fully my situation. When I received your first letter, we all then thought that we would be exchanged long before this, but now all prospect of an exchange soon is now at an end, hence I wrote you some three weeks ago asking you to send me one over coat (size 3 sack or Raglin [sic] sleeve), also if you could do so without injury to yourself to loan me more money. I have had no money since I have been in prison except the twenty dollars you sent me. I have had to do my own washing for the last three weeks, and never having done anything of the kind before, of course I can not be considered very expert in the washing business, however, so far, I have been able to get along but I do assure that I would like very much indeed to be able to get some one else who understands the theory of *washing better than I do, to do it*. As for our living here, a man can get along on what the government furnishes him, but still *he can do a great deal better if he has got a little money*. I regret exceedingly having to ask you the



The Bonnie Blue Flag

second time to assist me, but I am one of the unfortunate few who have no relations living in the north to whom I could apply for assistance - but you well can appreciate the condition in which I am placed, and it is useless for me to say anything more. I know that you will do all you can in your *power for me*, and I only hope that the day may speedily arrive when I may be able to liquidate my obligations to you. Hoping that you will write me and that you will be able to do something for me, I shall anxiously await an answer from you.

Respectfully your dear friend,

*James G. Blackmon*

Block 4 Johnsons Island

N.B. If you send a coat, the color must be Gray, as no other will be allowed.

Yours J.G.B.

The following letter was written to Mrs. Blackmon about the death of her husband. It was written by a friend and fellow Confederate soldier of Lt. Blackmon that was with him at Ft. Delaware Prison:

U.S. Military Prison Division 2C

Fort Delaware, Del. Feb. 12<sup>th</sup> 1865

Mrs. Mary A Blackmon

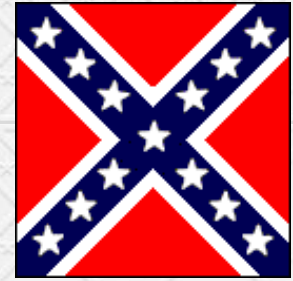
My Dear Madam

I wrote you only a few days ago via New Orleans but knowing the uncertainty of the mails per Flag of Truce I write again by a friend. I write to communicate the sad intelligence of the death of your husband, Lt. James G. Blackmon. His health had been bad ever since his capture about the 10<sup>th</sup> or 12<sup>th</sup> of Dec. He was attacked with severe cold. I opposed his going to the Hospital as I wanted him to remain where I could wait on him; he was equally opposed to leaving me, in the condition he was. At the end of two days his throat had swollen [sic] considerably, fearing that he might have diphtheria, I proposed to him to go to the Hospital where he could get better medical treatment. He did not want to go but concluded that it was better to go than to remain in the barracks. (Continued on page 7)

## SEPTEMBER 12TH MEETING



Commander Ronnie Matthews of the Capt. J. L. Halbert Camp in Corsicana, two photos above, presenting program on the Battle of Chickamauga. Ronnie's ancestor fought in this battle and he has studied it extensively.



“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-



Laurie Durisoe, president of the East Texas Film Commission, spoke to the camp on how their group wants to bring more filming to ET and explained in detail what will happen at there Sept 26th event.

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

**October 10th, 10:00 AM,**  
Davis-Reagan Chapter UDC annual John H. Reagan Memorial Ceremony in Reagan Park at the Reagan Memorial Monument. POC Carol Coleman, 903-729-0839

**October 10th, 06:00 PM—**  
John H. Reagan Camp Meeting at the Museum for East Texas Culture.

**Program: Marc Robinson** presents—The **immigration to Brazil** by nearly 9000 Confederates after the WBTS. Robinson's G-G-G Grandfather took

his family to Brazil soon after the war.

**October 17th, Confederate Grave Marker Dedication at Bonner Cemetery for Lt. James G. Blackmon:** meet at the Museum for East Texas Culture at 08:30 AM to car pool to Fairfield. POC Marc Robinson, 903-676-6069

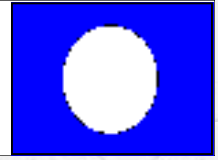
**Reenactment** events calendar at: [www.12thtexasartillery.org](http://www.12thtexasartillery.org) or contact Lt. Commander Calvin Nicholson, 903-391-3243 [cwnicholson@hotmail.com](mailto:cwnicholson@hotmail.com)



Photo Above: Confederate Flag and one of the tents in our camp at the East Texas Film Commission Day near the Trinity River on September 26. Laurie Durisoe was a great host!



**VAL VERDE BATTERY  
AT THE ET FILM COMMISSION DAY  
HOSTED BY LAURNIE DURISOE, SEPTEMBER 26, 2009**



Val Verde Battery Camp. This event was held on a ranch near Trinity River.



Reagan Camp's Lt. Calvin Nicholson preparing his famous Collard Greens!



Linda Ford, wife of Val Verde Battery member Billy Ford, with Craig Robinson



Reagan Camp member Kirby McCord and his wife Donna, pose in front of the one of the tents. Photo taken by Stephanie Ford.



Deborah Robinson, wife of Reagan Camp Commander, Marc Robinson, helping to prepare some delicious food.



Val Verde Battery member Bradley Ford, playing his fiddle with Caraline Robinson looking on. Photo by Stephanie Ford

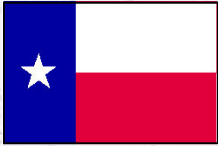


**Val Verde Battery, 12th Texas Artillery**



From L-R: Caraline, Marc, Deborah, Craig and Channa Robinson. Photo by Stephanie Ford

← From L-R: Ronnie Matthews, Billy Ford, Bradley Ford, Kirby McCord, Dan Dyer, Calvin Nicholson, and Marc Robinson.



**BIOGRAPHIES OF OUR CONFEDERATE ANCESTORS**  
**LT. JAMES G. BLACKMON**  
**(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 4)**



The Hospital is outside the barracks. He took my arm and I walked with him to the gate. He bade me an affectionate good-bye, the last I saw of my truly devoted friend. He was bathed in cold water upon arriving at the Hospital about one hundred and fifty yards distant. He suffered acute pain for several days during which time he exchanged notes frequently. He then began to improve and wrote me that he would return to the barracks very soon.

About the 26<sup>th</sup> Dec. I believe it was, he took cold again and very soon had Pneumonia in its most dangerous form.

Lt. F.A. Roberts of Decatur Ala was with him all the while (he was a convalescent in the same ward). Of course having Pneumonia your husband suffered intensely during the later part of his illness. He would often call your name. He also called "Frank" but the name Mary lingered affectionately upon his lips as long as he was able to call it. In death his pain all seemed to leave him. He died on the morning of the 1<sup>st</sup> of Jan. without the least apparent sign of pain. After death his exceedingly calm and pleasant look attracted the attention of many in the hospital. He left no messages for any one, gave no instructions as to what he wanted done at home but said upon his second attack that he knew he must die. The Chaplain visited him before his death and talked with him upon the subject of religion, he told the Chaplain that he was a moral man. I think that had he been a *Confederate Chaplain* he would have been pleased with such an interview.

I never knew him to say much upon the subject of religion. I believe however from what I knew of his temperament, his views upon morals and religion and what occurred at the Hospital that he is now in a better world. About ten hours after his death I received a note informing me that he *was gone*. I went out to telegraph to Mrs. Rebecca Regbunn (No. 70 McCullough St., Baltimore) to come after his remains. Lt. Wolf, A.C.P. told me that the body could not be kept at the Hospital the length of time it would require to get a coffin from Balt. That he must be buried in compliance with regulations and Mrs. R. could make application to Genl. Schoepf at this place and get permission to come after your husbands remains. Upon being told this I did not telegraph but wrote immediately to *Washington* to get a permit to come after your husbands remains that she might have them buried in Balt. but failed in getting a permit. He was buried here upon the "Jersey shore", his best suit of clothing was put upon him. The graves are all

numbered, the names also are written plainly upon the coffins. I will get the number from the record as soon as I can and will communicate it to you. I have all the little articles your husband left in my possession. I will take the best possible care of everything and bring them safely through.

I did not know of any means of getting a letter to you until I wrote to your bro., W.H. McCrary [sic] at Camp Morton, Indiana. He directed me to write via New Orleans which I did immediately. I also wrote to David Blackmon at Camden, Ala. With him when exchanged I expect to leave all your husbands little effects that I cannot send directly to you.

There is a Capt. Collet of the 7<sup>th</sup> Tex. Here who knew your husband. I have seen him but once, he appears to be quite a reliable gentleman. If I can I will send letters, bible [sic], prayer book, rings and other articles that he can carry by him.

Now my dear Madam, I have written you all I can under the circumstances. There are other things which I wish you to know and will tell you fully when I can.

I will say farther [sic] that your husband and myself met at Point Lookout about one year ago upon our arrival there from Johnson's Island. We became friends immediately upon forming an acquaintence. I had plenty of money then, he had none, I shared with him. We messed together from our first acquaintence. Our funds have always been in common. He was a most perfect gentleman, I truly loved him as a brother. He was the most devoted friend I had in prison.

I will say of myself, that you may know something of him who has the sad task of communicating this painful intelligence, that I am a married man, was married in 1/61. I live in Holly Springs, Miss. I have recently received several letters from my precious wife. Have been in prison seventeen months, but hope soon to see loved ones at home. You can write to my wife care of Warren Caldwell, Holly Springs. She will forward your letters to me wherever I may be. I will write you any information that I can in the premises. Do not think that it will be any trouble to write or do anything that I can.

Now Mrs. Blackmon I have performed a painful duty. I know not how to console you. You have lost a precious husband and I a devoted friend. In the blissful joys of Heaven you may hope to meet him. In conclusion believe me to be

Most Respectfully and Sincerely your Friend,

*John D. Bills Lt.*

Co. "B. 32 Miss Regt.

Mrs. Regbunn is a distant relative of Lt. Blackmon. Lt. Roberts was very kind to your husband.

Your friend,

*John D. B.*

*Excerpt from 2009 online auction information of Confederate POW autograph album:*

A most remarkable autograph album made as prisoners from the Wilderness and Spotsylvania Campaigns began to flood Union prisons, and particularly Point Lookout, the hard times spot in a sandy and desolate spit of land in Maryland. With several dozens of autographs of the sort of lower-grade commissioned officers (lieutenants and a few captains) who formed the bulk of the population at the notorious Point Lookout Prison camp, the album is remarkable enough, but more remarkably still, the prisoners added circumstances of their personal lives and capture. The album was owned by Carrie C. Morfit, apparently a young Baltimorean who provided charity to the prisoners at Point Lookout, and provides a snapshot of the men held there, men who had left their homes in Virginia, Kentucky, Alabama, Arkansas, or Texas to take up the Confederate cause, and who retained a pugna-cious spirit despite their circumstances.

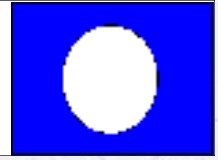
Perhaps the most poignant entry is that of James G. Blackmon (Waul's Texas Legion), captured at Yazoo City, Mississippi, shortly after the fall of Vicksburg. "I am married," he wrote, "and have an angel wife, and one angelic little Babe, God bless them. I have not seen them for over two years, but from the complexion of the news we have been having for the past few days [i.e. the progress of the Spotsylvania Campaign], we have great hopes ere long of seeing our sunny homes again...."

Editors note: Mary Ann Bonner McCrary Blackmon is a cousin of John H. Reagan Camp 2156 members, Charles Marc Robinson and Chance Robinson. They are both very proud to claim kinship, even if it is only by marriage, to this honorable Confederate soldier.



# CONFEDERATE FISH FRY

HOSTED BY ALVIN AND CAROL COLEMAN  
SEPTEMBER 5, 2009



L-R: Calvin Nicholson, Forrest Bradberry, Willis Boedeker.



L-R: New member Joe Coleman along with Jimmy Odom and Calvin Nicholson



Davis-Reagan UDC Ladies and family and Reagan SCV Camp men and families.



Host, Alvin Coleman, finally got to sit down and get his share of the fish.



Chaplain Ed Furman, left, visiting after the meal.



Thanks to the men of the Palestine Masonic Lodge for cooking the delicious fish!



Fishing on the Coleman's Pier



Caraline Robinson removing a hook from one of the many perch she caught.

← Thanks to new Reagan Camp member, Joe Coleman (pointing to the water) for helping the children with their fishing!





## WALKING TOGETHER!

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



About 770 years before the birth of Christ, the prophet Amos asked, "Can two walk together, except they be agreed?" (Amos 3:3) The question implies that the answer is, No! They cannot. It is doubtful however, that any two people are going to agree on everything. Someone once said that if two people agree on everything, then one of them is unnecessary. But, if two people are going to walk together, there are some issues upon which they must be in agreement. For instance: They must agree on the route they will travel, their means of travel, the time they will start, and of course, their destination. They must also agree to be together as they walk.

The question also implies a common purpose. Two people walking together should have the same reason and the same goal. Consider a married couple whose purpose is to raise a family, buy a home, become financially stable, and retire together. As long as they want to be together (it's called love) and think of the importance of their common purpose, the small disagreements they have will not be problem. They will forgive, forget, and keep walking together.

This can also be said of the Lord's Church. As long as the members are working as one to carry out the Lord's Great Commission, as found in the last two verses of Matthew, they will walk together with a common purpose. However, when the members forget or ignore the Lord's command to go, make disciples, baptize, and teach, they will begin to concentrate on their differences and disagreements. When you see a church fighting over what color the new carpet should be, or on which side of the pulpit to put the piano, you know they have lost sight of their reason for being a church. They have become, as Jesus said in Matthew 23: 24, "Blind guides, which strain at a gnat, and swallow a camel." They are no longer walking together.

This can be said of married couples. It can be said of business partners. It can be said of the Lord's Church. It can be said of any group or organization, including the

Sons of Confederate Veterans. The Sons of Confederate Veterans is walking together in agreement. We call it "The Charge." The Charge is our common purpose. It is our defining characteristic. It is our very reason for being. We are agreed. The South was right. The Confederate Cause was just, and still is. We are proud of our Southern heritage and want to defend it. We are proud of our brave and noble Confederate forefathers and want to honor them. We want the truth about the War for Southern Independence to be told. We are walking together.

Since 1896, many members of the Sons of Confederate Veterans have come and gone, faithfully following in the footsteps of those who fought the Union invasion. They can say, as the Apostle Paul said in 2 Timothy 4: 7, "I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith." Now it is we who must join ranks with our Confederate ancestors, and with those Sons of Confederate Veterans who served before us, and fight a good fight. Now it is we who must be in agreement and walk together. Deo Vindice!

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

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



## EXTRACT FROM THE PAST PREPARED BY MARC ROBINSON



Reading about historical events and people from those who were actually there makes it all the better to me. Here, from pages 191-194 in John H. Reagan's *Memoirs*... he writes first hand about General Robert E. Lee. John H. Reagan writes:

"On the 3<sup>rd</sup> of June, 1864, the second battle of Cold Harbor was fought, in which General Lee had less than 50,000 men, while General Grant had more than 100,000. In that battle the loss on the Federal side was over 13,000, while the loss on the Confederate side was probably not as many hundred. This disparity was due to the fact that the Confederates were assaulted in their trenches.

On the morning of that day, Judges Lyons and Meredith, two of the State judges living in Richmond, and myself, rode out to our line of battle, crossing the Chickahominy at Mechanicsville, and passing along a few hundred yards in the rear of our line of battle until we came in sight of General Lee's headquarters, on the field at the Gaines' Mill farm. Several squads of Federal prisoners were brought back to the road we were riding on as we passed down the line. When we got in sight of General Lee's headquarters, I suggested to Judge Lyons and Judge Meredith that I would ride down to where General Lee was. They did not go any farther. We could see that the enemy's shells were falling on the field about General Lee. A few hundred yards in the rear of his headquarters were probably fifteen or twenty acres of forest trees, surrounded by cultivated land. At that time there was a good deal of anxiety, both in the army and among the civilians, about General Lee's exposing himself too much in battle, accompanied by a feeling that his loss would be of the greatest consequence; and Judges Lyons and Meredith suggested that I should inquire of General Lee whether he might not send his orders and receive his reports, covered behind that timber, as well as in his then exposed situation. I said to them that I would see the General, but did not know about making suggestions to him as to his headquarters in the midst of a battle.

When I reached the camp there was none but an orderly with him, his staff officers being away on duty. After passing the compliments of the day, I said to him it seemed that a

great deal of artillery was being used.

"Yes," he replied, "more than usual on both sides." He added, "That does not do much harm here." Then, waving his hand toward the front, where the rattle of musketry made a noise like the tearing of a sheet, he observed: "It is that that kills men." He then remarked that General Grant was hurling columns from six to ten deep against his lines at three places for the purpose of breaking them.

"General," I said to him, "if he breaks your line, what reserve have you?"

"Not a regiment," he replied. "And," he added, "that has been my condition ever since the fighting commenced on the Rappahannock. If I shorten my lines to provide a reserve he will turn me; if I weaken my lines to provide a reserve, he will break them." He also said that he had to fight and march his men without sufficient rest, and that exhaustion and the want of vegetables had caused the loss of more men than the bullets of the enemy. He said he had advised them to use the buds of sassafras and of grapevines as a substitute for vegetables, but that this was a poor substitute. He asked me, on my return to Richmond, to see the commissary-general before going home, and to urge him to send as fast as possible all the potatoes and onions he could. "Some of the men now have scurvy," he said.

I said to the General that there was some uneasiness about his being exposed so much, and that Judges Lyons and Meredith, who had come out with me, had suggested the inquiry whether he might not cover himself by the forest trees in his rear, and from there send his orders and receive his reports as well as from this exposed position.

His reply was that it was best for him to be as well up toward the front as he could, and that when the shells had begun to fall on the field, he had ordered the wagons containing the quartermaster, commissary, medical and ordnance stores to fall back behind the forest trees. He added: "I have as good generals as any commander ever had, and I know it, but still it is well for me to know the position of our lines. To illustrate this," he continued, "in forming my right, I directed that it should cover Turkey Hill, which juts out on the

Chickahominy valley so as to command cannon range up and down the stream. In forming the line, however, this was not done, and on yesterday afternoon I had to direct General Breckinridge to recover that position by an assault which cost us a good many men. "

General Lee's lines were then about seven miles from Richmond, and he was confronted by a well equipped and well organized army of more than double his numbers. And thus situated in the midst of a great battle, he was calm and self-possessed, with no evidence of excitement; and in his conversation showed he was thinking of the condition and wants of the brave men under his command, as well as guarding with invincible courage the besieged capital of the Confederacy. Mrs. Jefferson Davis, the widow of the President, in her *Memoir* of him, says that "in April, 1864, in General Lee's tent meat was served twice a week. His bill of fare was a head of cabbage boiled in salt water, sweet potatoes, and a pone of corn bread; when he invited an officer to dine with him he had, to his astonishment, four inches of middling; every one refused from politeness, and the servant excused the smallness of the piece by saying it was borrowed." This shows how the greatest general of the age consented to live and to suffer privations in the struggle for justice to the people he was serving. When we remember that if General Lee had taken sides against his own people and State, he could have been Commander-in-Chief of the armies of the United States, and that he had to abandon his great landed estate and palatial residence fronting Washington City on the Potomac, and that his family, but for the kindness of friends, would have become homeless refugees, we can understand the unparalleled sacrifice this heroic general made in supporting and defending the cause of right. I can but feel that God made him one of the bravest, best, and most patriotic, as well as one of the greatest of men."



## JOHN H. REAGAN CAMP 2156

c/o Forrest Bradberry, Jr., Adjutant  
P. O. Box 1442  
Palestine, Texas 75802  
E-mail: brad.bradberry@yahoo.com  
Phone: (903)723-2814

Marc Robinson, Commander  
6720 AN CO RD 448  
Palestine, Texas 75803  
E-mail: mrobinson@tvcc.edu  
Phone: (903) 676-6069  
Newsletter Editor

Please visit our website @  
[www.reaganscvcamp.org](http://www.reaganscvcamp.org)

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

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

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

Membership in the **Sons of Confederate Veterans** is open to all male descendants of any veteran who served honorably in the Confederate armed forces. Membership can be obtained through either **lineal or collateral** family lines and kinship to a veteran must be **documented genealogically**. The minimum age for full membership is 12, but there is no minimum for Cadet membership. **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)